

BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held at 6:00 pm on

Monday 28 November 2022

Council Chambers, Level 10,
Council Administration Building, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong

(Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors will be able to attend and participate in this meeting via audio visual link)

Order of Business

- 1 Opening Meeting
- 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians
- 3 Civic Prayer
- 4 Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting
- 6 Confirmation of Minutes of Extraordinary Ordinary Council Meeting
- 7 Conflicts of Interest
- 8 Petitions and Presentations
- 9 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Committee Meeting
- 10 Public Access Forum
- 11 Call of the Agenda
- 12 Lord Mayoral Minute
- 13 Urgent Items
- 14 Reports to Council
- 15 Reports of Committees
- 16 Items Laid on the Table
- 17 Notices of Motions(s)/Questions with Notice
- 18 Notice of Rescission Motion
- 19 Confidential Business
- 20 Conclusion of Meeting

Members

Lord Mayor –
Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor –
Councillor Tania Brown
Councillor Ann Martin
Councillor Cameron Walters
Councillor Cath Blakey
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Dom Figliomeni
Councillor Elisha Aitken
Councillor Janice Kershaw
Councillor John Dorahy
Councillor Linda Campbell
Councillor Mithra Cox
Councillor Richard Martin

QUORUM – 7 MEMBERS TO BE PRESENT

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with clause 3.23 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, released by the NSW Office of Local Government, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Wollongong and Wollongong City Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Where a councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting will be suspended or terminated for the time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or at any time during which Council is voting on the matter.

Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Wollongong City Council **Code of Conduct for Councillors** in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

Staff should also be mindful of their obligations under the Wollongong City Council **Code of Conduct for Staff** when preparing reports and answering questions during meetings of Council.

INDEX

	PAGE NO.
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council 7/11/2022	1
ITEM 1 Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022	10
ITEM 2 Public Exhibition - West Dapto Draft Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment	119
ITEM 3 Wollongong City Council Submission - Six Cities Region Discussion Paper	293
ITEM 4 Draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2021-2022	301
ITEM 5 Draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2022	436
ITEM 6 Organisational Structure	536
ITEM 7 Grant of Easement Over Council Community Land at Lot 187 DP 15363 known as Harold Cox Park, Wollongong	544
ITEM 8 Leave of Absence - Councillor Richard Martin - 8 April to 18 April 2023	549
ITEM 9 Review of Corporate Services Policies	550
ITEM 10 Post Exhibition - Draft CCTV Code of Practice and Register	569
ITEM 11 Post Exhibition - Swimming Pool Barrier Policy and Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program Procedure	582
ITEM 12 Tender T1000036 - Proposed Funding Agreement with Head Start Homes (Affordable Housing Program)	600
ITEM 13 Tender T1000075 - Bellambi Boat Ramp Amenities	602
ITEM 14 Late Report: Tender T1000078 - Beaton Park Tennis Courts, Gwynneville - Relocation and Upgrade Works	607
ITEM 15 Administration of the 2024 Election of Lord Mayor and Councillors	610
ITEM 16 City of Wollongong Traffic Committee Minutes of Meeting held on various dates in 2022	612
ITEM 17 Notice of Motion - Councillor Linda Campbell - Lake Illawarra	641
ITEM 18 Notice of Motion - Councillor Richard Martin - Bulli and Thirroul traffic improvements	642



MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

at 6:00 pm

Monday 7 November 2022

Present

Lord Mayor (Acting) – Councillor Tania Brown (in the Chair)
Councillor Ann Martin
Councillor Cameron Walters
Councillor Cath Blakey
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Dom Figliomeni
Councillor Elisha Aitken
Councillor Janice Kershaw
Councillor Linda Campbell
Councillor Mithra Cox
Councillor Richard Martin

In Attendance

General Manager	Greg Doyle
Director Infrastructure + Works, Connectivity Assets + Liveable City	Joanne Page
Director Planning + Environment, Future City + Neighbourhoods	Linda Davis
Director Corporate Services, Connected + Engaged City	Renee Campbell
Director Community Services, Creative + Innovative City	Kerry Hunt
Chief Financial Officer	Brian Jenkins
Chief Information Officer (attended via audio-visual link)	Ingrid McAlpin
Manager Governance + Customer Service	Todd Hopwood
Manager City Strategy	Chris Stewart
Manager Project Delivery	Glenn Whittaker
Manager Open Space + Environmental Services	Paul Tracey
Manager Community Cultural + Economic Development	Sue Savage

Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, participants in the meeting can participate via audio visual link. Those who participated via audio visual link are indicated in the attendance section of the Minutes.

Note: Council resolved on 17 October 2022 to grant the Lord Mayor Councillor Bradbery a leave of absence from 27 October to 9 November 2022.

Apologies

Min No.

747 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that the apology tendered on behalf of Councillor John Dorahy be accepted.

INDEX

	PAGE NO.
ITEM A Lord Mayoral Minute - Freedom of Entry	2
ITEM 1 Post Exhibition - Former Corrimal Coke Works Site - draft Planning Agreement	2
ITEM 2 Draft Planning Proposal - Former Corrimal Coke Works Site - Foreshore Building Line Map Amendment.....	3
ITEM 3 Post Exhibition - Animating Wollongong Public Art Strategy 2022-2032	3
ITEM 4 Public Exhibition - Tree Management Policy.....	4
ITEM 5 E1000255 - Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) - Building Works - Outcome of Procurement Process.....	4
ITEM 6 September 2022 Financials	4
ITEM 7 Statement of Investment - September 2022	4
ITEM 8 Tabling of returns of disclosures of pecuniary interest and other matters - November 2022	4
ITEM 9 Notice of Motion - Councillor Richard Martin - Traffic Concerns - Bulli Hospital Redevelopment.....	5
ITEM 10 URGENT ITEM - Windang Erosion.....	5

CLOSED SESSION

ITEM C1 CONFIDENTIAL: Domestic Waste Management T13/22 Collection Services Contract

Reason for Confidentiality

This report recommends that this item be considered in Closed Session to the exclusion of the press and public in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, as the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Cox declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Items 1 – Post Exhibition – Former Corrimal Coke Works Site – Draft Planning Agreement and 2 – Draft Planning Proposal – Former Corrimal Coke Works Site – Foreshore Building Line Map Amendment, as she lives in close proximity to the site and as such it has the ability to affect property prices in her street. Councillor Cox advised she would depart the meeting during debate and voting on the items.

Councillor A Martin declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 – Post Exhibition - Former Corrimal Coke Works Site – draft Planning Agreement and 2 - Draft Planning Proposal – Former Corrimal Coke Works Site – Foreshore Building Line Map Amendment, due to her employment with the Department of Planning and Environment. As she does not work on planning matters related to the Wollongong LGA, Councillor A Martin advised she would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor A Martin declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 – Post exhibition – Animating Wollongong Public Art Strategy 2022-32, as she is a contemporary artist who has previously managed public art projects in Sydney and Western Sydney. She was also commissioned in 1998 by Wollongong City Council to make and install a temporary artwork to celebrate the 1988 10 year anniversary of the opening of the IPAC building and which was removed by IPAC some years ago. As she no longer works in that field, Councillor A Martin advised she would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor R Martin declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 5 – E1000255 - Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) - Building Works - Outcome of Procurement Process due to his role as a board member of IPAC. Councillor R Martin advised he would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2022

748 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 17 October 2022 (a copy having been circulated to Councillors) be taken as read and confirmed.

PRESENTATION – 25 YEARS OF SERVICE – COUNCILLOR JANICE KERSHAW

The Lord Mayor (Acting) Councillor Tania Brown acknowledged the Outstanding Service Award, awarded to Councillor Janice Kershaw, in special recognition of 25 years of service in NSW local government.

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

ITEM	TITLE	NAME OF SPEAKER
9	Notice of Motion - Councillor Richard Martin - Traffic Concerns - Bulli Hospital Redevelopment	Colin McGuinness For Recommendation
9	Notice of Motion - Councillor Richard Martin - Traffic Concerns - Bulli Hospital Redevelopment	Neil Hinds Old Bulli Hospital Community Group For Recommendation

- 749 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that all speakers be thanked for their presentation and invited to table their notes.

CALL OF THE AGENDA

- 750 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that the staff recommendations for Items 5-8 inclusive be adopted as a block.

ITEM A - LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - FREEDOM OF ENTRY

- 751 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor T Brown seconded Councillor D Brown that Wollongong City Council grant Freedom of Entry to *HMAS Wollongong* on Saturday 26 November 2022.

URGENT MATTER WITHOUT NOTICE

Councillor Figliomeni moved a PROCEDURAL MOTION that an Urgency Item be brought forward in relation to erosion at the Windang entrance to Lake Illawarra.

- 752 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Figliomeni seconded Councillor A Martin that Council, as a matter of urgency, consider Business Without Notice regarding the erosion at the Windang entrance to Lake Illawarra.

Following the Resolution of Council, the Lord Mayor (Acting), Councillor Tania Brown, ruled in accordance with Clause 9.3(b) of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that the matter was of great urgency and required a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of Council.

A PROCEDURAL MOTION was MOVED by Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that the Urgency Item be considered after the ordinary reports to Council and prior to the Confidential Item.

DEPARTURE OF COUNCILLOR

Due to a disclosed conflict of interest, Councillor Cox departed the meeting at 6:22pm and was not present for the debate nor voting on Items 1 and 2. Councillor Cox returned to the meeting at 6:35 pm at the conclusion of Item 2.

ITEM 1 - POST EXHIBITION - FORMER CORRIMAL COKE WORKS SITE - DRAFT PLANNING AGREEMENT

- 753 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Figliomeni that The General Manager be delegated authority to finalise and execute the Planning Agreement (Attachment 1) between Wollongong City Council and LegPro70 Pty Ltd, as trustee for LegPro 70 Unit Trust, and Illawarra Coke Company Pty Ltd for the former Corrimall Coke Works site.

Councillors Kershaw, R Martin, D Brown, A Martin, Campbell, Aitken, Walters, Figliomeni and T Brown

In favour

Against

Councillors Blakey

ITEM 2 - DRAFT PLANNING PROPOSAL - FORMER CORRIMAL COKE WORKS SITE - FORESHORE BUILDING LINE MAP AMENDMENT

754 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that -

- 1 A draft Planning Proposal be prepared to amend the Foreshore Building Line Map for the former Corrimal Coke Works site, to reflect the site's adopted Master Plan 2021 and the planned realignment of North Corrimal Creek.
- 2 The draft Planning Proposal be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment seeking a Gateway Determination to enable public exhibition.
- 3 The draft Planning Proposal be exhibited for a minimum period of 14 days, or as specified in the Gateway Determination.
- 4 A post exhibition report be prepared for Council's consideration.
- 5 The NSW Department of Planning and Environment be requested to issue authority to the General Manager to exercise plan making delegations, in accordance with Council's resolution of 26 November 2012.
- 6 That Council notes the intention to place notifications on Planning Certificates issued in the development area advising potential landowners of:
 - a. the location of the Grey-headed Flying-fox Camp, and
 - b. any long-term Site Management Plan (SMP) required in association with any future proposed on-site encapsulation of contaminated material.

ITEM 3 - POST EXHIBITION - ANIMATING WOLLONGONG PUBLIC ART STRATEGY 2022-2032

755 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that -

- 1 Council adopt the Animating Wollongong Public Art Strategy 2022-2032 incorporating an amendment to Action 1.2.6, changing the word 'Champion' to 'Require' and an additional Action, 1.3.3, a provision or clause be included in the draft Wollongong City Centre DCP Chapter addressing requirements for Public Art as a medium term priority.
- 2 Council note the Animating Wollongong Public Art Strategy 2022-2032 Implementation Plan.
- 3 Council note the Animating Wollongong Public Art Strategy 2022-2032 Engagement Report.
- 4 The next update of the Wollongong DCP include consideration of a section that requires an arts plan on all future development over 5,000 square metres.

Variation The variation moved by Councillor A Martin (the addition of wording to Point 1 "Incorporating an amendment to Action 1.2.6, changing the word 'Champion' to 'Require' and an additional Action, 1.3.3, a provision or clause be included in the draft Wollongong City Centre DCP Chapter addressing requirements for Public Art as a medium term priority") was accepted by the mover and seconder.

ITEM 4 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

756 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Cox seconded Councillor D Brown that -

- 1 The following proposed draft documents be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days and concurrently with the recently endorsed review of the Vegetation Chapters of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009:
 - a Tree Management Policy
 - b Managing trees in Wollongong – A customer guide
- 2 Following the exhibition period, a report outlining the submissions received during the exhibition period be prepared for Council to consider including any post exhibition revised amendment for adoption.

ITEM 5 - E1000255 - ILLAWARRA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (IPAC) - BUILDING WORKS - OUTCOME OF PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 750)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that Council receive the report on the procurement process followed and note the engagement of Project Coordination (Australia) Pty Ltd for IPAC refurbishment works, in the sum of \$3,843,400.00, including GST.

ITEM 6 - SEPTEMBER 2022 FINANCIALS

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 750)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that -

- 1 The financials be received and noted.
- 2 Council endorse the proposed changes to the Capital Budget for September 2022.

ITEM 7 - STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - SEPTEMBER 2022

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 750)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that Council receive the Statement of Investment for September 2022.

ITEM 8 - TABLING OF RETURNS OF DISCLOSURES OF PECUINARY INTEREST AND OTHER MATTERS - NOVEMBER 2022

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 750)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that Council note the tabling of the Returns of Disclosures of Interest as required by Part 4 of the Model Code of Conduct.

ITEM 9 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR RICHARD MARTIN - TRAFFIC CONCERNS - BULLI HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

757 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor R Martin seconded Councillor Kershaw that Recognising that Landcom are in the process of developing the Old Bulli Hospital Site and noting that Councillors may not influence the Development Application process -

- 1 An Information Note be delivered to Councillors to enable them to update community members appropriately. The Information Note should include -
 - a Councils expectation around traffic and parking studies to be conducted to support a proposed Development Application for a significant redevelopment
 - b Existing Council traffic studies that have been conducted for the broader precinct around Bulli.

URGENCY ITEM – WINDANG EROSION

MOVED by Councillor Figliomeni seconded Councillor Aitken that Council -

- 1 Write to the Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water and Minister for Hospitality and Racing, requesting that the Minister urgently instructs the Department to address the erosion caused by tidal currents, boat wash and other environmental factors at the Windang entrance to Lake Illawarra (opposite the Windang Caravan Park).
- 2 Request that funding is made available to replace at least one of the now derelict jetties.
- 3 Request that an area is provided to allow for the safe swimming of children.

758 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION – RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion (AMENDMENT) of Councillor A Martin seconded Councillor Campbell that immediate safety improvements are made to the foreshore park including securing appropriate fencing at the existing playground. Additionally officers investigate the potential relocation of the current children's playground on the northern foreshore; and that temporary safety fencing be replaced with permanent fencing as a budget priority on or before the next quarterly budget review.

Variation The variation moved by Councillor Blakey (the addition of wording 'This includes the Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study' to point 2) was accepted by the mover and seconder.

Variation The variation moved by Councillor Campbell (the removal of Points 2 to 4 -

2. That Council officers continue to develop effective plans in conjunction with new minister the Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, and Paul Scully MP by both Council and State government agencies consistent with the Adopted Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Plan . The relocation and fencing in point 1 be undertaken to be completed prior to summer 2023;

3. That Council continue to work through the implementation plan and priorities of the 2021 State Government adopted and certified Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Plan. This includes the Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study works planned and in engineering study stages to ameliorate and manage the scouring of the northern foreshore , the resultant deep and fast moving tidal flows on the Council owned foreshore and entrance to Lake Illawarra. Regular updates be provided to residents , including those in suburbs in Lake foreshore areas.

4. That Council provide Windang residents accurate background information outlining the actions that Council has agreed upon and including an onsite information stall with updated information on funds received , priorities for major works undertaken already and priorities for future projects planned.) was accepted by the mover and seconder.

A PROCEDURAL MOTION was MOVED by Councillor Walters that the AMENDMENT be PUT.

Minute No.

In favour Councillors Kershaw, R Martin, D Brown, Campbell, Aitken, Walters, Figliomeni

Against Councillors A Martin, Cox, Blakey and T Brown

Councillor A Martin's AMENDMENT on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED.

In favour Councillors D Brown, A Martin, Campbell, Cox, Blakey, T Brown

Against Councillors Kershaw, R Martin, Aitken, Walters, Figliomeni

The AMENDMENT then became the MOTION and on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEPARTURE OF COUNCILLOR

During debate and prior to voting on the Urgency Item, Councillor R Martin departed and returned to the meeting, the time being from 7:12 pm to 7:13 pm.

During debate and prior to voting on Item 10, Councillor Cox departed and returned to the meeting, the time being from 7:23 pm to 7:24 pm.

CLOSED COUNCIL SESSION

The Lord Mayor called for a motion to close the meeting to consider a Confidential item, which deals with a report to Council regarding –

- Domestic Waste Management procurement

Prior to putting the Motion to the vote, the Lord Mayor advised the meeting that Item C1 relates to a report to Council regarding domestic waste management procurement and that it is classified as Confidential for the following reason –

- a Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, permits the meeting to be closed to the public, as the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposed to conduct) business.

As no representations were received from members of the public objecting to the closure of this section of the meeting, the Lord Mayor advised that the webcast will be paused while Council considers these items.

759 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Walters seconded Councillor Kershaw that –

- 1 The meeting move into Closed Session to consider a report to Council regarding –

- a Domestic Waste Management T13/22 Collection Services Contract, in accordance with Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, permits the meeting to be closed to the public, as the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposed to conduct) business.
- 2 On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of the information supplied outweighs the public interest in openness and transparency in Council decision-making by discussing the matters in open meeting.

The MOTION on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting moved into Closed Session, the time being 7:55 pm.

Minute No.

ITEM C1 - DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT T13/22 COLLECTION SERVICES CONTRACT

760 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Walters that -

- 1 In accordance with s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993 and due to extenuating circumstances relating to significant supply chain disruptions impacting waste collection service providers, that will impact on the ability to undertake a successful tender process, Council not invite tenders for Waste Collection Services
- 2 Council delegates authority to the General Manager to negotiate an extension to the current T13/22 contract via Deed of Agreement for a period of up to 2 years (1 year + 1 year)
- 3 Council endorses the proposal to undertake a subsequent joint tender for a waste collection services contract with Shellharbour City Council for the period commencing after the negotiated extension
- 4 Council endorses an application be made to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for approval to undertake a joint procurement for Waste collection services with Shellharbour City Council

761 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Walters seconded Councillor R Martin that the meeting move out of Closed Session and into Open Council.

Council resumed into Open Session at 7:59 pm.

OPEN COUNCIL SESSION

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

The Lord Mayor advised the meeting of the Council's Resolutions whilst in Closed Session (refer Minute Number 760).

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8:00 PM

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Wollongong held on Monday 28 November 2022.

Chairperson

ITEM 1 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

PRESENTER: Audit Office of NSW – Financial Statements

Council officers have prepared the draft 2021-2022 Annual Financial Statements in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), the Regulations, the Australian Accounting Standards and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The draft Financial Statements were presented to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on 18 November 2022. At that meeting, the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee resolved that the General Purpose Financial Statements and the Special Purpose Financial Statements be recommended to Council for endorsement and the signing of the Statements by the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Management.

The Statements have been reviewed by Council's Auditors, Audit Office of NSW, and are presented to Council for an opinion to be formed in the prescribed format (as attached). The Audit Office of NSW will address the meeting to provide an overview of their Audit for the year ended 30 June 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The Annual Financial Statements be endorsed and an opinion be formed in the prescribed format (as per Attachments 2 and 3) on the General Purpose Financial Statement and the Special Purpose Financial Statement.
- 2 The audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's report be presented to the public at an extraordinary meeting following the finalisation of the audit and public notification period.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022
- 2 Statement by the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Management on the General Purpose Financial Statements
- 3 Statement by the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Management on the Special Purpose Financial Statements
- 4 Flowchart of the Annual Financial Statement Approval and Audit Process

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) requires Council to prepare financial statements for each year and refer them for audit as soon as practicable after the end of that year.

A council's financial statements must include:

- 1 A General Purpose Financial Statement;
- 2 any other matter prescribed by the regulations, and
- 3 a statement in the approved form by the Council as to its opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statement.

The Annual Financial Statement Approval and Audit Process is outlined in Attachment 4 of this report. This process is largely governed by the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) having regard to the timing of Council meetings. In accordance with this process, the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee makes recommendation to the Council regarding the signing of the Financial Statements based on the Committee's assessment of them. The Annual Financial Statements would normally be presented to Council prior to 31 October 2022. This year, Council sought and received an

extension to 30 November 2022 from the Office of Local Government, to allow for time to process indexation of additional asset classes at the request of the Audit Office.

An Executive Summary and Financial Commentary to the Statements are also prepared to provide an overview of the Financial Statements. The Executive Summary and Financial Commentary are not audited.

A preliminary pre-audit result was presented to Council on 29 August 2022. Through the finalisation of the Financial Statements and the external audit process, variations have been made to the results previously reported. These variations are discussed in further detail in the Financial Implications section and did not have an impact on the fund result previously reported.

PROPOSAL

Section 413 of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) requires the Council to form an opinion as to whether Council's Annual Financial Statements have been drawn up in accordance with the Local Government Act and associated Codes and Australian Accounting Standards as prescribed by the Regulations. The Statements are presented to Council for an opinion to be formed in the prescribed format (see Attachments 2 and 3). Subsequent to these Statements being signed, Council's Auditor will present its Audit Report to Council.

Following the signing of the opinions and receiving the Auditor's Report, a copy of the Audited Financial Statements will be submitted to the Office of Local Government in accordance with Section 417(5) of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended).

Section 418 of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) requires that Council, as soon as practical after receiving a copy of the Auditor's Reports, fix a date for a meeting at which it proposes to present its Audited Financial Statements, together with the Auditor's Reports, to the public. The Council must give public notice of the date of the meeting. Consequently, an advertisement is scheduled to appear on the Council website shortly after the Council meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2022.

Section 420 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that any person may make submissions to the Council with respect to the Financial Statements and/or the Auditor's Reports and those submissions must be made in writing and lodged with the Council within seven days of the public meeting. The date of the Council meeting (public meeting) is the next Council meeting as resolved by Council.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Audit Office of NSW has been consulted throughout the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements. The audit staff have been helpful in ensuring compliance with all accounting requirements.

Draft Financial Statements were presented to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on 6 September 2022 (pre audit) and on 18 November 2022. At the later meeting, the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee resolved that:

- 1 The draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 be noted and received.
- 2 Subject to ARIC member acceptance of any adjustments required following receipt of the Engagement Closing Report:
 - a The General Purpose Financial Reports be recommended to Council for endorsement and the signing of the Statement by the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Management, made pursuant to Section 413[2][c] of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended).
 - b The Special Purpose Financial Reports be recommended to Council for endorsement and the signing of the Statement by the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Management, made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The Engagement Closing Report was received on Wednesday, 16 November 2022 with no proposed adjustments noted within the Report.

The Report on Infrastructure Assets as at 30 June 2022 is not included in the external audit process, however, for completeness it was included in the pack provided to ARIC on 18 November 2022.

Executive, senior managers and significant senior officers were requested to ensure that all relevant information with regards to the 2021-2022 transactions relating to their area/s of responsibility had either been entered into the financial records or disclosed to the Chief Financial Officer.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 4 “We are a connected and engaged community”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
4.8 Council's resources are managed effectively to ensure long term financial sustainability.	Financial Services

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Annual Financial Statements are required to be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and the Australian Accounting Standards. Council has professionally qualified staff to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements.

Council staff has also undertaken additional training in specialised areas. A higher level of assurance is attained from the Audit Office of NSW review.

Further to this, Council's Executive, senior management and relevant senior officers each signed a document giving the necessary assurances that:

- 1 No matters or occurrences have come to their attention in respect to their areas of responsibility that would materially affect the Financial Statements or disclosures therein, or which are likely to materially affect the future results or operations of the Council; and
- 2 Should any such matters or occurrences come to their attention after the date of signing the document, the Chief Financial Officer be immediately advised.

Consequently, there is considered to be a low risk of any material errors or omissions in reporting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council is now presented with a set of draft Financial Statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and other professional pronouncements and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

Through the collation of the Financial Statements and the external audit process the pre-capital operating result has decreased from the pre-audit result of \$14.7M to \$14.1M. This adjustment resulted from a valuation adjustment against Council's investment held with CivicRisk. This valuation was received after the pre-audit result was presented to Council.

CONCLUSION

The Financial Statements will be presented to the public at a future Council meeting pending Council forming an opinion that they have been drawn up in accordance with the Local Government Act and associated Codes and Australian Accounting Standards as prescribed by the Regulations.

Wollongong City Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2022

DRAFT

Wollongong City Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Contents	Page
Statement by Councillors and Management	3
Primary Financial Statements:	
Income Statement	4
Statement of Comprehensive Income	5
Statement of Financial Position	6
Statement of Changes in Equity	7
Statement of Cash Flows	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9
Independent Auditor's Reports:	
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2])	81
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3])	82

Overview

Wollongong City Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

41 Burelli Street
Wollongong NSW 2500

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the Local Government Act and include:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board,
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 28 November 2022.

Gordon Bradbery
Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

Tania Brown
Deputy Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

Greg Doyle
General Manager
28 November 2022

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
28 November 2022

Wollongong City Council | Income Statement | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Original unaudited budget 2022	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
Income from continuing operations				
215,859	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	216,919	211,126
31,493	User charges and fees	B2-2	29,230	30,864
5,547	Other revenues	B2-3	5,167	6,444
19,325	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	41,841	30,782
32,091	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	45,402	34,478
3,167	Interest and investment income	B2-5	1,689	1,986
6,516	Other income	B2-6	6,448	6,672
–	Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	563	–
313,998	Total income from continuing operations		347,259	322,352
Expenses from continuing operations				
124,947	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	126,077	123,589
64,090	Materials and services	B3-2	72,910	76,619
1,954	Borrowing costs	B3-3	437	2,179
64,652	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	65,329	61,203
35,444	Other expenses	B3-5	23,054	21,755
–	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	–	1,995
291,087	Total expenses from continuing operations		287,807	287,340
22,911	Operating result from continuing operations		59,452	35,012
22,911	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		59,452	35,012
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes				
(9,180)			14,050	534

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council | Statement of Comprehensive Income | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		59,452	35,012
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result			
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	643,351	11,478
Impairment (loss) reversal / (revaluation decrement) relating to infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	792	(210)
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result		644,143	11,268
Total other comprehensive income for the year		644,143	11,268
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		703,595	46,280

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Wollongong City Council | Statement of Financial Position | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2022

\$ '000	Notes	2022	Restated 2021 *	Restated 1 July 2020 *
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	34,118	52,320	56,051
Investments	C1-2	88,185	103,334	97,423
Receivables	C1-4	24,674	21,859	21,667
Inventories	C1-5	461	463	381
Contract assets	C1-6	9,711	4,707	5,669
Non-current assets classified as 'held for sale'	C1-7	65	111	—
Other		6,881	6,682	10,572
Total current assets		164,095	189,476	191,763
Non-current assets				
Investments	C1-2	39,730	15,199	4,000
Inventories	C1-5	5,972	5,972	5,972
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-8	3,347,445	2,665,790	2,631,189
Investment property	C1-9	5,600	4,600	5,000
Intangible assets	C1-10	76	152	254
Right of use assets	C2-1	1,094	1,471	1,790
Investments accounted for using the equity method		—	—	3,484
Total non-current assets		3,399,917	2,693,184	2,651,689
Total assets		3,564,012	2,882,660	2,843,452
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	C3-1	27,376	26,621	30,592
Contract liabilities	C3-2	5,491	8,177	3,572
Lease liabilities	C2-1	403	377	341
Borrowings	C3-3	3,569	5,497	5,260
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	51,705	56,768	58,204
Provisions	C3-5	3,891	2,621	2,880
Total current liabilities		92,435	100,061	100,849
Non-current liabilities				
Lease liabilities	C2-1	788	1,194	1,519
Borrowings	C3-3	3,374	6,942	12,439
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	792	957	905
Provisions	C3-5	27,879	38,357	38,871
Total non-current liabilities		32,833	47,450	53,734
Total liabilities		125,268	147,511	154,583
Net assets		3,438,744	2,735,149	2,688,869
EQUITY				
Accumulated surplus	C4-1	1,576,459	1,518,472	1,481,079
IPPE revaluation reserve	C4-1	1,862,285	1,216,677	1,207,790
Council equity interest		3,438,744	2,735,149	2,688,869
Total equity		3,438,744	2,735,149	2,688,869

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

(*) The comparative years have been restated for prior period errors as disclosed in G4-2.

Wollongong City Council | Statement of Changes in Equity | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	Notes	2022			2021		
		Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July		1,518,472	1,216,677	2,735,149	1,498,309	1,214,858	2,713,167
Correction of prior period errors	G4-2	—	—	—	(17,230)	(7,068)	(24,298)
Restated opening balance		1,518,472	1,216,677	2,735,149	1,481,079	1,207,790	2,688,869
Net operating result for the year		59,452	—	59,452	35,012	—	35,012
Other comprehensive income							
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	—	643,351	643,351	—	11,478	11,478
Impairment (loss) reversal relating to IPPE	C1-8	—	792	792	—	(210)	(210)
Other comprehensive income		—	644,143	644,143	—	11,268	11,268
Total comprehensive income		59,452	644,143	703,595	35,012	11,268	46,280
Transfers between equity items		(1,465)	1,465	—	2,381	(2,381)	—
Closing balance at 30 June		1,576,459	1,862,285	3,438,744	1,518,472	1,216,677	2,735,149

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council | Statement of Cash Flows | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Original unaudited budget 2022	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
Cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
215,840	Rates and annual charges		215,632	214,468
31,493	User charges and fees		31,914	30,183
3,167	Interest received		1,549	2,269
43,058	Grants and contributions		64,618	58,977
—	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		1,201	755
11,733	Other		21,387	24,076
<i>Payments:</i>				
(122,478)	Payments to employees		(131,464)	(125,163)
(64,460)	Payments for materials and services		(86,914)	(89,610)
(392)	Borrowing costs		(442)	(691)
—	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		(755)	(2,637)
(35,444)	Other		(28,808)	(19,918)
82,517	Net cash flows from operating activities	G1-1	87,918	92,709
Cash flows from investing activities				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
2,821	Sale of investments		54,491	56,040
1,854	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		2,161	1,531
<i>Payments:</i>				
—	Purchase of investments		(59,990)	(69,745)
(107,093)	Payments for IPPE		(96,906)	(78,658)
(102,418)	Net cash flows from investing activities		(100,244)	(90,832)
Cash flows from financing activities				
<i>Payments:</i>				
(5,482)	Repayment of borrowings		(5,496)	(5,260)
—	Principal component of lease payments		(380)	(348)
(5,482)	Net cash flows from financing activities		(5,876)	(5,608)
(25,383)	Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(18,202)	(3,731)
120,293	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		52,320	56,051
94,910	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	34,118	52,320
10,545	plus: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	127,915	118,533
105,455	Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		162,033	170,853

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

A About Council and these financial statements	11
A1-1 Basis of preparation	11
B Financial Performance	13
B1 Functions or activities	13
B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets	13
B1-2 Components of functions or activities	14
B2 Sources of income	15
B2-1 Rates and annual charges	15
B2-2 User charges and fees	16
B2-3 Other revenues	17
B2-4 Grants and contributions	18
B2-5 Interest and investment income	21
B2-6 Other income	21
B3 Costs of providing services	22
B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs	22
B3-2 Materials and services	23
B3-3 Borrowing costs	24
B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	25
B3-5 Other expenses	26
B4 Gains or losses	27
B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets	27
B5 Performance against budget	28
B5-1 Material budget variations	28
C Financial position	30
C1 Assets we manage	30
C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents	30
C1-2 Financial investments	30
C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	32
C1-4 Receivables	34
C1-5 Inventories	35
C1-6 Contract assets	36
C1-7 Non-current assets classified as held for sale	36
C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	37
C1-9 Investment properties	40
C1-10 Intangible assets	41
C2 Leasing activities	42
C2-1 Council as a lessee	42
C2-2 Council as a lessor	44
C3 Liabilities of Council	45
C3-1 Payables	45
C3-2 Contract Liabilities	46
C3-3 Borrowings	47

Wollongong City Council

Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions	49
C3-5 Provisions	50
C4 Reserves	52
C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves	52
D Council structure	52
D1 Results by fund	52
D2 Interests in other entities	53
D2-1 Subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates not recognised	53
E Risks and accounting uncertainties	54
E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held	54
E2-1 Fair value measurement	57
E3-1 Contingencies	65
F People and relationships	68
F1 Related party disclosures	68
F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)	68
F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	68
F1-3 Other related parties	68
F2 Other relationships	70
F2-1 Audit fees	70
G Other matters	71
G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information	71
G2-1 Commitments	72
G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date	72
G4 Changes from prior year statements	72
G4-1 Changes in accounting policy	72
G4-2 Correction of errors	72
G5 Statement of developer contributions as at 30 June 2022	74
G5-1 Summary of developer contributions	74
G5-2 Developer contributions by plan	75
G5-3 Contributions not under plans	76
G5-4 S7.4 planning agreements	76
G6 Statement of performance measures	77
G6-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results	77
H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)	78
H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs)	78
H1-2 Council information and contact details	80

A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 28 November 2022. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (Regulation), and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- i. fair values of investment property – refer Note C1-9
- ii. fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-8
- iii. tip remediation provisions – refer Note C3-5
- iv. employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

- i. Impairment of receivables – refer Note C1-4.
- ii. Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.
- iii. Determination of the lease term, discount rate (when not implicit in the lease) and whether an arrangement contains a lease – refer to Note C2-1.

Monies and other assets received by Council

The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

The Consolidated Fund has been included in the financial statements of the Council.

Cash and other assets of the following activities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- general purpose operations

The Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by the Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes

continued on next page ...

A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies. Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

A separate statement of monies held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the council office by any person free of charge.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Volunteer services

Council is supported by a range of volunteers for services including surf lifesaving, bush care, community transport and library programs. Volunteer services are required to be recognised in the financial statements if they can be measured reliably, are material, and would be purchased if not provided by the volunteers. In most instances Council would not purchase the service if it was not provided by volunteers.

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations (ie. pronouncements) have been published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2022 reporting period.

Council has elected not to apply any of these pronouncements in these financial statements before their operative dates.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted the following accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective from 1 July 2021:

- AASB 2020-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2*
- AASB 2020-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Tier 2 Disclosures: Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Phase 2) and Other Amendments*
- AASB 2020-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – COVID-19 Related Rent Concessions: Tier 2 disclosures [AASB 16 and AASB 1060]*
- AASB 2021-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – COVID-19 Related Rent Concessions beyond 30 June 2021*

These newly adopted standards had no material impact on Council's reported financial position, financial performance and/or associated financial statement disclosures.

Wollongong City Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2022

B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
\$ '000										Restated
Functions or activities										
Planning and engagement	18,676	17,310	21,839	24,717	(3,163)	(7,407)	15,683	14,670	166,108	296,354
Environment	51,136	48,437	62,415	65,175	(11,279)	(16,738)	1,920	1,313	869,469	587,058
Transport services/infrastructure	20,209	13,513	46,636	47,601	(26,427)	(34,088)	19,907	12,343	1,166,473	900,669
Community services/facilities	8,427	7,871	33,542	34,973	(25,115)	(27,102)	5,553	5,162	78,212	14,729
Recreation and open space	14,603	13,191	53,430	53,059	(38,827)	(39,868)	4,744	1,143	356,173	198,133
Regulatory services and safety	8,564	8,803	21,628	21,735	(13,064)	(12,932)	1,785	1,400	19,830	16,319
Governance and internal services	210,761	201,025	48,317	40,080	162,444	160,945	22,668	17,027	907,747	869,398
Contributed Assets	14,883	12,202	–	–	14,883	12,202	14,983	12,202	–	–
Total functions and activities	347,259	322,352	287,807	287,340	59,452	35,012	87,243	65,260	3,564,012	2,882,660

B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Planning and engagement

Infrastructure Planning and Support, City Centre Management, Land Use Planning, Public Relations, Economic Development, Strategy and Planning

Environment

Waste Management, Stormwater Services, Natural Area Management, Environmental Planning and Programs

Transport services/infrastructure

Transport Services and Infrastructure works

Community services/facilities

Libraries, Cultural Services, Community Facilities, Age and Disability Services, Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries, Community Programs, Youth Services

Recreation and open space

Parks and Sports fields, Aquatic Services, Tourist Parks, Leisure Centres, Botanic Gardens

Regulatory services and safety

Emergency Management, Development Assessment, Regulatory Control, Public Health

Governance and internal services

Governance and Administration, Human Resources, Financial Services, Customer Service, Property Services, Information Technology, Internal Services

Contributed Assets

Contributed assets relate mainly to the handover of transport and stormwater assets from various subdivisions in the West Dapto area.

B2 Sources of income

B2-1 Rates and annual charges

\$ '000	2022	2021
Ordinary rates		
Residential	126,497	123,319
Farmland	331	324
Mining	982	961
Business	50,787	49,428
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(2,761)	(2,836)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(272)	(310)
Abandonments ¹	(76)	(49)
Rates levied to ratepayers	175,488	170,837
Pensioner rate subsidies received	1,528	1,556
Total ordinary rates	177,016	172,393
Special rates		
City centre	436	430
Mall	1,218	1,197
Total special rates	1,654	1,627
Annual charges		
(pursuant to s.496, s.496A, s.496B, s.501 & s.611)		
Domestic waste management services	36,773	35,658
Stormwater management services	1,877	1,862
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(726)	(747)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(67)	(76)
Abandonments – annual charges ¹	(9)	(1)
Pensioner subsidies received:		
– Domestic waste management	401	410
Total annual charges	38,249	37,106
Total rates and annual charges	216,919	211,126

Council has used 2019 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Accounting policy

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising these receipts which is the beginning of the rating period to which they relate.

Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates (mandatory) relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government area that are subsidised by the NSW Government. Pensioner rebates (Council policy) relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government area that are not subsidised by the NSW Government.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates (mandatory) and are in substance a rates payment.

(1) Abandonments refer to amounts owed to Council that have been written off due to the property being exempted of rates, objections & ascertainties, postponed rates and voluntary conservation agreements as per the OLG Rating and Revenue Raising Manual 2007.

B2-2 User charges and fees

\$ '000	2022	2021
User charges		
Waste management services (non-domestic)	9,913	9,148
Total user charges	9,913	9,148
Fees		
Contestable building services	307	390
Inspection Services ¹	86	297
Planning and building regulation	2,924	3,050
Registration fees	210	214
Section 10.7 certificates (EP&A Act)	638	673
Section 603 certificate (rating certificate)	369	403
Section 611 charges (occupation of land)	325	182
Additional waste services	142	130
Art gallery	9	7
Car parking	1,228	823
Cemeteries	1,895	1,810
Credit card payment processing fee	135	137
Design review meeting application fees	149	108
Golf course	624	752
Health inspections	94	36
Library	17	28
Marketing	24	19
Outdoor dining ¹	—	53
Parking meters ¹	791	1,119
Pre-lodgement meeting fees	120	126
Recreation ¹	1,970	3,154
Road opening permits	300	267
Stallholder fees ¹	14	38
Tree management requests	98	95
Tourist parks ¹	6,764	7,724
Other	84	81
Total fees	19,317	21,716
Total other user charges and fees	19,317	21,716
Total user charges and fees	29,230	30,864
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees		
User charges and fees recognised over time	6,764	7,724
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time	22,466	23,140
Total user charges and fees	29,230	30,864

Accounting policy

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

(1) These revenue streams have been impacted by COVID restrictions as well as Council's COVID-19 Relief Measures during the financial year.

B2-3 Other revenues

\$ '000	2022	2021
Diesel rebate	220	210
Fines	390	476
Fines – parking	1,936	2,423
Insurance claims recoveries	12	1,068
Legal fees recovery – rates and charges (extra charges)	195	113
Legal settlements	6	99
Outgoings reimbursements	64	100
Reimbursements	1,018	265
Sales – general	873	1,349
Sponsorship and promotional income	12	18
Other	441	323
Total other revenue	5,167	6,444

Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time	–	–
Other revenue recognised at a point in time	5,167	6,444
Total other revenue	5,167	6,444

Accounting policy for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2-4 Grants and contributions

\$ '000	Operating 2022	Operating 2021	Capital 2022	Capital 2021
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)				
Financial Assistance Grant				
Relating to current year	9,985	8,989	–	–
Payment received in advance for subsequent year	15,341	9,619	–	–
Amount recognised as income during current year	25,326	18,608	–	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)				
Cash contributions				
Arts and culture	818	97	–	–
Community development and support	370	300	–	295
Community services and facilities	220	220	–	–
Emergency services	1,461	1,233	–	–
Environmental management and enhancement	203	75	–	–
Environmental programs	75	88	–	–
Floodplain and stormwater management	1,169	529	73	22
HACC community transport	2,846	2,691	–	–
Heritage and cultural	12	6	–	–
Information technology	80	10	–	–
Library	647	614	–	–
LIRS subsidy	372	552	–	–
People and learning	23	–	–	–
Local bus route subsidy	89	89	–	–
Natural area management	190	373	–	–
Parks, gardens and sports fields	996	(23)	4,133	1,974
People and learning	270	36	–	–
Pollution minimisation	93	159	–	–
Recreation and culture	–	65	300	40
Social support programs	1,338	1,247	–	–
Strategic city planning	310	374	–	–
Street lighting	714	714	–	–
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	337	85	11,511	4,041
Transport (roads to recovery)	–	–	1,229	1,874
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	3,051	1,664	–	–
Voluntary purchase scheme	–	–	(22)	118
Waste performance improvement	214	365	–	–
Total cash contributions	15,898	11,563	17,224	8,364
Non-cash contributions				
Bushfire services	–	–	270	–
Dedications – subdivisions (other than by s7.4 and s7.11 – EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA)	–	–	13,680	5,598
Wollongong City Gallery collection	–	–	201	54
Volunteer Services	617	611	–	–
Total non-cash contributions	617	611	14,151	5,652
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)	16,515	12,174	31,375	14,016
Total grants and non-developer contributions	41,841	30,782	31,375	14,016
Comprising:				
– Commonwealth funding	29,382	22,704	8,293	3,236
– State funding	11,328	7,026	9,105	4,801
– Other funding	1,131	1,052	13,977	5,979
	41,841	30,782	31,375	14,016

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

\$ '000	Notes	Operating 2022	Operating 2021	Capital 2022	Capital 2021
Developer contributions:					
(s7.4 & s7.11 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):					
Cash contributions					
S 7.4 – contributions using planning agreements		–	–	629	1,860
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services		–	–	7,960	8,941
S 7.12 – fixed development consent levies		–	–	4,706	3,111
Total cash contributions		–	–	13,295	13,912
Non-cash contributions					
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services		–	–	732	5,546
Planning agreements		–	–	–	1,004
Total non-cash contributions		–	–	732	6,550
Total developer contributions		–	–	14,027	20,462
Total contributions		–	–	14,027	20,462
Total grants and contributions		41,841	30,782	45,402	34,478
Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions					
Grants and contributions recognised over time		3,984	835	17,224	8,364
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time		37,857	29,947	28,178	26,114
Total grants and contributions		41,841	30,782	45,402	34,478

Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

\$ '000	Operating 2022	Operating 2021	Capital 2022	Capital 2021
Unspent grants				
Unspent funds at 1 July	4,335	3,122	5,352	446
Add: funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	4,190	1,843	565	5,204
Less: funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	(1,559)	(630)	(4,505)	(298)
Unspent funds at 30 June	6,966	4,335	1,412	5,352
Unspent contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	73	1	38,761	35,448
Add: contributions received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	–	72	14,001	14,266
Less: contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	–	–	(12,563)	(10,953)
Unspent contributions at 30 June	73	73	40,199	38,761

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Accounting policy

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Developer contributions

Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

\$ '000	2022	2021
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	557	331
– Cash and investments	1,132	1,655
Total interest and investment income (losses)	1,689	1,986

Accounting policy

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

B2-6 Other income

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
Fair value increment on investment properties			
Fair value increment on investment properties		1,000	–
Total fair value increment on investment properties	C1-9	1,000	–
Fair value increment on investments			
Fair value increment on investments through profit and loss		–	206
Total Fair value increment on investments		–	206
Rental income			
Investment properties			
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)		454	434
Total Investment properties		454	434
Other lease income			
Room/Facility Hire		431	365
Leaseback fees - council vehicles		694	678
Other Council Properties		3,869	4,989
Total other lease income		4,994	6,032
Total rental income	C2-2	5,448	6,466
Total other income		6,448	6,672

B3 Costs of providing services

B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

\$ '000	2022	2021
Employee leave entitlements (ELE) ¹	9,663	12,276
Salaries and wages	112,386	108,468
Superannuation	13,009	12,503
Change in workers compensation provision	2,567	1,877
Workers compensation – self insurance	2,565	2,744
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	142	183
Payroll tax	15	1
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)	627	642
Protective clothing	426	468
Labour hire	389	342
Other	292	310
Total employee costs	142,081	139,814
Less: capitalised costs	(16,004)	(16,225)
Total employee costs expensed	126,077	123,589

Accounting policy

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

(1) Employee leave entitlements reflect the current value of the future payments which are discounted based on published long term government bond rates. The average discount factor increased from 0.85% in June 2021 to 3.32% in June 2022 resulted in a decrease in the provision during 2021-2022.

B3-2 Materials and services

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
Advertising		355	414
Audit Fees	F2-1	221	165
Bank charges		598	570
Contractor and consultancy costs ¹		59,373	40,854
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	536	521
Elections		1,195	–
Insurance		3,905	3,655
Internal audit		125	147
Light, electricity and heating		1,859	2,044
Membership fees		174	164
Other expenses		1,064	951
Postage		576	413
Prior year works in progress 'write offs' ²		672	2,332
Provision for asset remediation ³		(11,623)	(3,756)
Provision for self insurance claims		(147)	(45)
Raw materials and consumables ¹		38,287	46,254
Rental agreements		7	–
Royalty payments		327	362
Sewerage charges		271	177
Software Maintenance and Support Contractor		3,049	2,303
Street lighting		2,975	3,063
Telephone and communications		718	555
Valuation fees		468	461
Volunteer reimbursements		109	74
Waste Contractor		26,617	22,875
Water rates		822	879
Legal expenses:			
– Planning and development		546	251
– Other		619	591
Total materials and services		133,698	126,274
Less: capitalised costs		(60,788)	(49,655)
Total materials and services		72,910	76,619

Accounting policy

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the Council receives the goods or services.

(1) The Contractor & Consultancy Costs and Raw Materials & Consumables includes expenditure related to the capital program. The delivery of capital projects is dependent on the types and size of works that may be delivered through contracts or internally. There are significant variations year on year in this allocation process.

(2) Capital expenditure previously included in Works in Progress was transferred to operating expenses during 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. This includes capital works to deliver assets not under the control of Council such as traffic facilities and street lighting.

(3) Each financial year a provision for the remediation of Council's waste facility is calculated based on the forecast costs to rehabilitate the site. A further reduction in the forecast rehabilitation costs and changes to discount factors have resulted in a reduction in the provision in 2021-2022.

B3-3 Borrowing costs

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
(i) Interest bearing liability costs			
Interest on leases		47	58
Interest on loans		395	633
Total interest bearing liability costs		442	691
Total interest bearing liability costs expensed		442	691
(ii) Other borrowing costs			
Fair value adjustments on recognition of advances and deferred debtors			
– Remediation liabilities	C3-5	(5)	1,488
Total other borrowing costs		(5)	1,488
Total borrowing costs expensed		437	2,179

Accounting policy

Borrowing costs incurred for the construction of any qualifying asset are capitalised during the period of time that is required to complete and prepare the asset for its intended use or sale. Other borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

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B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
Depreciation and amortisation			
Plant and equipment		4,620	4,422
Office equipment		1,919	1,242
Furniture and fittings		324	314
Infrastructure:	C1-8		
– Bridges		1,998	2,216
– Buildings – non-specialised		3,880	3,743
– Buildings – specialised		5,636	5,578
– Footpaths		4,307	4,275
– Other open space/recreational assets		4,941	3,831
– Other structures		708	660
– Roads		21,310	20,396
– Stormwater drainage		11,856	10,536
– Swimming pools		644	517
Right of use assets	C2-1	377	378
Other assets:			
– Library books		1,201	1,171
– Other		1,531	1,822
Intangible assets	C1-10	77	102
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		65,329	61,203
Impairment / revaluation decrement of IPPE			
Community land		(582)	–
Infrastructure:	C1-8		
– Roads		(210)	210
Amounts taken through revaluation reserve	C1-8	792	(210)
Total IPPE impairment / revaluation decrement costs charged to Income Statement		–	–
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		65,329	61,203

Accounting policy

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-8 for IPPE assets, Note C1-10 for intangible assets and Note C2-1 for right-of-use assets.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

B3-5 Other expenses

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
Impairment of receivables			
User charges and fees		141	(278)
Total impairment of receivables	C1-4	141	(278)
Fair value decrement on investment properties			
Fair value decrement on investment properties		–	400
Total fair value decrement on investment properties	C1-9	–	400
Fair value decrement on investments			
Movement in interest in CivicRisk Mutual ¹		669	285
Fair value decrement on investments through profit and loss		1,398	–
Total Fair value decrement on investments	C1-2	2,067	285
Other			
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Emergency services levy		322	418
– NSW fire brigade levy		3,161	3,411
– NSW rural fire service levy		629	861
– Waste and environment levy		12,321	11,412
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)			
– Affordable Housing		–	1,446
– City Centre management		5	–
– Illawarra Institute of Sport		39	37
– Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation		74	57
– Illawarra Performing Arts Centre ²		1,300	1,113
– Illawarra Surf Life Saving		57	56
– Sponsorship fund		33	52
– Tourism		1,496	1,481
– Wollongong Shuttle Service		353	350
– Wollongong 2022 - Union Cycliste Internationale		213	–
– Other		1,213	793
Total other		21,216	21,487
Less: capitalised costs		(370)	(139)
Total other expenses		23,054	21,755

Accounting policy

Other expenses are recorded on an accruals basis when Council has an obligation for the expenses.

Impairment expenses are recognised when identified.

(1) From 1st July 2020, the CivicRisk entities previously disclosed as joint ventures were reconstituted to form CivicRisk Mutual Ltd, a company limited by guarantee. Council's interest in the entity is treated as a financial asset at fair value through profit and loss (refer to Note C1-2 Investments).

(2) The 2021/22 contribution to the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre includes the contribution for the management of the Town Hall.

B4 Gains or losses

B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
Gain (or loss) on disposal of property (excl. investment property)			
Proceeds from disposal – property		925	–
Less: carrying amount of property assets sold/written off		(47)	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal		878	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment			
	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		1,236	1,531
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		(602)	(926)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		634	605
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure			
	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – infrastructure		–	–
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure assets sold/written off		(949)	(2,600)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		(949)	(2,600)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments			
	C1-2		
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – investments		54,491	56,040
Less: carrying amount of investments sold/redeemed/matured		(54,491)	(56,040)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		–	–
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets		563	(1,995)

Accounting policy

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the asset is de-recognised.

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 28/06/2021 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 ----- Variance -----	
Revenues				
Rates and annual charges	215,859	216,919	1,060	0% F
User charges and fees	31,493	29,230	(2,263)	(7)% U
Other revenues	5,547	5,167	(380)	(7)% U
Operating grants and contributions	19,325	41,841	22,516	117% F
Operating grants has been affected by the early payment of \$15.3M of the 2022-2023 Financial Assistance Grant. In addition, payment of grants not anticipated through the original budget has had a favourable impact on this result such as disaster recovery funding associated with floods experienced in the Local Government Area.				
Capital grants and contributions	32,091	45,402	13,311	41% F
Capital grants and contributions include assets contributed to Council through development. A greater value of assets have been contributed to Council than anticipated in the 2021-2022 financial year. In addition, income related to developer contributions were higher than anticipated during 2021-2022.				
Interest and investment revenue	3,167	1,689	(1,478)	(47)% U
Interest & investment revenue has been negatively impacted by changes in interest rates over the financial year.				
Net gains from disposal of assets	—	563	563	— F
Other income	6,516	6,448	(68)	(1)% U

B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

\$ '000	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 ----- Variance -----	
Expenses				
Employee benefits and on-costs	124,947	126,077	(1,130)	(1)% U
Materials and services	64,090	72,910	(8,820)	(14)% U
Materials and services has been significantly impacted by the changes in the asset remediation provision associated with the waste facility. A number of items have been realigned between materials and services and other expenses during the year causing a misalignment between the actuals and original budget.				
Borrowing costs	1,954	437	1,517	78% F
Borrowing costs includes the interest on the waste facility remediation. The original budget was set prior to receipt of the discount rates at 30 June 2021 which are applied for the interest calculations in 2021-2022. The changes in discount rates have resulted in a variance between the original budget and the actuals for 2021-2022.				
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	64,652	65,329	(677)	(1)% U
Other expenses	35,444	23,054	12,390	35% F
Other expenses has been impacted by the fair value decrement on investments through profit and loss and an increase in expenditure relating to the Waste levy. A number of items have been realigned between materials and services and other expenses during the year causing a misalignment between the actuals and original budget.				
Net losses from disposal of assets	—	—	—	— F
Statement of cash flows				
Cash flows from operating activities	82,517	87,918	5,401	7% F
The 2022-2023 Financial Assistance Grant of \$15.3M was paid early.				
Cash flows from investing activities	(102,418)	(100,244)	2,174	(2)% F
Cash flows from financing activities	(5,482)	(5,876)	(394)	7% U

C Financial position

C1 Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

\$ '000	2022	2021
Cash assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	416	803
Cash equivalent assets		
– Deposits at call	33,702	33,309
– Managed funds	–	18,208
Total cash and cash equivalents	34,118	52,320

Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	34,118	52,320
Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows	34,118	52,320

Accounting policy

For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-2 Financial investments

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Financial assets at fair value through the profit and loss				
Managed funds	8,030	–	3,221	–
NCD's, FRN's (with maturities > 3 months)	44,720	–	45,398	–
Mortgage backed securities	1,685	–	1,715	–
CivicRisk Mutual Limited	–	2,530	–	3,199
Total	54,435	2,530	50,334	3,199
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Long term deposits	33,750	37,200	53,000	12,000
Total	33,750	37,200	53,000	12,000
Total financial investments	88,185	39,730	103,334	15,199

C1-2 Financial investments (continued)

Accounting policy

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification

On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

Amortised cost

Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows, and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

Financial assets through profit or loss

All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income as described above are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Net gains or losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in profit or loss.

Council's financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss comprise investments in FRNs, managed funds, mortgage backed securities and interest in CivicRisk Mutual in the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

\$ '000	2022	2021
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	162,033	170,853
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	(75,344)	(78,088)
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	86,689	92,765

External restrictions

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Developer contributions – general ^A	40,065	38,719
Transport for NSW contributions ^B	205	115
Specific purpose unexpended grants ^C	8,378	9,687
Stormwater management ^D	2,378	2,178
Unexpended loan ^E	907	965
Private contributions	5,708	5,420
Special rates levy – Wollongong mall	407	282
Special rates levy – city centre	88	59
Local infrastructure renewal scheme round 3 ^F	–	277
Domestic waste management ^D	7,604	10,746
Housing Affordability	9,604	9,640
Total external restrictions	75,344	78,088

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

(A) Development contributions which are not yet expended for the provision of services and amenities in accordance with contributions plans.

(B) Transport for NSW contributions which are not yet expended for the provision of services and amenities in accordance with those contributions.

(C) Grants which are not yet expended for the purposes for which the grants were obtained.

(D) Domestic Waste Management and other special rates/levies/charges are externally restricted assets and must be applied for the purposes for which they were raised.

(E) State Government interest free loan to be administered on infrastructure as part of the West Dapto development.

(F) State Government subsidised loans to be administered on infrastructure projects over the Local Government Area.

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

\$ '000	2022	2021
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(b) Internal allocations

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions **86,689** **92,765**

Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments **23,803** **22,089**

Internal allocations

At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:

Car parking strategy	1,189	1,051
Darcy Wentworth Park	171	171
Maccabe Park development	1,740	1,590
Sports Priority Program	671	943
Waste Disposal Facility	5,831	3,415
West Dapto Development	8,281	6,951
Strategic Projects	34,962	46,558
Property Investment Fund	9,388	9,388
Natural areas	173	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	480	436
Total internal allocations	62,886	70,676

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

C1-4 Receivables

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Rates and annual charges	12,802	—	10,430	—
Interest and extra charges	1,593	—	1,505	—
User charges and fees	4,862	—	5,592	—
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	188	—	136	—
– Other income accruals	2,190	—	1,757	—
Government grants and subsidies	496	—	508	—
Net GST receivable	2,965	—	2,357	—
Total	25,096	—	22,285	—
Less: provision for impairment				
User charges and fees	(422)	—	(426)	—
Total provision for impairment – receivables	(422)	—	(426)	—
Total net receivables	24,674	—	21,859	—

Accounting policy

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When estimating ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day one.

When considering the ECL for rates and annual charges debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Credit losses are measured at the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

Council writes off a receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Where Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Rates and annual charges outstanding are secured against the property.

C1-5 Inventories

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Inventories at cost				
Real estate for resale	–	5,972	–	5,972
Stores and materials	461	–	463	–
Total inventories at cost	461	5,972	463	5,972
Total inventories	461	5,972	463	5,972

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Details for real estate development				
Residential	–	5,972	–	5,972
Total real estate for resale	–	5,972	–	5,972

(Valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value)

Represented by:

Acquisition costs	–	5,972	–	5,972
Total costs	–	5,972	–	5,972
Total real estate for resale	–	5,972	–	5,972

Movements:

Real estate assets at beginning of the year	–	5,972	–	5,972
Total real estate for resale	–	5,972	–	5,972

Accounting policy

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Land held for resale

Land held for resale is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is assigned by specific identification and includes the cost of acquisition, and development and borrowing costs during development. When development is completed, borrowing costs and other holding charges are expensed as incurred.

Borrowing costs included in the cost of land held for resale are those costs that would have been avoided if the expenditure on the acquisition and development of the land had not been made. Borrowing costs incurred while active development is interrupted for extended periods are recognised as expenses.

C1-6 Contract assets

Contract assets

\$ '000	2022	2021
Work relating to capital grants & contributions	7,985	4,503
Other	415	–
Work relating to operational grants & contributions	1,311	204
Total contract assets	9,711	4,707

Accounting policy

Contract assets

Contract assets represent Council's right to payment in exchange for goods or services the Council has transferred to a customer when that right is conditional on something other than the passage of time.

Contract assets arise when the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievement of various milestones established in the contract and therefore the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necessarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer. Once an invoice or payment claim is raised or the relevant milestone is reached, Council recognises a receivable.

Impairment of contract assets is assessed using the simplified expected credit loss model where lifetime credit losses are recognised on initial recognition.

C1-7 Non-current assets classified as held for sale

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Non-current assets held for sale				
Land	65	–	111	–
Total non-current assets held for sale	65	–	111	–

Details of assets

One parcel of land has been classified as 'held for sale' as it is in negotiation and expected to be sold during the 2022-2023 financial year.

Accounting policy

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use and are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Non-current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2021			Asset movements during the reporting period									At 30 June 2022		
	Gross carrying amount Restated	Accumulated depreciation and impairment Restated	Net carrying amount Restated	Additions renewals ¹	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Impairment reversal (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Other movements- Transfer to Expense	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
\$ '000															
Capital work in progress	55,467	–	55,467	36,820	40,342	–	–	–	(45,360)	–	(679)	–	86,590	–	86,590
Plant and equipment	44,890	(22,520)	22,370	4,842	–	(484)	(4,620)	–	–	–	–	–	47,008	(24,900)	22,108
Office equipment	10,244	(5,457)	4,787	723	–	–	(1,919)	–	–	–	–	–	10,967	(7,376)	3,591
Furniture and fittings	3,172	(1,418)	1,754	95	–	(118)	(324)	–	–	–	–	–	3,114	(1,707)	1,407
Land:															
– Operational land	249,869	–	249,869	–	5,490	–	–	–	–	–	–	19,744	275,103	–	275,103
– Community land	298,140	(760)	297,380	–	516	–	–	582	–	–	–	28,903	328,141	(760)	327,381
– Crown land	103,057	–	103,057	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6,390	109,447	–	109,447
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	7,502	–	7,502	–	396	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7,898	–	7,898
Infrastructure:															
– Buildings – non-specialised	216,743	(79,405)	137,338	–	–	(46)	(3,880)	–	2,988	(513)	–	16,477	245,871	(93,507)	152,364
– Buildings – specialised	333,783	(170,971)	162,812	–	–	–	(5,636)	–	3,694	(96)	–	19,469	378,294	(198,051)	180,243
– Other structures	17,009	(7,601)	9,408	–	–	(71)	(708)	–	612	(31)	–	–	17,408	(8,198)	9,210
– Roads	1,471,275	(869,787)	601,488	–	7,742	(683)	(21,310)	210	21,349	162	–	228,392	1,869,502	(1,032,152)	837,350
– Bridges	171,495	(56,848)	114,647	–	187	(115)	(1,998)	–	624	–	–	(18,662)	138,910	(44,227)	94,683
– Footpaths	316,844	(150,954)	165,890	–	5,832	–	(4,307)	–	7,751	121	–	3,627	344,698	(165,784)	178,914
– Stormwater drainage	963,258	(435,837)	527,421	–	–	(34)	(11,856)	–	2,404	835	–	322,994	1,547,139	(705,375)	841,764
– Swimming pools	39,847	(27,067)	12,780	–	–	–	(644)	–	131	–	–	1,521	44,935	(31,147)	13,788
– Other open space/recreational assets	191,213	(65,220)	125,993	–	–	–	(4,941)	–	5,639	(478)	–	14,496	219,554	(78,845)	140,709
Other assets:															
– Heritage collections	15,569	–	15,569	–	343	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15,912	–	15,912
– Library books	9,476	(4,768)	4,708	1,289	–	–	(1,201)	–	–	–	–	–	10,765	(5,969)	4,796
– Other	57,745	(12,195)	45,550	–	–	–	(1,531)	–	168	–	–	–	57,913	(13,726)	44,187
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note C3-5):															
– Tip assets	9,410	(9,410)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,410	(9,410)	–
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	4,586,008	(1,920,218)	2,665,790	43,769	60,848	(1,551)	(64,875)	792	–	–	(679)	643,351	5,768,579	(2,421,134)	3,347,445

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

Wollongong City Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2022

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2020			Asset movements during the reporting period										At 30 June 2021		
	Gross carrying amount Restated	Accumulated depreciation and impairment Restated	Net carrying amount Restated	Additions renewals ⁽¹⁾	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Impairment loss (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Waste Remediation reassessment	Tires from/to held for sale/ category	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount Restated	Accumulated depreciation and impairment Restated	Net carrying amount Restated
\$ '000																
Capital work in progress	54,017	—	54,017	22,894	42,789	—	—	—	(61,901)	—	(2,332)	—	—	55,467	—	55,467
Plant and equipment	42,203	(20,800)	21,403	6,194	—	(926)	(4,422)	—	121	—	—	—	—	44,890	(22,520)	22,370
Office equipment	7,497	(4,215)	3,282	2,747	—	—	(1,242)	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,244	(5,457)	4,787
Furniture and fittings	3,035	(1,104)	1,931	137	—	—	(314)	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,172	(1,418)	1,754
Land:																
– Operational land	249,821	—	249,821	—	159	—	—	—	—	—	—	(111)	—	249,869	—	249,869
– Community land	295,027	(760)	294,267	—	3,113	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	298,140	(760)	297,380
– Crown land	103,057	—	103,057	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	103,057	—	103,057
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	5,970	—	5,970	—	1,532	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,502	—	7,502
Infrastructure:																
– Buildings – non-specialised	210,898	(75,661)	135,237	—	—	(2)	(3,743)	—	5,846	—	—	—	—	216,743	(79,405)	137,338
– Buildings – specialised	332,125	(166,327)	165,798	—	—	(258)	(5,578)	—	2,275	575	—	—	—	333,783	(170,971)	162,812
– Other structures	16,204	(6,958)	9,246	—	—	(4)	(660)	—	826	—	—	—	—	17,009	(7,601)	9,408
– Roads	1,452,335	(852,276)	600,059	—	—	(868)	(20,396)	(210)	22,603	300	—	—	—	1,471,275	(869,787)	601,488
– Bridges	169,791	(54,868)	114,923	—	—	(844)	(2,216)	—	2,784	—	—	—	—	171,495	(56,848)	114,647
– Footpaths	291,256	(138,378)	152,878	—	—	(221)	(4,275)	—	11,459	6,049	—	—	—	316,844	(150,954)	165,890
– Stormwater drainage	950,803	(425,498)	525,305	—	5,599	(225)	(10,536)	—	6,653	625	—	—	—	963,258	(435,837)	527,421
– Swimming pools	32,093	(22,730)	9,363	—	—	—	(517)	—	2,303	671	—	—	960	39,847	(27,067)	12,780
– Other open space/recreational assets	163,782	(49,962)	113,820	—	3,390	(178)	(3,831)	—	6,226	(3,565)	—	—	10,131	191,213	(65,220)	125,993
Other assets:																
– Heritage collections	15,415	—	15,415	—	154	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,569	—	15,569
– Library books	8,159	(3,597)	4,562	1,317	—	—	(1,171)	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,476	(4,768)	4,708
– Other	67,702	(16,867)	50,835	—	—	—	(1,822)	—	805	(4,655)	—	—	387	57,745	(12,195)	45,550
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note C3-5):																
– Tip assets	9,410	(9,410)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,410	(9,410)	—
Investment Property (refer to Note C1-9):																
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	4,480,600	(1,849,411)	2,631,189	33,289	56,736	(3,526)	(60,723)	(210)	—	—	(2,332)	(111)	11,478	4,586,008	(1,920,218)	2,665,790

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Accounting policy

Initial recognition of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

IPPE is measured initially at cost. Cost includes the fair value of the consideration given to acquire the asset (net of discounts and rebates) and any directly attributable cost of bringing the asset to working condition for its intended use (inclusive of import duties and taxes).

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are acquired by Council at significantly below fair value, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Useful lives of IPPE

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Plant and equipment	Years	Other equipment	Years
Office equipment	3 to 25	Playground equipment	10 to 15
Office furniture	5 to 34	Benches, seats etc.	10 to 20
Computer equipment	2 to 10		
Vehicles	3 to 20	Buildings	
Heavy plant/road making equipment	8 to 10	Buildings: masonry	50 to 196
Other plant and equipment	2 to 34	Buildings: other	2 to 50
Stormwater assets			
Drains	30 to 130		
Culverts	30 to 130		
Flood control structures	30 to 130		
Transportation assets		Other infrastructure assets	
Roads: seal	8 to 95	Bulk earthworks	Infinite
Roads: base	15 to 145	Swimming pools	40 to 100
Roads: sub-base	15 to 145	Other open space/recreational assets	3 to 115
Bridge: concrete	80	Other infrastructure	10 to 100
Bridge: other	20 to 80		
Kerb, gutter and footpaths	20 to 104		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date. Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the Income Statement.

Revaluation Model

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated. Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

Rural Fire Service assets

Under Section 119 of the *Rural Fire Services Act 1997 (NSW)*, "all firefighting equipment purchased or constructed wholly or from money to the credit of the Fund is to be vested in the council of the area for or on behalf of which the firefighting equipment has been purchased or constructed".

These Rural Fire Service assets are recognised as assets of the Council in these financial statements.

C1-9 Investment properties

Owned investment property

\$ '000	2022	2021
At fair value		
Opening balance at 1 July	4,600	5,000
Net gain/(loss) from fair value adjustments	1,000	(400)
Closing balance at 30 June	5,600	4,600

Accounting policy

Investment property, principally comprising freehold office buildings, is held for long-term rental yields and is not occupied by the Council. Changes in fair values are recorded in the Income Statement as part of other income.

C1-10 Intangible assets

\$ '000	2022	2021
Software		
Opening values at 1 July		
Gross book value	2,345	2,345
Accumulated amortisation	(2,193)	(2,091)
Net book value – opening balance	152	254
Movements for the year		
Amortisation charges	(77)	(102)
Closing values at 30 June		
Gross book value	2,345	2,345
Accumulated amortisation	(2,269)	(2,193)
Total intangible assets – net book value	76	152

Accounting policy

IT development and software

Software development costs include only those costs directly attributable to the development phase (including external direct costs of materials and services, direct payroll, and payroll-related costs of employees' time spent on the project) and are only recognised following completion of technical feasibility, and where the Council has an intention and ability to use the asset. Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over periods generally ranging from three to five years.

C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council has leases over land and buildings. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

Land & Buildings

Council leases land and building for libraries and other operations; these leases are between 5 and 30 years and some include a renewal option to allow Council to renew the lease term. These leases contain an annual pricing mechanism based on either fixed increases or CPI movements at each anniversary of the lease inception.

Extension options

Council includes extension options in some of their leases to provide flexibility and certainty to Council operations and reduce costs of moving premises. These extension options are at Council's discretion.

At commencement date and each subsequent reporting date, Council assesses where it is reasonably certain that the extension options will be exercised.

There are \$6.2M in potential future lease payments which are not included in lease liabilities as Council has assessed that the exercise of the option is not reasonably certain.

(a) Right of use assets

\$ '000	Land & Buildings	Total
2022		
Opening balance at 1 July	1,471	1,471
Depreciation charge	(377)	(377)
Balance at 30 June	1,094	1,094
2021		
Opening balance at 1 July	1,790	1,790
Additions to right-of-use assets	59	59
Depreciation charge	(378)	(378)
Balance at 30 June	1,471	1,471

(b) The maturity analysis

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

\$ '000	< 1 year	1 – 5 years	> 5 years	Total	Total per Statement of Financial Position
2022					
Cash flows	403	617	171	1,191	1,191
2021					
Cash flows	377	763	431	1,571	1,571

C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

(c) Income Statement

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to leases where Council is a lessee are shown below:

\$ '000	2022	2021
Interest on lease liabilities	47	58
Depreciation of right of use assets	377	378
	424	436

(d) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	427	406
	427	406

(e) Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has a number of leases at significantly below market for land and infrastructure which are used for:

- pedestrian crossings and bridges
- boat ramp

The leases are generally for an extended period of time and require payments of a maximum amount of \$1,000 per year. Council does not believe that any of the leases in place are individually material from a statement of financial position or performance perspective.

Accounting policy

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration?

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

At the lease commencement, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where Council believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Council's incremental borrowing rate for a similar term with similar security is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is re-measured when there is a lease modification, or change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI).

Where the lease liability is re-measured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the re-measurement.

Exceptions to lease accounting

Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Leases at significantly below market value / concessionary leases

Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

C2-2 Council as a lessor

Operating leases

Council leases out a number of properties; these leases have been classified as operating leases for financial reporting purposes and the assets are included in the Statement of Financial Position as:

- investment property – where the asset is held predominantly for rental or capital growth purposes (refer note C1-9)
- property, plant and equipment – where the rental is incidental, or the asset is held to meet Councils service delivery objective (refer note C1-8).

\$ '000	2022	2021
(i) Assets held as investment property		
The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	454	434
Total income relating to operating leases for investment property assets	454	434
Operating lease expenses		
Direct operating expenses that generated rental income	140	147
Total expenses relating to operating leases	140	147
(ii) Assets held as property, plant and equipment		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	4,994	6,032
Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets	4,994	6,032
(iii) Maturity analysis of contractual lease income: investment property		
Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:		
< 1 year	265	361
1–2 years	136	180
2–3 years	21	69
Total undiscounted lease payments to be received	422	610

Accounting policy

When Council is a lessor, the lease is classified as either an operating or finance lease at inception date, based on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset have been transferred to the lessee. If the risks and rewards have been transferred then the lease is classified as a finance lease, otherwise it is an operating lease.

When Council has a sub-lease over an asset and is the intermediate lessor then the head lease and sub-lease are accounted for separately. The classification of the sub-lease is based on the right-of-use asset which arises from the head lease rather than the useful life of the underlying asset.

If the lease contains lease and non-lease components, the non-lease components are accounted for in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

The lease income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term for an operating lease and as finance income using amortised cost basis for finance leases.

C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

\$ '000	2022		2021	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Prepaid rates	4,130	–	3,045	–
Goods and services – operating expenditure	1,479	–	2,732	–
Goods and services – capital expenditure	313	–	3,622	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Other expenditure accruals	17,843	–	14,395	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	2,618	–	2,172	–
Other	993	–	655	–
Total payables	27,376	–	26,621	–

Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

\$ '000	2022	2021
Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	1,091	1,069
Total payables	1,091	1,069

Accounting policy

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Council comprise trade payables and loans.

Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C3-2 Contract Liabilities

\$ '000	Notes	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Unexpended capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	1,355	—	5,305	—
Unexpended operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	282	—	58	—
Unexpended capital contributions (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	114	—	214	—
Unexpended operating contributions (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	149	—	—	—
Total grants received in advance		1,900	—	5,577	—
User fees and charges received in advance:					
Upfront fees	(iii)	3,591	—	2,600	—
Total user fees and charges received in advance		3,591	—	2,600	—
Total contract liabilities		5,491	—	8,177	—

Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

(ii) The contract liability relates to operating grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria in AASB 15 being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

(iii) Fees paid upfront for the delivery of specific Council services are recorded as a contract liability on receipt and recognised as revenue when the performance obligations are met.

(i) Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period

\$ '000	2022	2021
Capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	4,462	938
Operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	23	40
Capital contributions (to construct Council controlled assets)	100	229
Upfront fees	2,121	2,198
Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	6,706	3,405

Significant changes in contract liabilities

The contract liabilities have decreased due to delivery of capital expenditure resulting from capital grant funds received in 2020-2021.

Accounting policy

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer. Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

C3-3 Borrowings

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Loans – secured ¹	3,569	3,374	5,497	6,942
Total borrowings	3,569	3,374	5,497	6,942

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council. Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note E1.

Borrowings relating to restricted assets

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Externally restricted assets				
Loans	–	–	277	–
Total borrowings relating to restricted assets	–	–	277	–
Total borrowings relating to unrestricted assets	3,569	3,374	5,220	6,942
Total borrowings	3,569	3,374	5,497	6,942

(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

	2021	Non-cash movements					2022
\$ '000	Opening Balance	Cash flows	Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	Closing balance
Loans – secured	12,439	(5,496)	–	–	–	–	6,943
Lease liability (Note C2-1b)	1,571	(427)	–	–	–	47	1,191
Total liabilities from financing activities	14,010	(5,923)	–	–	–	47	8,134

	2020	Non-cash movements					2021
\$ '000	Opening Balance	Cash flows	Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	Closing balance
Loans – secured	17,699	(5,260)	–	–	–	–	12,439
Lease liability (Note C2-1b)	1,860	(406)	59	–	–	58	1,571
Total liabilities from financing activities	19,559	(5,666)	59	–	–	58	14,010

(b) Financing arrangements

\$ '000	2022	2021
Total facilities		
Bank overdraft facilities ¹	300	300
Credit cards/purchase cards	835	835
Total financing arrangements	1,135	1,135
Drawn facilities		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	3	16
Total drawn financing arrangements	3	16

continued on next page ...

C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

\$ '000	2022	2021
Undrawn facilities		
– Bank overdraft facilities	300	300
– Credit cards/purchase cards	832	819
Total undrawn financing arrangements	1,132	1,119

Additional financing arrangements information

Breaches and defaults

During the current and prior year, there were no defaults or breaches on any of the loans.

(1) The bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

Accounting policy

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down.

Borrowings are removed from the Statement of Financial Position when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in other income or borrowing costs.

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-current	2021 Current	2021 Non-current
Annual leave	13,119	—	12,252	—
Sick leave	94	—	168	—
Long service leave	36,862	792	42,965	957
Other leave	1,630	—	1,383	—
Total employee benefit provisions	51,705	792	56,768	957

Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

\$ '000	2022	2021
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	39,591	45,373
	39,591	45,373

Accounting policy

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave and vested long service leave (or that which vests within 12 months) is presented as current.

Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

On-costs

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods. These amounts include superannuation which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

C3-5 Provisions

\$ '000	2022 Current	2022 Non-Current	2021 Current	2021 Non-Current
Other provisions				
Self insurance – workers compensation	3,626	8,471	2,116	7,415
Self insurance – claims incurred	215	324	255	430
Sub-total – other provisions	3,841	8,795	2,371	7,845
Asset remediation/restoration:				
Asset remediation/restoration (future works)	50	19,084	250	30,512
Sub-total – asset remediation/restoration	50	19,084	250	30,512
Total provisions	3,891	27,879	2,621	38,357

Description of and movements in provisions

\$ '000	Other provisions			Total
	Self Insurance: Workers compen- sation	Self Insurance: Claims incurred	Asset remediation	
2022				
At beginning of year	9,531	685	30,762	40,978
Unwinding of discount	–	–	(5)	(5)
Additional provisions	2,934	–	–	2,934
Amounts used (payments)	(3,527)	–	–	(3,527)
Remeasurement effects	3,159	–	(11,623)	(8,464)
Unused amounts reversed	–	(146)	–	(146)
Expenditure incurred attributable to provisions	–	–	–	–
Total other provisions at end of year	12,097	539	19,134	31,770
2021				
At beginning of year	7,654	730	33,367	41,751
Unwinding of discount	–	–	1,488	1,488
Additional provisions	2,617	–	–	2,617
Amounts used (payments)	(3,202)	–	–	(3,202)
Remeasurement effects	2,462	–	(3,755)	(1,293)
Unused amounts reversed	–	(45)	–	(45)
Expenditure incurred attributable to provisions	–	–	(338)	(338)
Total other provisions at end of year	9,531	685	30,762	40,978

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation

Council has a legal/public obligation to make, restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the open Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot and closed Helensburgh Waste Depot.

Self-insurance - workers compensation

To recognise liabilities for outstanding claims (uninsured losses) arising from Council's decision to undertake self-insurance for excesses up to \$750,000 on any individual claim. Claims beyond this are supported by an external insurance policy.

Self-insurance - claims incurred

To recognise liabilities for both (i) claims expected to be incurred but not reported and (ii) claims reported and estimated as a result of Council being self insured up to an excess of \$100,000 on any individual claim.

Accounting policy

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

Asset Remediation/Restoration

Restoration

Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs.

Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The costs are estimated on the basis of a closure plan. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

Rehabilitation

Where rehabilitation is conducted systematically over the life of the operation, rather than at the time of closure, provision is made for the estimated outstanding continuous rehabilitation work at each reporting date, and the cost is charged to the Income Statement.

Provision is made for the estimated present value of the costs of environmental clean-up obligations outstanding at the reporting date. These costs are charged to the Income Statement. Movements in the environmental clean-up provisions are presented as an operating cost, except for the unwinding of the discount which is shown as a borrowing cost.

Remediation procedures generally commence soon after the time the damage, remediation process, and estimated remediation costs become known, but may continue for many years depending on the nature of the disturbance and the remediation techniques.

As noted above, the ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

Close-down and restoration costs are a normal consequence of tip and quarry operations, and the majority of close-down and restoration expenditure is incurred at the end of the life of the operations. Although the ultimate cost to be incurred is uncertain, Council estimates the respective costs based on feasibility and engineering studies using current restoration standards and techniques.

Self-insurance - workers compensation

Council holds a level of self-insurance in the form of an excess layer of \$750,000 on any individual claim for workers compensation. A provision for self-insurance has been made to recognise outstanding claims. Council also maintains a bank guarantee to meet expected future claims; refer to Note E3-1.

Self-insurance - claims incurred

Council holds a level of self-insurance in the form of an excess layer of \$100,000 on any individual claim for public liability and professional indemnity. A provision for self-insurance has been made to recognise outstanding claims.

C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

IPPE Revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

D Council structure

D1 Results by fund

Council utilises only a general fund for its operations.

DRAFT

D2 Interests in other entities

D2-1 Subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates not recognised

The following subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates have not been recognised in this financial report.

Name of entity/operation	Principal activity/type of entity	2022	2022
		Net profit (\$'000s)	Net assets (\$'000s)
Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	Inter-Governmental Collaboration Joint Venture	11	956

Reasons for non-recognition

Council has assessed this operation as not material for recognition in these statements.

Name of entity/operation	Principal activity/type of entity	2022	2022
		Net profit (\$'000s)	Net assets (\$'000s)
Destination Wollongong	Tourism Development & Promotion Associate	86	188

Reasons for non-recognition

Council has assessed this operation as not material for recognition in these statements.

Name of entity/operation	Principal activity/type of entity	2022	2022
		Net profit (\$'000s)	Net assets (\$'000s)
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre	Theatre & Town Hall Management Associate	623	1,229

Reasons for non-recognition

Council has assessed this operation as not material for recognition in these statements.

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. Council's finance area manages the cash and Investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors. Council has an investment policy which complies with s625 of the Act and the Ministerial Investment Order. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and its staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance as required by Local Government regulations.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

The risks associated with the financial instruments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether the changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of a capital or income nature.

Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees. Council also seeks advice from independent advisers before placing any funds in cash equivalents and investments.

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

\$ '000	2022	2021
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The following represents a summary of the sensitivity of Council's Income Statement and accumulated surplus (for the reporting period) due to a change in either the price of a financial asset or the interest rates applicable.

It is assumed that the change in interest rates would have been constant throughout the reporting period.

Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	1,051	1,189
Impact of a 10% movement in price of investments		
Possible impact of a 10% movement in price of investments	5,441	5,033

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (i) rates and annual charges and (ii) user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions.

Council makes suitable provision for the impairment of receivables as required

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges < 5 years	≥ 5 years	Total
2022				
Gross carrying amount	–	13,399	994	14,393
2021				
Gross carrying amount	–	8,813	3,122	11,935

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	0 - 30 days	Overdue debts 31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	Total
2022						
Gross carrying amount	18,411	266	169	182	1,384	20,412
Expected loss rate (%)	0.03%	5.60%	4.50%	3.60%	28.00%	2.07%
ECL provision	6	15	8	7	388	424
2021						
Gross carrying amount	13,614	171	157	162	953	15,057
Expected loss rate (%)	0.10%	3.16%	7.33%	3.83%	40.82%	2.83%
ECL provision	14	5	12	6	389	426

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk – the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels and maintaining an adequate cash buffer.

Payment terms can (in extenuating circumstances) also be extended and overdraft facilities utilised as required.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk – the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs and debt servicing requirements. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures. The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities (refer to Note C2-1(b) for lease liabilities) and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

\$ '000	Weighted average interest rate	Without defined maturity	≤ 1 Year	payable in: 1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
2022							
Payables	0.00%	2,618	24,760	–	–	27,378	27,376
Borrowings	1.50%	–	3,907	3,313	–	7,220	6,943
Total financial liabilities		2,618	28,667	3,313	–	34,598	34,319
2021							
Payables	0.00%	2,172	21,404	–	–	23,576	26,621
Borrowings	1.50%	–	5,914	7,220	–	13,134	12,439
Total financial liabilities		2,172	27,318	7,220	–	36,710	39,060

E2-1 Fair value measurement

Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
- Investment property
- Financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Fair value measurement hierarchy							
\$ '000	Notes	Date of latest valuation		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2022	2021	2022	2021 Restated	2022	2021 Restated
Recurring fair value measurements							
Financial assets							
Financial investments	C1-2						
At fair value through profit or loss – designated at fair value on initial recognition		30/06/22	30/06/21	56,965	53,533	56,965	53,533
Total financial assets				56,965	53,533	56,965	53,533
Investment property							
Commercial building	C1-9	30/06/22	30/06/21	5,600	4,600	5,600	4,600
Total investment property				5,600	4,600	5,600	4,600
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment							
Roads	C1-8	30/06/22	30/06/17	837,350	601,488	837,350	601,488
Bridges		30/06/22	30/06/17	94,683	114,647	94,683	114,647
Footpaths		30/06/22	30/06/17	178,914	165,890	178,914	165,890
Stormwater		30/06/22	30/06/17	841,764	527,421	841,764	527,421
Plant and equipment		N/A	N/A	22,108	22,370	22,108	22,370
Office equipment		N/A	N/A	3,591	4,787	3,591	4,787
Furniture and fittings		N/A	N/A	1,407	1,754	1,407	1,754
Operational land		30/06/22	30/06/19	275,103	249,869	275,103	249,869
Community land		30/06/22	30/06/20	327,381	297,380	327,381	297,380
Crown Land		30/06/22	30/06/20	109,447	103,057	109,447	103,057
Land under roads		30/06/19	30/06/19	7,898	7,502	7,898	7,502
Buildings		30/06/22	30/06/19	332,607	300,150	332,607	300,150
Other structures		30/06/19	30/06/19	9,210	9,408	9,210	9,408
Swimming pools		30/06/22	30/06/21	13,788	12,780	13,788	12,780
Library books		N/A	N/A	4,796	4,708	4,796	4,708
Other open space/recreational assets		30/06/22	30/06/21	140,709	125,993	140,709	125,993
Tip asset		30/06/21	30/06/21	–	–	–	–
Works in progress		N/A	N/A	86,590	55,467	86,590	55,467
Artworks		30/06/19	30/06/19	15,912	15,569	15,912	15,569
Other		30/06/21	30/06/21	44,187	45,550	44,187	45,550
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment				3,347,445	2,665,790	3,347,445	2,665,790

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair value using quoted market prices of identical assets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (Level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs).

Level 2 inputs include;

- quoted prices for similar assets in active markets,
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active,
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable (e.g. interest rates, credit spreads etc.) and
- market corroborated inputs.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs. If an observable input (Level 2) requires an adjustment using an unobservable input and that adjustment results in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement, the resulting measurement is categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. Council uses unobservable inputs to the extent relevant observable inputs are not available. But the objective remains the same; i.e. an exit price from the perspective of market participants. Therefore, unobservable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use when pricing, including assumptions about risk. Assumptions about risk include risk inherent in a particular valuation technique and risk inherent in inputs to the technique. Such an adjustment may be necessary if there is a significant measurement uncertainty.

Unobservable inputs have been developed using the best information available, which includes Council's own data. In some cases, Council adjusts its own data if reasonable available information indicates other market participants would use different data or if there is an entity specific synergy (i.e. not available to other market participants).

Level 3 inputs include;

- Unit Rates,
- Unit Price,
- Asset Condition,
- Remaining Useful Life,
- Future Demands,
- Borrowing Rates.

The Fair Valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

Financial assets

Valuation Technique – A portion of Council's investment portfolio is measured at fair value (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the current price in an active market for similar assets. Emerald Reverse Mortgage investment securities form part of this portion of Council's portfolio. The market for Australian mortgage backed securities, regardless of the robustness of the structure, is highly illiquid as a direct consequence of the global financial crisis. This has caused difficulties in valuing the security as there is limited "price discovery" in the market. As such the level of valuation input for Council's fair valued investments was considered a level 3.

Investment property

Valuation Technique – Council's Investment Property is measured using sales direct comparison based on a market selling approach (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy - the fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach are rental yields and price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's investment property valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for rental yields and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Infrastructure – Council's Infrastructure incorporates;

- Roads – Surface and bases, Car Parks, Kerb and Guttering and Traffic Facilities (speed humps, bollards and signs),
- Bridges – Road, Pedestrian and Jetties,
- Footpaths including shared pathways, and
- Stormwater Drainage.

Valuation Technique – Infrastructure assets are recognised using the cost method, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is to equal the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's infrastructure inventory is to determine a unit rate based on square metres or an appropriate unit corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). A process is then undertaken to compare these rates with internal unit rates derived by Council as a result of specific projects that have been undertaken. Further to this other input such as asset condition and useful life require a significant level of professional judgement and can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for these assets was considered level 3.

Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment & Furniture & Fittings incorporate:

- Plant & Equipment – Trucks, Tractors, Graders, Rollers, Buses, Vans, Passenger Vehicles, Mobile Equipment (i.e. generators, hand mowers, tools), Fluid storage units (i.e. septic tanks, water tanks),
- Office Equipment – Electronic Whiteboards, Printing Equipment, Safes and I.T. equipment such as computers, printers and scanners,
- Furniture & Fittings – Chairs, Tables, Filing Cabinets, Bookshelves, Compactuses,

Valuation Technique – These assets are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Operational Land

Valuation Technique – Council's Operational Land is measured using a comparative market selling approach (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach is price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's operational land valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for similar properties and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Community & Crown Land

Valuation Technique – Council's Community & Crown Land is measured using comparative Land Values (LV) provided by the Valuer General (VG) or an average unit rate based on a comparable LV for similar properties (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the LV's provided by the Valuer General or an average unit rate based on the LV for similar properties where the Valuer General did not provide a LV. The most significant input into this valuation approach is price per square metre. Valuations provided by the Valuer General are not in the public domain and the application of an average rate requires a level of professional judgement. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Land Under Roads

Valuation Technique – Land is generally valued using comparative Land Values (LV) provided by the Valuer General (VG) or an average unit rate based on a comparable LV for similar properties (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – The existing use fair value of land under roads is best expressed as undeveloped or englobo land (pre-subdivision). However, as sufficient sales evidence of englobo land with similar features to the land being valued is generally not available, it is appropriate to use a proxy to estimate the englobo value. Community land value is used as a reasonable proxy to value land under roads, as such land generally has no feasible alternative use, and it is undeveloped and is publicly accessible. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Buildings – Non-Specialised and Specialised

Valuation Technique – Buildings are recognised using the cost method, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is equal to the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy – Specialised and Non-Specialised buildings are generally assessed at level 3 of the fair value hierarchy due to lack of market evidence. Key inputs are unit rates and remaining useful life. The exception is non-specialised residential properties which have been valued using sale prices of comparable properties (level 2). The most significant input into this valuation approach is price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's residential property valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for rental yields and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for all buildings was considered level 3.

Intangible Assets

Valuation Technique – These assets are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Other Structures

Other Structures incorporates Bus Shelters, Shade Structures, Picnic Shelters and BBQ Shelters.

Valuation Technique – Other Structures are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Other Open Space / Recreational Assets

Other Open Space/Recreational Assets incorporate Park Assets including Playgrounds, Skateboard Facilities, Tennis Courts, Furniture and Landscaping and Power Poles.

Valuation Technique – Other Open Space/Recreational Assets are recognised using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – while some elements of the cost method can be supported by market evidence (Level 2) other factors require professional judgement such as asset condition and useful life. As these inputs can have a significant impact on the fair value the valuation input all Other Open Space / Recreational Assets were considered level 3.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Swimming Pools – Structures

Valuation Technique – Swimming Pools and Rock Pools are valued using the cost approach, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's swimming pool inventory is to determine a unit rate based on square metres corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). A process is then undertaken to compare these rates with internal unit rates derived by Council as a result of specific work that has been undertaken. Further to this other input such as asset condition and useful life require a significant level of professional judgement and can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Artworks

Valuation Technique – Art Works are valued using the cost approach, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is to equal the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's Artworks is to use the market price or purchase price of the original transaction or if the work is in the form of a donation an external valuation is undertaken corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). It is noted that the valuation process requires a significant level of professional judgement and this can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for artworks was considered level 3.

Library Books

Valuation Technique – These assets are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Other Assets

Other Assets is a catch all for the remaining assets held by Council and includes Waste Assets such as Cell Development and Liners, Public Art and Crematorium and Cemetery Beams and Walls.

Valuation Technique - Other Assets are recognised using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – While some elements of the cost method can be supported by market evidence (Level 2) others factors require professional judgement such as asset condition and useful life. As these inputs can have a significant impact on the fair value the valuation input all Other Assets were considered level 3.

Tip Remediation Asset

Valuation Technique – Council's Tip Remediation Asset is measured using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot will require remediation and restoration works to be carried out during and at the end of its useful life. The cash outflows relating to these remediation and restoration works have been modelled and recognised as an asset in Note C1-8 of Council's statements. Key unobservable inputs were the discount rate, cost escalation rate, timing of costs and future environmental management requirements. As such the level of valuation input for Council's tip asset was considered Level 3.

The tip remediation asset was adjusted in line with changes to the remediation provision. During 2019-2020, the remediation provision was reduced to by an amount greater than the carrying value of the tip remediation and as a result this asset now has a carrying value of zero.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A summary of the Fair Valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

Asset Category	Valuation Frequency	Description of Process	Valuer*	Responsibility
Financial Assets	Monthly	Monthly valuation using the current price in an active market for similar assets	External	Finance Division
Investment Properties	Annually	Assessed each year for material change and adjusted accordingly	External	Property Division
Infrastructure	5 years	Full valuation using current unit rates and comparable work. Assessed each year for material change and adjusted accordingly	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Plant & Equipment	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Office Equipment & Furniture & Fittings	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Operational Land	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External	Property Division
Community & Crown Land	5 Years	Valuer General Land Values or Average Unit Rate for similar properties if not available	Valuer General / Internal	Property / Finance Division
Land Under Roads	5 Years	Valuer General Land Values or Average Unit Rate used as proxy to derive en globo rate	Valuer General / Internal	Finance Division
Buildings – Non Specialised & Specialised	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External / Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division / Property Division
Intangibles	5 Years	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Other Structures	5 Years	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Asset Category	Valuation Frequency	Description of Process	Valuer*	Responsibility
Other Open Space / Recreational Assets	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Swimming Pools - Structures	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External / Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Library Books	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Other Assets	5 years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	Internal	Various
Tip Remediation Asset	Annually	Reassessment of discount rate and application to discounted cash flows if material	Internal	Finance Division

*Internal Valuation refers to the utilisation of in-house expertise to value Council's assets.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

	Financial assets		Investment property		IPP&E		Total	
\$ '000	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021 Restated	2022	2021 Restated
Opening balance	53,533	46,393	4,600	5,000	2,665,790	2,655,487	2,723,923	2,706,880
Total gains or losses for the period								
Recognised in profit or loss – realised ¹	(2,282)	(125)	1,000	(400)	–	–	(1,282)	(525)
Recognised in other comprehensive income – revaluation surplus	–	–	–	–	644,143	11,268	644,143	11,268
Other movements								
Transfers from/(to) another asset class	–	–	–	–	–	(111)	–	(111)
Purchases (GBV)	15,750	19,275	–	–	104,617	90,025	120,367	109,300
Disposals (WDV)	(10,036)	(12,010)	–	–	(1,551)	(3,526)	(11,587)	(15,536)
Depreciation and impairment	–	–	–	–	(64,875)	(60,723)	(64,875)	(60,723)
Prior Period Error	–	–	–	–	–	(24,298)	–	(24,298)
Transfer to expense	–	–	–	–	(679)	(2,332)	(679)	(2,332)
Closing balance	56,965	53,533	5,600	4,600	3,347,445	2,665,790	3,410,010	2,723,923

(1) Fair value gains recognised in the Income Statement relating to assets still on hand at year end total

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED

1. Land under roads

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account land under roads that it owned or controlled up to and including 30/06/08.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Bank Guarantees

Council has provided Bank Guarantees totalling \$1,868,061 as security over damages for work that may impact a third party.

Council has provided security to Work Cover for outstanding workers compensation claims liability in the form of a bank guarantee to the sum of \$7,711,000.

Council is also Guarantor on a mortgage for a third party of \$180,000.

2. Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Active Super), named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

Description of the funding arrangements.

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

* For 180 Point Members, Employers were required to contribute 7.5% of salaries to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of \$40.0 million per annum for 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2021 and \$20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2021. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation and monitored annually between triennials.

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding additional contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

The amount of Council employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2022 was \$2.401M. The last valuation of the Scheme was performed by the Fund Actuary, Richard Boyfield FIAA as at 30 June 2021.

The amount of additional contributions included in the total employer contribution advised above is \$1.914M. Council's expected contribution to the plan for the next annual reporting period is \$1.873M.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2022 is:

Employer reserves only *	\$millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,376.6	
Past Service Liabilities	2,380.7	99.8%
Vested Benefits	2,391.7	99.4%

* excluding member accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

Council's share of that deficiency cannot be accurately calculated as the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils. For this reason, no liability for the deficiency has been recognised in Council's accounts. Council has a possible obligation that may arise should the Scheme require immediate payment to correct the deficiency.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	5.5% per annum
Salary inflation *	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	2.5% per annum

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

3. Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various third party claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its functions and services. Council believes that it ordinarily holds adequate insurance coverage in relation to these third party claims and would not expect any material liabilities to eventuate. Council is aware of three particular third party claims where confirmation of insurance coverage is currently being sought from the relevant insurer/s. Investigations and enquires regarding this matter, our liability and its insurance coverage are ongoing and therefore the amount of the possible obligation cannot be measured reliably.

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

4. Development Contributions

Council levies Development Contributions upon various development across the Council area through the required Contributions Plans. As part of these Plans, Council has received funds for which it will be required to expend the monies in accordance with those Plans.

As well, these Plans indicate proposed future expenditure to be undertaken by Council, which will be funded by making levies and receiving funds in future years or where a shortfall exists by the use of Council's General Funds.

These future expenses do not yet qualify as liabilities as of the Reporting Date, but represent Council's intention to spend funds in the manner and timing set out in those plans.

5. Greenhouse Park

Council owns and manages a former landfill site at Greenhouse Park. The landfill was constructed prior to contemporary environmental regulations and used as both a putrescible and builders waste landfill. Following the closure of the site as a landfill, remediation of the site has been progressively occurring to transform the site into a natural area.

Council is also working with the EPA and specialised consultants to manage the landfill waste which was placed on the site. Total remediation costs at this stage are unknown and will be dependent on the remediation strategies implemented. Council is currently working with the EPA and specialised consultants to determine the remediation actions required.

6. Helensburgh Landfill Site

Council manages a former landfill site at Helensburgh located off Halls Road/Nixon Place. The landfill was commenced prior to contemporary environmental regulations and was used at various times for both putrescible and builders construction waste. Following the closure of the site as a landfill, Council is required to remediate the site in accordance with EPA requirements and licence conditions. Council has a future budget allocation of \$6.4M and is currently working with EPA and specialised consultants to prepare the final design documentation and achieve regulatory approval for this project.

7. Native Title

In January 2018, the National Native Title Tribunal accepted registration of a native title claim that included the Wollongong LGA. The claim is now before the Federal Court, and Council is one of a number of defendants to those proceedings. Private freehold land, and certain other land owned by Council is not affected. The claim will take some time to determine before the Federal Court.

F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

\$ '000	2022	2021
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	2,342	2,303
Termination benefits	144	154
Total	2,486	2,457

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has assessed other transactions with KMP and their related parties as not material for recognition in these statements.

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

\$ '000	2022	2021
Mayoral fee	102	100
Councillors' fees	391	384
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	43	37
Total	536	521

F1-3 Other related parties

\$ '000	Transactions during the year	Terms and conditions
2022		
Associates		
Marketing, events, business and investment in LGA	1,508	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Event sponsorship & support	4	Based on specific events.
Advertisement	3	
Performing Arts Centre management	842	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Town Hall management	448	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Asset Maintenance	82	
Community Subsidy	30	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Venue Hire	7	

F1-3 Other related parties (continued)

2021

Associates

Marketing, events, business and investment in LGA	1,506	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Event sponsorship & support	30	Based on specific events.
Advertisement	1	
Partner program	1	
Performing Arts Centre management	718	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Town Hall management	395	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Asset Maintenance	59	
Community Subsidy	20	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Venue Hire	6	

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F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

\$ '000	2022	2021
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During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms

Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:

(i) Audit and other assurance services

Audit and review of financial statements

	211	152
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Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	211	152
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Total Auditor-General remuneration	211	152
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Non NSW Auditor-General audit firms

(i) Audit and other assurance services

Other audit and assurance services

	10	13
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Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	10	13
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Total remuneration of non NSW Auditor-General audit firms	10	13
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Total audit fees	221	165
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G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

(a) Reconciliation of net operating result to cash provided from operating activities

\$ '000	2022	2021
Net operating result from Income Statement	59,452	35,012
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	65,329	61,203
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	(563)	1,995
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	(15,500)	(12,202)
Prior period WIP written off during year	679	2,332
IPP&E restoration write offs	—	—
Losses/(gains) recognised on fair value re-measurements through the P&L:		
– Investments classified as 'at fair value' or 'held for trading'	2,067	(206)
– Investment property	(1,000)	400
– Fair value movement on CivicRisk Mutual	669	285
Unwinding of discount rates on reinstatement provisions	(5)	1,488
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	(2,811)	213
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	(4)	(405)
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	2	(82)
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	(199)	3,890
(Increase) / decrease of contract asset	(5,004)	962
Increase / (decrease) in payables	(1,253)	(901)
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	1,307	(616)
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	1,869	(1,619)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	(2,686)	4,605
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	(5,228)	(1,384)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	(9,203)	(2,261)
Net cash flows from operating activities	87,918	92,709

(b) Non-cash investing and financing activities

Bushfire grants	270	—
Developer contributions 'in kind'	732	5,546
Other dedications	13,680	5,598
Contributed Art Works	201	54
Planning Agreement - Non-cash contribution	—	1,004
Total non-cash investing and financing activities	14,883	12,202

G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

\$ '000	2022	2021
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment		
Buildings	–	6,066
Infrastructure	19,237	14,278
Land	–	262
Total commitments	19,237	20,606

Details of capital commitments

Infrastructure includes Keira Mine Road Embankment Stabilisation, Grand Pacific Walk - Boardwalk Rehabilitation, Fred Finch Park Berkely - Netball courts redevelopment, Thomas Dalton Park Sportsfield Lighting Upgrade, The Ridge Retaining Wall, Stormwater Pipe Reline Works - Package C, Stormwater Pipe Reline Works - Package E, Drainage Works - Station Road Otford, Huntley Rd, Avondale - Pavement Stabilisation Works, Stormwater Pipe Reline Works - Package B, Stormwater Pipe Reline Works - Package F, Cringila Hills Pump Track, Bike Skills Playground & Assoc, West Dapto Road Upgrade Stage 1 (Water Services Relocation), Lindsay Mayne Park Criterium Track and Associated Works, Harry Graham Drive - Rockfall Barrier / Brandy and Water Creek, WWARRP Detailed Design, Lean Mix Concrete construction, Caroola St, Stabilisation - Squires Way, Stabilisation - Walker Street, Stabilisation - Railway Crescent, Lake Heights Road Retaining Wall, Continental Pool Intake Pipeline Replacement, Fraternity Club Embankment Stabilisation.

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

G4 Changes from prior year statements

G4-1 Changes in accounting policy

Adoption of new accounting standards

During the year, NSW Council adopted all standards which were mandatorily effective for the first time at 30 June 2022. None of these standards had a significant impact on reported position or performance.

G4-2 Correction of errors

As part of an ongoing inspection program and data cleansing process, and in preparation for the comprehensive revaluation, it was found that IPPE that Council no longer owned, had not been disposed.

The errors identified above have been corrected by restating the balances at the beginning of the earliest period presented (1 July 2020) and taking the adjustment through to accumulated surplus and reserves at that date.

Comparatives have been changed to reflect the correction of errors. The impact on each line item is shown in the tables below.

\$ '000	Original Balance 1 July, 2020	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 1 July, 2020
Roads	610,258	(10,199)	600,059
Bridges	118,822	(3,899)	114,923
Footpaths	158,235	(5,357)	152,878
Stormwater Drainage	530,148	(4,843)	525,305

continued on next page ...

Page 72

G4-2 Correction of errors (continued)

\$ '000	Original Balance 1 July, 2020	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 1 July, 2020
Total assets	2,867,750	(24,298)	2,843,452
Total liabilities	154,583	—	154,583
Net assets	2,713,167	(24,298)	2,688,869
Reserves	1,214,858	(7,068)	1,207,790
Accumulated Surplus	1,498,309	(17,230)	1,481,079
Total equity	2,713,167	(24,298)	2,688,869

\$ '000	Original Balance 30 June, 2021	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 30 June, 2021
Roads	611,687	(10,199)	601,488
Bridges	118,546	(3,899)	114,647
Footpaths	171,247	(5,357)	165,890
Stormwater drainage	532,264	(4,843)	527,421
Total assets	2,906,958	(24,298)	2,882,660
Total liabilities	147,511	—	147,511
Net assets	2,759,447	(24,298)	2,735,149
Reserves	1,223,745	(7,068)	1,216,677
Accumulated Surplus	1,535,702	(17,230)	1,518,472
Total equity	2,759,447	(24,298)	2,735,149

G5 Statement of developer contributions as at 30 June 2022

G5-1 Summary of developer contributions

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2021	Contributions received during the year		Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2022	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash					
Drainage	9,781	785	497	—	—	—	11,063	—
Roads	(3,840)	6,720	170	—	(6,966)	—	(3,916)	—
Open space	4,599	393	—	—	(631)	—	4,361	—
Community facilities	1,361	9	—	—	—	—	1,370	—
Administration	(1,416)	53	64	—	(296)	—	(1,595)	—
Public transport	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S7.11 contributions – under a plan	10,485	7,960	731	—	(7,893)	—	11,283	—
S7.12 levies – under a plan	25,851	4,706	—	1	(4,788)	—	25,770	—
Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans	36,336	12,666	731	1	(12,681)	—	37,053	—
S7.11 not under plans	356	—	—	—	—	—	356	—
S7.4 planning agreements	2,027	629	—	—	—	—	2,656	—
Total contributions	38,719	13,295	731	1	(12,681)	—	40,065	—

Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Council has significant obligations to provide Section 7.11 (contributions towards provision or improvement of amenities or services) infrastructure in new release areas. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

Wollongong City Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2022

G5-2 Developer contributions by plan ¹

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2021	Contributions received during the year		Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2022	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash					
CONTRIBUTION PLAN – WEST DAPTO								
Drainage	9,781	785	497	–	–	–	11,063	–
Roads	(3,840)	6,720	170	–	(6,966)	–	(3,916)	–
Open space	4,599	393	–	–	(631)	–	4,361	–
Community facilities	1,361	9	–	–	–	–	1,370	–
Administration	(1,416)	53	64	–	(296)	–	(1,595)	–
Total	10,485	7,960	731	–	(7,893)	–	11,283	–

(1) The opening balances have been adjusted between categories to reflect the allocation of non-cash contributions

S7.12 Levies – under a plan

CONTRIBUTION PLAN – WOLLONGONG ^{A, B}

City Wide	23,035	3,530	–	1	(4,757)	–	21,809	–
City Centre	2,816	1,176	–	–	(31)	–	3,961	–
Total	25,851	4,706	–	1	(4,788)	–	25,770	–

(A) The Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan is a levy based plan that reflects development activity in the Local Government Area excluding areas covered by the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan.

(B) Figures provided include amounts collected under the Wollongong City-Wide Development Plan as well as contributions received from relevant development consents approved prior to 2006 that contained conditions for contributions to be made under now repealed Development Contribution plans. These are transferred and applied towards items within the Section 7.12 Plan works schedule as the Section 7.12 Plan is the replacement for the plans repealed in June 2006.

Wollongong City Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2022

G5-3 Contributions not under plans

	Opening balance at 1 July 2021	Contributions received during the year		Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2022	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
\$ '000		Cash	Non-cash					
CONTRIBUTION PLAN – CALDERWOOD ^{A, B, C}								
Roads	356	–	–	–	–	–	356	–
Total	356	–	–	–	–	–	356	–

(A) The Calderwood Urban Release Area was historically in the Shellharbour City Local Government Area. However, the Urban Release Area was later expanded during the State Government's major project approval process to include land that straddles the local government boundary, which comprises 107 hectares of land in the Wollongong Local Government Area at Marshall Mount.

(B) In 2013, the Land and Environment Court imposed a development contribution condition on Stage 1 of the Calderwood development within Shellharbour City Council Local Government Area, requiring the payment of a contribution of \$1,320 per lot to Wollongong City Council to be used towards upgrades of Marshall Mount Road and Yallah Road. The payments reflected in the above relate to these court proceedings.

(C) Wollongong City Council and Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited have entered into a Planning Agreement for the remainder of the contributions relating to the Calderwood development.

G5-4 S7.4 planning agreements

S7.4 planning agreements

Roads	2,027	629	–	–	–	–	2,656	–
Total	2,027	629	–	–	–	–	2,656	–

G6 Statement of performance measures

G6-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2022	Indicator 2022	Indicators 20212020		Benchmark
1. Operating performance ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses ^{1,2}	14,695	4.89%	0.95%	(1.62)%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹	300,294				
2. Own source operating revenue ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions ¹	258,453	74.76%	79.74%	76.10%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue ¹	345,696				
3. Unrestricted current ratio					
Current assets less all external restrictions ³	128,481				
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	51,753	2.48x	2.15x	2.36x	> 1.50x
4. Debt service cover ratio					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation ¹	80,461				
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	6,313	12.75x	8.49x	5.25x	> 2.00x
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage					
Rates and annual charges outstanding	14,395				
Rates and annual charges collectable	229,606	6.27%	5.28%	6.74%	< 5.00%
6. Cash expense cover ratio					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	105,068	4.96	5.78	5.63	> 3.00
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	21,188	months	months	months	months

(1) Excludes fair value adjustments, reversal of revaluation decrements, net gain/(loss) on sale of assets, and net loss of interests in joint ventures and associates.

(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements, net loss on sale of assets, and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates

(3) Refer to Notes C1-1 to C1-5 inclusive. Excludes any real estate and land for resale not expected to be sold in next 12 months.

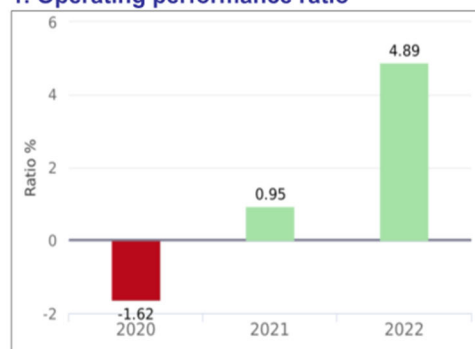
(4) Refer to Notes C3-1 to C3-5 inclusive. Excludes all payables and provisions not expected to be paid in the next 12 months (incl. ELE).

End of the audited financial statements

H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)

H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs)

1. Operating performance ratio



Purpose of operating performance ratio

This ratio measures the extent to which Council's operating revenues have exceeded the operating expenditure within the year. Council's ongoing financial sustainability requires positive operating performance over time.

Commentary on 2021/22 result

2021/22 ratio 4.89%

The positive result is consistent with Council's performance measure of operating revenues exceeding operating expenditures. The current year performance has been impacted positively by non-cash year end adjustments including a decrease in the waste provision (\$11.6M) and decrease in employee leave entitlement provision (\$7.2M).

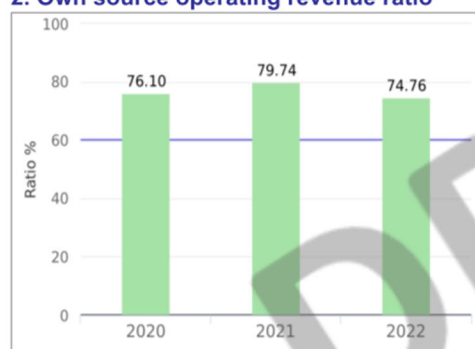
Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

2. Own source operating revenue ratio



Purpose of own source operating revenue ratio

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions.

Commentary on 2021/22 result

2021/22 ratio 74.76%

This result is consistent with previous reporting periods with a significant portion of revenue being generated from Council's own sources. It is noted that the total revenue includes non-cash contributed assets which fluctuate from year to year and impact the result.

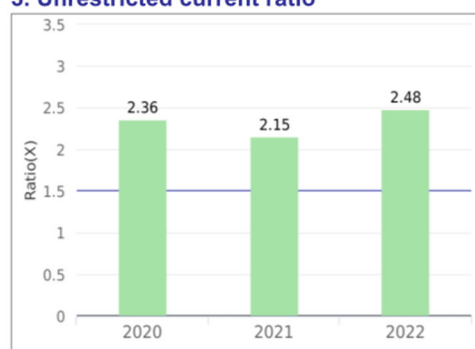
Benchmark: — > 60.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

3. Unrestricted current ratio



Purpose of unrestricted current ratio

To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.

Commentary on 2021/22 result

2021/22 ratio 2.48x

This result remains above the benchmark however Council's strategy to maximise the use of available funds and target a lean unrestricted current ratio aims to bring the result closer to the benchmark.

Benchmark: — > 1.50x

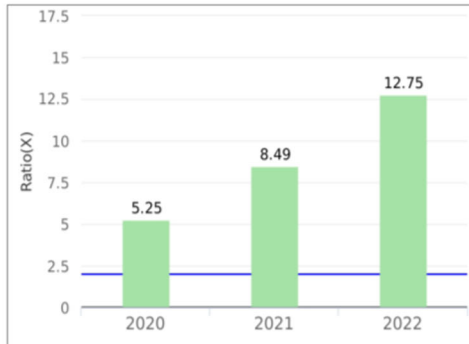
Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs) (continued)

4. Debt service cover ratio



Purpose of debt service cover ratio

This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments

Commentary on 2021/22 result

2021/22 ratio 12.75x

This result indicates that Council can adequately service its outstanding debt. The result has improved in the current year as Council paid \$5.5M in debt repayments and has not taken on additional debt facilities.

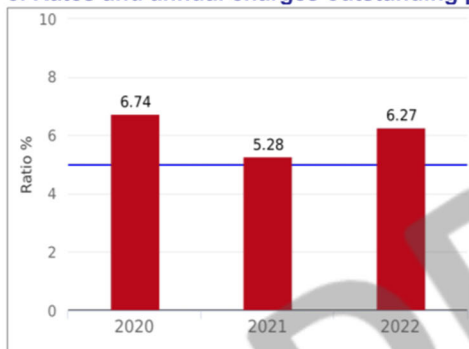
Benchmark: — > 2.00x

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



Purpose of rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

Commentary on 2021/22 result

2021/22 ratio 6.27%

The performance of this measure has decreased from the prior year by 0.99%. Council will continue to work and support its ratepayers who are still experiencing the impact of COVID-19 on both their personal and business finances to achieve below the industry benchmark of <5%.

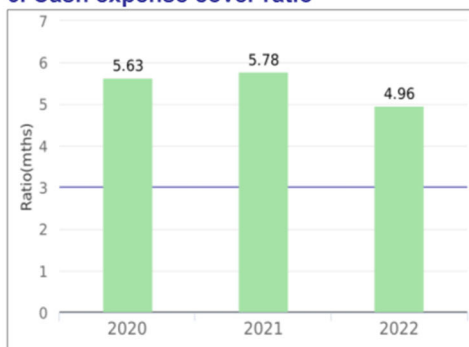
Benchmark: — < 5.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

6. Cash expense cover ratio



Purpose of cash expense cover ratio

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.

Commentary on 2021/22 result

2021/22 ratio 4.96 months

The result of this measure continues to reflect a high level of liquidity in Council's investment portfolio at the end of 2021/22.

Benchmark: — > 3.00months

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

H1-2 Council information and contact details

Principal place of business:

41 Burelli Street
Wollongong NSW 2500

Contact details

Mailing Address:

Locked Bag 8821
Wollongong NSW 2500

Telephone: (02) 4227 7111

Facsimile: (02) 4227 7277

Opening hours:

Administration Building: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Internet: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Email: council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Officers

GENERAL MANAGER

Greg Doyle

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Brian Jenkins

PUBLIC OFFICER

Todd Hopwood

AUDITORS

Audit Office of New South Wales
Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2, 201 Sussex Street,
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Elected members

LORD MAYOR

Gordon Bradbery

COUNCILLORS

Ward 1

Mithra Cox
Janice Kershaw
Richard Martin
Cameron Walters

Ward 2

Cath Blakey
David Brown
Tania Brown
John Dorahy

Ward 3

Elisha Aitken
Linda Campbell
Dom Figliomeni
Ann Martin

Other information

ABN: 63 139 525 939

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Independent Auditor's Reports:

On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2])

Independent Auditor's Report

Please uplift Council's Audit Report PDF (opinion) for inclusion in the GPFS report (via the Home screen).

DRAFT

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Independent Auditor's Reports: (continued)

On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3])

Independent Auditor's Report

Please uplift Council's Audit Report PDF (commentary) for inclusion in the GPFS report (via the Home screen).

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Wollongong City Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Contents	Page
Statement by Councillors and Management	3
Special Purpose Financial Statements:	
Income Statement of Waste Disposal	4
Income Statement of Tourist parks	5
Income Statement of Health & Fitness	6
Statement of Financial Position of Waste Disposal	7
Statement of Financial Position of Tourist parks	8
Statement of Financial Position of Health & Fitness	9
Note – Significant Accounting Policies	10
Auditor's Report on Special Purpose Financial Statements	13

Background

- i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.
- ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

- iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than \$2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

- iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the NSW Government Policy Statement '*Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*',
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines '*Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*',
- the Local Government *Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 28 November 2022.

Gordon Bradbery
Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

Tania Brown
Deputy Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

Greg Doyle
General Manager
28 November 2022

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
28 November 2022

Wollongong City Council | Income Statement of Waste Disposal | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Waste Disposal

for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	2022 Category 1	2021 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	25,563	26,789
Rental Income	235	224
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	46	—
Other income	620	420
Total income from continuing operations	26,464	27,433
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	2,310	2,503
Borrowing costs	(5)	1,488
Materials and services ¹	(7,516)	942
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	1,373	1,377
Calculated taxation equivalents	496	462
EPA levy	12,321	11,409
Total expenses from continuing operations	8,979	18,181
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	17,485	9,252
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	17,485	9,252
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	17,485	9,252
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(4,371)	(2,406)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	13,114	6,846
Plus accumulated surplus ²	13,308	8,781
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	496	462
– Corporate taxation equivalent	4,371	2,406
– Dividend paid	(5,424)	(5,187)
Closing accumulated surplus	25,865	13,308
Return on capital %	32.5%	19.8%

(1) Each financial year the provision for the remediation of Council's waste facility is calculated based on the forecast costs to rehabilitate the site. The movements in the provision are generally recognised against the value of the corresponding asset. During 2019-2020, a reduction in the forecast rehabilitation costs caused a reduction in the provision beyond the carrying value of the asset. The balance of this adjustment and all future adjustments to the provisions will be recognised through materials and services. A further reduction in the forecast rehabilitation costs and changes to discount factors have resulted in a reduction in the provision in 2021-2022.

(2) The financial statements of this business activity are prepared notionally for external reporting purposes. In previous years, either a receivable from, or a payable to Council has been disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. These balances have been growing over time and with no separate bank account, there has been no way for the business unit to either recover from or pay back the balance to Council. For the 2022 reporting period, either a subsidy received by the business activity from Council or a dividend paid by the business activity to Council has been disclosed to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. For comparative purposes a one off adjustment to the prior year's opening and closing accumulated surplus balances were made to reflect the offset of either the aggregated payable or receivable balance. It is considered that the removal of these balancing items will more accurately reflect the financial position of this business unit.

Wollongong City Council | Income Statement of Tourist parks | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Tourist parks for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	2022 Category 1	2021 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	6,782	7,742
Rental Income	136	102
Other income	16	38
Total income from continuing operations	6,934	7,882
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	3,054	3,179
Materials and services	2,124	2,332
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	1,141	1,249
Calculated taxation equivalents	502	477
Total expenses from continuing operations	6,821	7,237
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	113	645
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	113	645
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	113	645
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(28)	(168)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	85	477
Plus accumulated surplus ¹	9,928	10,044
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	502	477
– Corporate taxation equivalent	28	168
– Dividend paid	(1,870)	(1,238)
Closing accumulated surplus	8,673	9,928
Return on capital %	0.4%	2.4%
Subsidy from Council	933	–

(1) The financial statements of this business activity are prepared notionally for external reporting purposes. In previous years, either a receivable from, or a payable to Council has been disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. These balances have been growing over time and with no separate bank account, there has been no way for the business unit to either recover from or pay back the balance to Council. For the 2022 reporting period, either a subsidy received by the business activity from Council or a dividend paid by the business activity to Council has been disclosed to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. For comparative purposes a one off adjustment to the prior year's opening and closing accumulated surplus balances were made to reflect the offset of either the aggregated payable or receivable balance. It is considered that the removal of these balancing items will more accurately reflect the financial position of this business unit.

Wollongong City Council | Income Statement of Health & Fitness | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Health & Fitness

for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	2022 Category 1	2021 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	1,299	1,950
Rental Income	1	3
Other income	58	71
Total income from continuing operations	1,358	2,024
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	2,338	2,469
Materials and services	1,081	1,261
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	90	44
Calculated taxation equivalents	161	156
Total expenses from continuing operations	3,670	3,930
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	(2,312)	(1,906)
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	(2,312)	(1,906)
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	(2,312)	(1,906)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	(2,312)	(1,906)
Plus accumulated surplus ¹	1,315	1,387
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	161	156
– Subsidy paid/contribution to operations	2,169	1,678
Closing accumulated surplus	1,333	1,315
Return on capital %	(37.6)%	(33.9)%
Subsidy from Council	2,537	1,990

(1) The financial statements of this business activity are prepared notionally for external reporting purposes. In previous years, either a receivable from, or a payable to Council has been disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. These balances have been growing over time and with no separate bank account, there has been no way for the business unit to either recover from or pay back the balance to Council. For the 2022 reporting period, either a subsidy received by the business activity from Council or a dividend paid by the business activity to Council has been disclosed to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. For comparative purposes a one off adjustment to the prior year's opening and closing accumulated surplus balances were made to reflect the offset of either the aggregated payable or receivable balance. It is considered that the removal of these balancing items will more accurately reflect the financial position of this business unit.

Wollongong City Council | Statement of Financial Position of Waste Disposal | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Waste Disposal

as at 30 June 2022

\$ '000	2022 Category 1	2021 Category 1
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Investments	5,831	3,415
Total current assets	5,831	3,415
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	53,843	54,281
Total non-current assets	53,843	54,281
Total assets	59,674	57,696
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	19,134	30,762
Total non-current liabilities	19,134	30,762
Total liabilities	19,134	30,762
Net assets	40,540	26,934
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus ¹	25,865	13,308
Revaluation reserves	14,675	13,626
Total equity	40,540	26,934

(1) The financial statements of this business activity are prepared notionally for external reporting purposes. In previous years, either a receivable from, or a payable to Council has been disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. These balances have been growing over time and with no separate bank account, there has been no way for the business unit to either recover from or pay back the balance to Council. For the 2022 reporting period, either a subsidy received by the business activity from Council or a dividend paid by the business activity to Council has been disclosed to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. For comparative purposes a one off adjustment to the prior year's opening and closing accumulated surplus balances were made to reflect the offset of either the aggregated payable or receivable balance. It is considered that the removal of these balancing items will more accurately reflect the financial position of this business unit.

Wollongong City Council | Statement of Financial Position of Tourist parks | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Tourist parks

as at 30 June 2022

\$ '000	2022 Category 1	2021 Category 1
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	28,586	27,282
Total non-current assets	28,586	27,282
Total assets	28,586	27,282
Net assets	28,586	27,282
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus ¹	8,672	9,928
Revaluation reserves	19,914	17,354
Total equity	28,586	27,282

(1) The financial statements of this business activity are prepared notionally for external reporting purposes. In previous years, either a receivable from, or a payable to Council has been disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. These balances have been growing over time and with no separate bank account, there has been no way for the business unit to either recover from or pay back the balance to Council. For the 2022 reporting period, either a subsidy received by the business activity from Council or a dividend paid by the business activity to Council has been disclosed to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. For comparative purposes a one off adjustment to the prior year's opening and closing accumulated surplus balances were made to reflect the offset of either the aggregated payable or receivable balance. It is considered that the removal of these balancing items will more accurately reflect the financial position of this business unit.

Wollongong City Council | Statement of Financial Position of Health & Fitness | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Health & Fitness

as at 30 June 2022

\$ '000	2022 Category 1	2021 Category 1
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6,157	5,619
Total non-current assets	6,157	5,619
Total assets	6,157	5,619
Net assets	6,157	5,619
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus ¹	1,332	1,315
Revaluation reserves	4,825	4,304
Total equity	6,157	5,619

(1) The financial statements of this business activity are prepared notionally for external reporting purposes. In previous years, either a receivable from, or a payable to Council has been disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. These balances have been growing over time and with no separate bank account, there has been no way for the business unit to either recover from or pay back the balance to Council. For the 2022 reporting period, either a subsidy received by the business activity from Council or a dividend paid by the business activity to Council has been disclosed to reflect the net financial position of the business activity. For comparative purposes a one off adjustment to the prior year's opening and closing accumulated surplus balances were made to reflect the offset of either the aggregated payable or receivable balance. It is considered that the removal of these balancing items will more accurately reflect the financial position of this business unit.

Note – Significant Accounting Policies

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1

(where gross operating turnover is over \$2 million)

- a. **Waste Disposal:** Manages the disposal of solid waste generated within the city.
- b. **Tourist Parks:** Operation, management & development of tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal & Windang.
- c. **Health & Fitness*:** Responsible for the management and upkeep of Council's Leisure Centres.

* As Council declared in its *2021-2022 Revenue Policy Fees and Charges*, that the Health & Fitness business activity was Category 1, it must be reported as such in the Special Purpose Financial Statements for 2021-2022 even though gross operating turnover has fallen below \$2 million. This was due to the unplanned temporary closure of Health & Fitness facilities and some services, in response to NSW Government restrictions due to the spread of COVID-19.

Category 2

(where gross operating turnover is less than \$2 million)

Nil

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs.

However, where Council does not pay some taxes which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements.

Note – Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – **25%** (2020/21 26%)

Land tax – the first \$822,000 of combined land values attracts **0%**. For the combined land values in excess of \$822,000 up to \$5,026,000 the rate is **1.6% + \$100**. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds \$5,026,000 a premium marginal rate of **2.0% + \$67,364** applies.

Payroll tax – 5.45% on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of \$1,200,000.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities. Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested. Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25% (2020/21 26%).

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved. Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations.

The activities reported in these financial statements are prepared notionally for external purposes only. Separate bank accounts are not held. The overall effect of subsidies received from Council is disclosed within individual income statements to reflect the net financial position of each business activity.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

Operating result before capital income + interest expense

Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June

Note – Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 3.66% at 30/06/22.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities. The activities reported in these financial statements are prepared notionally for external purposes only. Separate bank accounts are not held. The overall effect of dividends paid to Council is disclosed within individual income statements to reflect the net financial position of each business activity.

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Buildings and other assets used in the operation of these business activities are owned and controlled by Council. A charge for their utilisation is included in the Income Statement and these assets have been excluded from the Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment in the Statement of Financial Position. The Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment figure consists operational equipment and land as these have not been captured through the Income Statement

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Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

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Wollongong City Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES
for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Contents

Page

Special Schedules:

Permissible income for general rates	3
Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2022	5

DRAFT

Wollongong City Council | Permissible income for general rates | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Permissible income for general rates

\$ '000	Notes	Calculation 2021/22	Calculation 2022/23
Notional general income calculation ¹			
Last year notional general income yield	a	175,452	180,317
Plus or minus adjustments ²	b	1,153	316
Notional general income	c = a + b	176,605	180,633
Permissible income calculation			
Or rate peg percentage	e	2.00%	1.80%
Or plus rate peg amount	i = e x (c + g)	3,532	3,251
Sub-total	k = (c + g + h + i + j)	180,137	183,884
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	l	167	4
Less valuation objections claimed in the previous year	m	(37)	(54)
Sub-total	n = (l + m)	130	(50)
Total permissible income	o = k + n	180,267	183,834
Less notional general income yield	p	180,317	183,872
Catch-up or (excess) result	q = o - p	(50)	(38)
Plus income lost due to valuation objections claimed ⁴	r	54	44
Carry forward to next year ⁶	t = q + r + s	4	6

Notes

- (1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.
- (2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.
- (4) Valuation objections are unexpected changes in land values as a result of land owners successfully objecting to the land value issued by the Valuer General. Councils can claim the value of the income lost due to valuation objections in any single year.
- (6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.

Permissible income for general rates

Permissible income for general rates: PLUS PDF inserted here

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Wollongong City Council | Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2022 | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2022

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2021/22 Required maintenance ^(a)	2021/22 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings	3,857	9,210	12,846	9,719	332,607	624,165	9.2%	21.5%	62.4%	3.9%	3.0%
	Sub-total	3,857	9,210	12,846	9,719	332,607	624,165	9.2%	21.5%	62.4%	3.9%	3.0%
Other structures	Other structures	758	1,642	552	304	9,210	17,408	5.7%	23.3%	51.9%	4.0%	15.1%
	Sub-total	758	1,642	552	304	9,210	17,408	5.7%	23.3%	51.9%	4.0%	15.1%
Roads	Roads	49,541	147,456	16,826	9,813	837,350	1,869,502	35.1%	16.7%	40.2%	7.9%	0.1%
	Sealed roads	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Bridges	705	2,042	556	729	94,683	138,910	12.6%	36.6%	46.3%	4.2%	0.3%
	Footpaths	3,767	11,119	2,447	3,613	178,914	344,698	17.3%	18.6%	58.9%	5.1%	0.1%
	Other road assets (incl. bulk earth works)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	54,013	160,617	19,829	14,155	1,110,947	2,353,110	31.2%	18.2%	43.3%	7.3%	0.1%
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage	204	609	7,272	3,582	841,764	1,547,139	9.5%	26.8%	63.5%	0.2%	0.0%
	Sub-total	204	609	7,272	3,582	841,764	1,547,139	9.5%	26.8%	63.5%	0.2%	0.0%
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools & Open Space/Recreation	7,547	21,123	16,746	16,648	154,497	264,489	26.1%	7.1%	48.4%	16.0%	2.4%
	Sub-total	7,547	21,123	16,746	16,648	154,497	264,489	26.1%	7.1%	48.4%	16.0%	2.4%
Total – all assets		66,379	193,201	57,245	44,408	2,449,025	4,806,311	21.0%	20.8%	52.6%	5.0%	0.6%

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

- (1) Estimated Cost to Bring To Satisfactory Standard per Office of Local Government Requirements, reflects the estimated cost to restore all Council assets to condition '3'.
- (2) Maintenance costs, per Office of Local Government Requirements, include both Maintenance and (appropriate) operational costs captured as Asset Operations in Council's financial system. Required maintenance reflects amounts calculated using benchmark data from other Group 5 Councils as % GRC.
- (3) Cost to bring to agreed service level is defined as "The proportion of the GRC that have reached the intervention level based on condition." The outstanding renewal works compared to the total replacement cost of Councils assets. That is calculated as the cost of bringing condition 4 and 5 assets to condition 1.

continued on next page ...

Page 5

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2022 (continued)

Asset Condition Definitions

Rating	Status
1	Excellent
2	Very Good
3	Good (Satisfactory)
4	Average
5	Poor

DRAFT

Wollongong City Council | Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2022 | for the year ended 30 June 2022

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2022

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

\$ '000	Amounts 2022	Indicator 2022	Indicators 2021 2020		Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals ¹	36,579	66.42%	97.11%	102.11%	>= 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	55,070				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	66,379	2.62%	3.40%	3.32%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	2,535,615				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	44,408	77.58%	93.43%	101.22%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	57,245				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	193,201	4.02%	2.92%	3.03%	
Gross replacement cost	4,806,311				

(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board,
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 28 November 2022.

Gordon Bradbery
Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

Tania Brown
Deputy Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

Greg Doyle
General Manager
28 November 2022

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
28 November 2022

Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the NSW Government Policy Statement '*Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*',
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines '*Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*',
- the Local Government *Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*,

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 28 November 2022.

Gordon Bradbery
Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

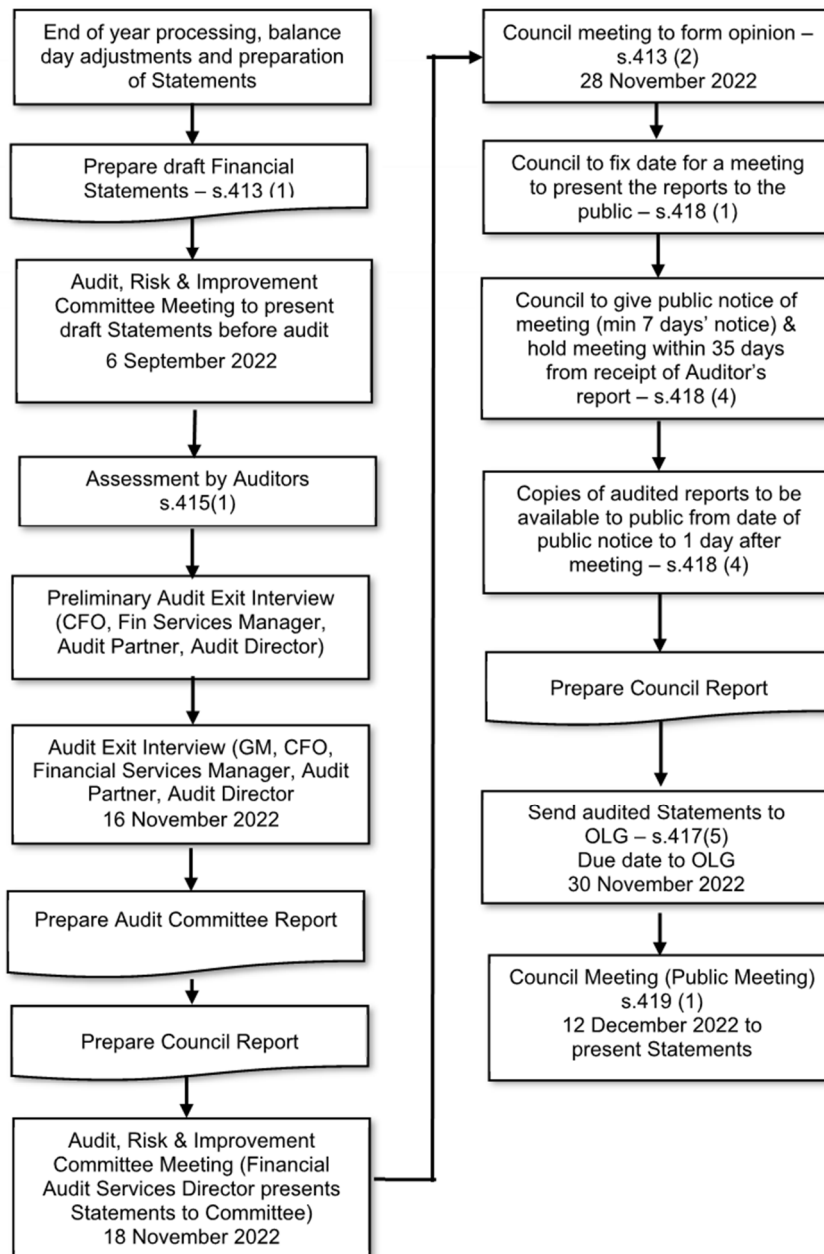
Tania Brown
Deputy Lord Mayor
28 November 2022

Greg Doyle
General Manager
28 November 2022

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
28 November 2022

Wollongong City Council

Flowchart of the Annual Financial Statements Approval Process



ITEM 2

PUBLIC EXHIBITION - WEST DAPTO DRAFT SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

There is an ongoing need to plan for the social infrastructure needs of the growing community at West Dapto. For the purposes of this report social infrastructure is defined in two core categories -

- Open space and recreation.
- Community and cultural facilities.

The two categories combined create the places and spaces for people to meet, be active, connect, create and learn.

Council staff have coordinated a review of the Social Infrastructure needs of West Dapto with the assistance of a consultant team lead by Ethos Urban (partnered with Otium). This report seeks support to undertake a public exhibition of the draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment to receive community feedback.

The final West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment will inform much of Council's ongoing work including our review of Development Contributions.

While staff are generally supportive of the consultant recommendations in the draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment we also consider that delivering and achieving many of the recommendations will require co-ordinated efforts of Council, the Government and private sector. Further analysis, master planning and neighbourhood planning will also be needed to confirm the spatial deliverability of all recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council support public exhibition of the draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment for a minimum of 28 days.
- 2 Council exhibition material to clearly outline that delivering the Social Infrastructure Needs of West Dapto is reliant on a co-ordinated, equitable contribution from Council, other levels of Government and private sector.
- 3 Following exhibition staff report back to Council -
 - a A final West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment with an engagement report explaining issues raised in submissions and how they were considered; and
 - b Detail further steps required to ensure delivery of the Social Infrastructure recommended in the final needs assessment.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment

BACKGROUND

The West Dapto Urban Release Area (West Dapto) is Wollongong City Council's and the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region's largest urban growth area. It is estimated to provide 19,500 dwellings and an additional 56,500 people once fully developed over 50 plus years. As well as being a key source of new housing for the Illawarra, it established designated employment lands to support growth. The West Dapto Vision 2018 provides Council's Vision for the area, expected staging of development, principles to guide land use planning and a structure plan.

West Dapto is establishing new residential communities and is continually growing. The communities are supported by an access strategy and will be supported by a range of planned town and village centres, active and passive open spaces, community facilities, a network of riparian corridors, and stormwater infrastructure.

Council planning for West Dapto is reflected in our current endorsed policy documents collectively detailing Council's position. These are publicly available online and listed below –

- Wollongong Local Environment Plan 2009.
- West Dapto Vision 2018.
- West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020.
- Chapter D16 West Dapto Release Area of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009.
- West Dapto Open Space Design Manual and West Dapto Open Space Technical Manual.
- Places for People, Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018 – 2028.

In particular, open space, recreation and community facilities has been integral to the planning and structure of West Dapto urban release area. The *Social Cultural and Recreational Needs Study for the West Dapto New Release Area (Elton 2007)* is the original informing document commissioned for Council through the then NSW Growth Centres Commission. This study has been relied on as a basis and rational for open space and community facilities needs for West Dapto.

The provision of Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities have been refined more recently through preparation of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 and West Dapto Vision 2018.

West Dapto is an active urban release area. As such there are open space items which have already been delivered and are in use by the community. Table 9 of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 details completed infrastructure. In addition, there are open space, recreation and community facilities items at various stages across the planning and design spectrum. These are mostly located in Stages 1 & 2 of West Dapto (see staging plan at Figure 1).

West Dapto Staging, land use zoning and development status

Stages 1 and 2 have been rezoned for urban development since 2010. This is the most active development front of the release area with multiple neighbourhood plans adopted by Council. In addition, there are many new residents and active development fronts.

The majority of Stage 3 is currently subject to two planning proposals to rezone land from rural to urban, including provision of open space. The planning proposals are PP-2020/6 referred to as Cleveland and PP-2018/9 referred to as Cleveland West. PP-2020/6 was recently placed on public exhibition between 14 September 2022 and 28 October 2022. Cleveland West is yet to progress to a public exhibition stage.

Stage 4 is currently rural zoned and has no active planning proposals. This is expected to be the last development stage.

Stage 5 has been rezoned for residential development since 2018 and includes provision of RE1 zoned land for Open Space. There are a number of detailed Neighbourhood Plans at various stages of the assessment process in Stage 5.

Since the Stage 1 and 2 rezoning in 2010 subdivision certificates have been issued for 2,042 residential lots at West Dapto with a further 483 lots under construction. We have a growing community within the release area.

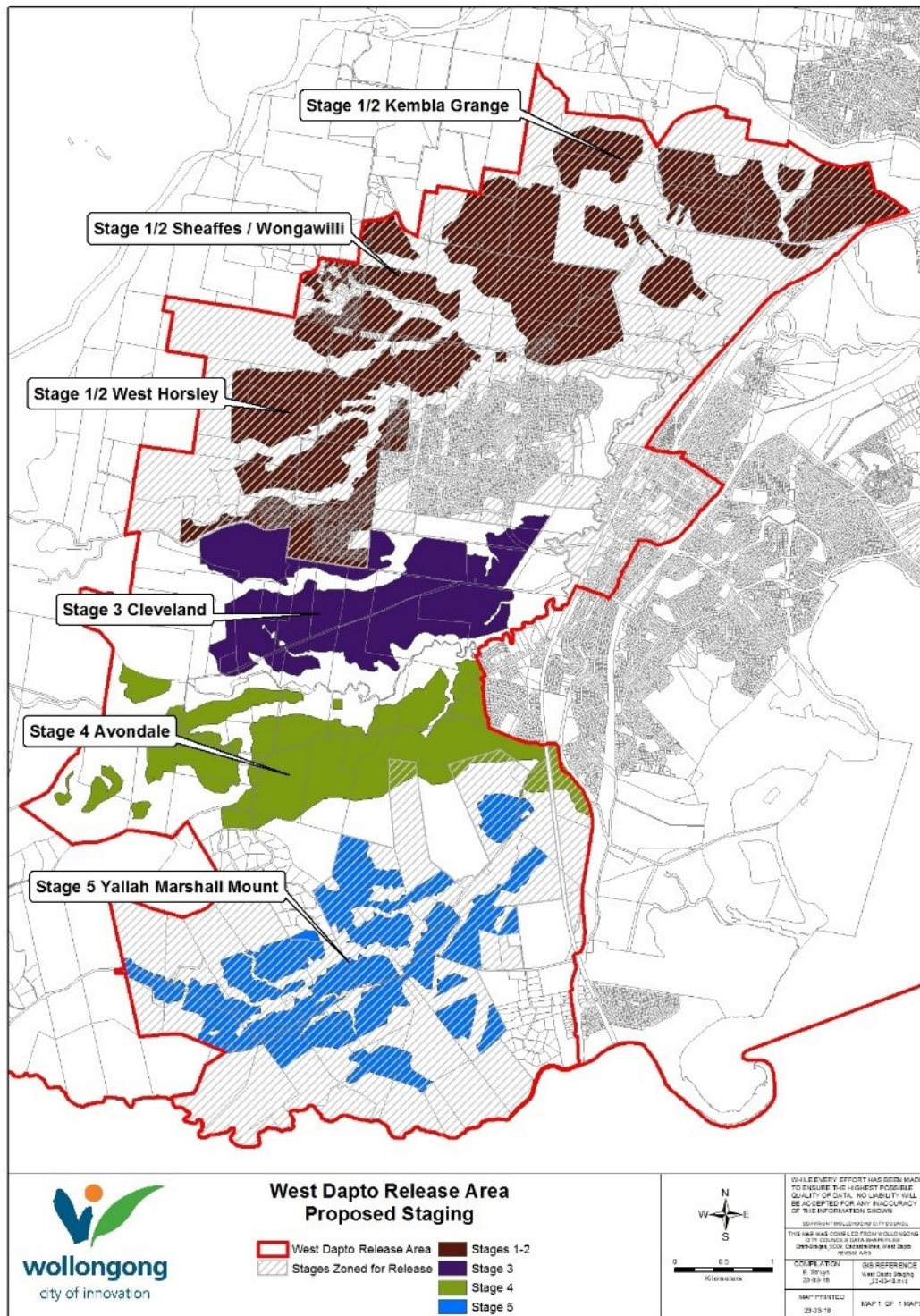


Figure 1: West Dapto Staging Plan

West Dapto Development Contributions

The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 (Contributions Plan 2020) available at www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/development/development-policies-guidelines/development-contribution is an Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) reviewed contributions plan in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2019) Practice Note 1 and relevant Ministerial Directions issued under Section 7.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The contributions plan is referred to as a Section 7.11 plan and establishes the local infrastructure needed to support West Dapto and ensures it is strategically planned and delivered, as well as providing an equitable funding source. Open space and community facilities are included in the Contributions Plan 2020 (Section 4.1 and 4.2). The Contributions Plan has been updated on a number of occasions and was reviewed by IPART in 2016 and in 2020. IPART provided commentary and recommendations regarding the provision of open space in both the 2016 Final Assessment Report and 2020 Final Assessment Report. Both assessment reports are available on IPART's website at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au

The Contributions Plan 2020 was informed by the 2007 Elton study the *Social Cultural and Recreational Needs Study for the West Dapto New Release Area*. IPART in their final 2020 report make 2 recommendations considered to be directly relevant to Social Infrastructure needs planning. These are recommendation 13 and 14 (and associated discussion in the body of the 2020 Final Assessment Report). The recommendations also need to be addressed in the next review of the Contributions Plan 2020 and are as follows -

Open space

- 13 *For the next review of the plan, ensure that the scope and location of open space land and embellishment reflect the progress of development in the release area and ensure that the plan includes -*
 - *Sufficient accessible recreation opportunities for all residents.*
 - *Sufficient formal recreation facilities (sports grounds) for the release area.*
- 14 *For the next review of the plan, update the cost estimates of all parks to be delivered using more recent actual costs or cost estimates for similar parks.*

Consistent with IPART recommendations from their 2020 review, Council is expected to adopt a revised Contribution Plan within 3 years of the 2020 Plan. Therefore, staff are targeting a December 2023 adoption of a revised West Dapto Development Contributions Plan. As a result, Council staff have commenced internal review of the Contributions Plan 2020. All studies, outputs and updates required to inform the Contributions Plan review are required to be completed early 2023. This will enable commencement of formal IPART review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan mid-2023.

When considering the funding of social infrastructure in a West Dapto context, it is important to note that development contributions do not always meet the full cost of social infrastructure. For example, development cannot be charged for the building works required for a new community facility building as part of a Section 7.11 contributions plan. In addition, as mentioned earlier, more than 2,000 residential subdivision certificates have already been issued. Therefore any increase in developer contributions required to adequately meet the cost of social infrastructure will not be recoverable from those 2,000 plus residential lots.

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment

To ensure a considered response to the IPART 2020 Final Assessment Report, Council staff began a process to review, plan for and cost open space, recreation and community and cultural facilities for West Dapto. The West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment project commenced in early 2022.

In February 2022 Council engaged the services of Ethos Urban Pty Ltd to undertake an Open Space, Recreation and Community and Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment (referred to as the West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment). Ethos Urban partnered with Otium Planning Group following a competitive procurement process.

Green Network Masterplan

Council has a number of separate projects underway for West Dapto which relate to this project. Most relevant is the West Dapto Green Network Masterplan (GNMP) to plan for a green network connecting the escarpment to the lake, utilising the existing and future ecological corridors and open spaces in the West Dapto. The GNMP will sit within Council's strategic planning framework for West Dapto and inform subdivision planning, development applications and urban design processes

Along with the 2023 review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan, these projects will require careful consideration and integration of open space and recreation lands defined or determined through the Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment project and will provide the further analysis required to test the spatial allocation of the recommended social infrastructure needs.

Darkes District Sports & Community Hub

During the 2022 Federal election Stephen Jones MP, now Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services, made an election commitment to invest \$9 million to help deliver the Darkes District Sports & Community Hub. Council staff understand that the Government remains committed to this funding pledge and will continue to work with federal colleagues on the funding partnership. The Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment the subject of this report is firstly looking at the overall needs of the community. Delivery of social infrastructure needs will form part of the ongoing implementation.

PROPOSAL

The draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment is provided at **Attachment 1**.

The study defines social infrastructure in two core categories -

- Open space and recreation.
- Community and cultural facilities.

The above social infrastructure categories combined create the places and spaces for people to meet, be active, connect, create and learn.

The Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment relates primarily to 'hard' social infrastructure, the built facilities and open spaces both within and outside Council's scope of control. The primary focus of this project are those social infrastructure within Council's scope of control.

Methodology

The assessment of need has been undertaken using recognised, specific quantitative benchmarking combined with expert qualitative analysis.

Community and cultural facilities approach: Consistent with Council's Places for People: Social Infrastructure Planning Framework.

Open space and recreation: Proposed new open space framework informed by best practice, NSW draft Greener Places Design Guide and NSW Office of Sport Data. The new open space framework proposed includes -

- 1 Simplified hierarchy.
- 2 Performance based criteria (functional and accessible open space).
- 3 Ensure sufficient capacity.
- 4 Activations and diversity of recreation.
- 5 Flexible and adaptable.
- 6 Ensure deliverability.

A key principle of the Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment for West Dapto is that 85-90% of residents are within a 5-7 minute walking distance of some form of quality open space – this could be a local park, district sportsground etc. As such, staff are of the opinion that there may be an opportunity to consider a reduction in the number of local parks based upon population benchmarks. Staff consider this driving principle will need to be tested further through additional analysis, master planning and neighbourhood planning to confirm the spatial deliverability of all recommendations in the draft needs assessment.

A simplified hierarchy approach to defining open space formed part of the project methodology. The draft needs assessment proposes to apply a hierarchy based on access and distribution, benchmarked and generally derived from Draft Greener Places Design Guide and NSW Office of Sport data align with NSW Draft Greener Places Design Guide. The proposed hierarchy removes neighbourhood parks and focuses more on the local and district park classifications.

Types of Social Infrastructure Considered

Community and Cultural Facilities

The main types of community and cultural facilities considered in the draft needs assessment include:

- 1 General Facilities e.g. multipurpose community centres, library spaces.
- 2 Specialised Facilities e.g. Youth spaces, Seniors Space. The consultant team first considered and recommended these facilities as specific standalone facilities. Council staff consider a multipurpose approach catering partly for specific needs such as youth and seniors spaces may be a more feasible model.
- 3 Creative and Cultural facilities e.g. practice studios / workshops, childcare places, government primary and high schools.
- 4 Health and Wellbeing e.g. medical centres, GP's, health hub.

It is important to note that not all community and cultural facilities considered in the project fall within the scope of Council responsibility. However, the focus, particularly findings and recommendation, are on those facilities that are Council's responsibility. Additional analysis and recommendations are provided as an opinion in relation to facilities where another authority would be responsible for meeting that identified need.

Open Space and Recreation

The main types of open space and recreation facilities considered in the draft needs assessment include:

- 1 Local Parks.
- 2 Linear Parks / Open Space Corridors.
- 3 District – Recreation.
- 4 District – Sport.
- 5 Urban Release Area Wide / Destination Parks.

The existing West Dapto Development Contributions Plan, 2020 and West Dapto Vision, 2018 categorise focus on a Local, Neighbourhood, District and City-Wide category of open space. Therefore a new framework is proposed as part of this assessment project.

Summary Draft findings and recommendations

Community and Cultural Facilities

Council's existing West Dapto Development Contributions Plan, 2020 identifies the need for five multipurpose communities centres. This includes four neighbourhood scale and one sub district scale. Neighbourhood multipurpose community centres are based on a 1,500m² gross floor space, requiring 3,500m² of land. Sub district multipurpose community centres are based on 3,600m² of gross floor area or 10,000m² (one hectare) of land.

The key findings and recommendations of the draft needs assessment support continued planning for those existing five community centres and includes a recommendation to increase the amount of multipurpose community facilities at West Dapto to six with one additional neighbourhood multipurpose community centre recommended for stage 4 of the West. The Assessment recommends including this upgrade in the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan.

A summary of all other community and cultural facilities recommendations in the draft needs assessment include -

- 1 Upgrade the existing planned neighbourhood multi-purpose community centre in stage 5 of West Dapto to a sub-district centre, including library. Include this upgrade in the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan.
- 2 Council liaise directly with School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) and the NSW Department of Education as the authorities responsible for government school provision. It is understood that SINSW and Department of Education will investigate the need for new school infrastructure within the West Dapto Urban Release Area. SINSW will undertake ongoing consultation with Council and the Department of Planning and Environment as detailed planning progresses for the release area and will monitor the situation.
- 3 Deliver a dedicated youth centre co-located with a district park or community centre. The consultant team has recommended stage 4 Avondale be considered.
- 4 Identify opportunities through planning mechanisms and agreements and at the neighbourhood planning phase for private developers to deliver -
 - a Local community spaces, including bookable space and community sheds and gardens.
 - b Coworking and business incubator spaces
 - c Dedicated district-level community arts centre through planning agreement with larger developer, potentially leveraging heritage homestead locations.
 - d Local traineeship and employment opportunities for young people.
- 5 Masterplan each town centre identified in the West Dapto Vision, 2018 with a focus on engagement and early activation. Social infrastructure will play a key role in this master planning process, identifying significant co-located sites and taking a collaborative approach with stakeholders and the community. This stage would involve detailed site analysis.

As part of this process, the consultant team also recommend that a strategy is developed to collaborate with faith-based organisations in relation to their property development plans to identify the potential for these organisations to deliver social infrastructure in strategic locations.
- 6 Ensure that design briefs at the earliest stage for new community centres consider some or all of -
 - a Youth friendly spaces.
 - b Seniors friendly spaces.
 - c Local cultural practice spaces (e.g. music rehearsal rooms, artists' studios).
 - d Aboriginal community space (where arising in consultation).
 - e Extensive community consultation and potential co-design.

- 7 Facilitate delivery of higher-order social infrastructure through liaison with relevant authorities or private providers, including for the provision of -
 - a Consideration of an Aboriginal Culture and Community Centre if identified through extensive engagement.
 - b District performing arts facility should be explored subject to a Shared Use Agreement with the relevant government authority.
 - c Creative infrastructure opportunities in liaison with Heritage NSW and Create NSW.
 - d Community Arts Centre in collaboration with Create NSW.

The consultant team also recommended development of a comprehensive delivery and funding plan for identified community centres in the Contributions Plan.

Open Space and Recreation

Council's West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 currently identifies 25 open space and recreation facilities made up of 16 local parks, seven neighbourhood parks, one city wide park and 12 netball and eight tennis courts as part of the Cleveland Community leisure and recreation centre.

The draft needs assessment identifies that there is currently a planned shortfall in functional open space and recreation facilities if the needs of the future population are to be met when tested against the new open space framework. The draft needs assessment recommends the shortfall is made up via a combination of -

- Local parks.
- District – Recreation.
- District – Sport.
- Urban Release Area Wide / Destination Park.

A summary of key open space and recreation recommendations in the draft needs assessment include -

- 1 Adopt and implement the needs assessment public open space framework for WDURA. This includes placing a focus on the performance criteria for public open space which aims to deliver high quality, well distributed public open space.
- 2 Planning and provision of public open space in WDURA to comply with performance criteria to ensure fit for purpose and 'functional' open space, that delivers an efficient, affordable and sustainable network of Public open space for sport and recreation.
- 3 Ensure 85-90% of residents in WDURA are within a 5-7 minute walk of high quality and functional open space.

The consultant team provided a high level masterplan as part of their report. Council staff consider new planned open space provision would require detailed analysis via other projects including work on a Green Network Masterplan and work on the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan review 2023. The consultant team have made a recommendation of a 400m catchment for walkability to local parks. However, this can be extended to 600m where physical barriers like road network, Motorways, etc limit the walkability, provided the net quantum of required Public Open Space remains the same. Staff consider a 600m radius is more practical as one of the tools to identify open space provision given the scale of the WDURA.

- 4 Convert all existing planned neighbourhood parks to the new open space framework defined District Sports Park and convert one of the existing planned local parks to the new open space framework defined District Sports Park which results in a net increase of 25 hectares (ha) in recommended sports park infrastructure for the release area. This results a recommended increase in the sizes of specific parks identified in the existing West Dapto Development Contributions Plan, 2020 as -

- OS10: Existing planned Neighbourhood Park change to District Sport increasing from 4ha to 5ha.
 - OS11: Existing planned Neighbourhood Park change to District Sport increasing from 3ha to 10ha.
 - OS16: Existing planned Neighbourhood Park change to District Sport increasing from 4ha to 10ha.
 - OS18: Existing planned Local Park change to District Sport increasing from 2ha to 5ha
 - OS19: Existing planned Neighbourhood Park change to District Sport increasing from 4ha to 5ha
 - OS20: Existing planned Neighbourhood Park change to District Sport increasing from 4ha to 10ha
 - OS23: Existing planned Neighbourhood Park change to District Sport increasing from 4ha to 5ha
- 5 Develop a Green Network Masterplan for WDURA in consideration of the proposed open space performance criteria. As part of this process, review the required number of local parks based on the distribution and access to high quality functional public open space. The Green Network Masterplan to identify location for a destination public open site (preferably with 15+ ha area) that will service all residents of WDURA (referred to as a destination park).
- The study recommends that a destination park include formal sports servicing a high level of play (including fields and courts), spectator seating, clubhouse, toilets, equitable change rooms, storage, canteen, large destination play, youth spaces, co-location with community and cultural facilities, public art features and many other opportunities such as pump track, BMX, skate park etc. The park is recommended by the consultant team to be centrally located and potentially within the Stage 3 area. Council staff have commenced the Green Network Masterplan project. The specific recommendation regarding a destination park and its potential location will be considered further during that project.
- 6 Prioritise provision of required additional Public Open Space in WDURA aligned with the new proposed Public Open Space framework, existing West Dapto Public Open Space Design Guide and the proposed performance criteria.
- 7 Commence quality and functionality assessment of existing Public Open Space along with the indicative locations of the proposed open space.

Other recommendations made include -

- 8 Subject to IPART assessment, update the West Dapto Development Contributions Plans according to the assessment undertaken as part of this study. Council staff have commenced this process.
- 9 Implement the recommendations of the West Dapto Community Leisure and Recreation Centre Needs Assessment (2019). Council staff have commenced this process.
- 10 Work with the Office of Sport in the development of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Sport Infrastructure Plan. NOTE: This Plan is currently in early stages. Council staff will continue to liaise with the Office of Sport.
- 11 Review of planned provision of Public Open Space every five years to respond to the most up to date demographic projections and trends. Council staff will continue periodic review of all social infrastructure requirements.
- 12 Developing forward funding strategy to acquire land and deliver Public Open Space infrastructure to maintain and sustain delivery responsive to the population growth.
- 13 Monitoring residential density development to ensure dwelling targets are not exceeding threshold numbers. Council staff continually monitor development at West Dapto.

- 14 Initiating partnership and collaboration opportunities with State agencies for land acquisition and joint delivery of major recreation facilities. Council staff continually seek opportunity for partnered delivery opportunities associated with all infrastructure requirements of the WDURA.

Recommendations regarding existing open space servicing Horsley and Dapto is also provided by the consultant team. Those recommendations would be considered by a separate planning process of Council.

While staff are generally supportive of the draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment we also consider that delivering and achieving many of the recommendations will require co-ordinated efforts of Council, Government and the private sector. In addition further analysis, master planning and neighbourhood planning will also be needed to confirm the spatial deliverability of all recommendations.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

There has been a considerable amount of internal and external stakeholder engagement which informed preparation of the draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment.

An internal project control group was informed involving City Strategy, Library and Community Services, Recreation Services, Infrastructure Strategy and Planning, Open Space and Environmental Services, Community Cultural and Economic Services with other inputs as needed from Land Use Planning, Project Delivery and Finance.

The consultant team undertook interviews with key stakeholders which included: Create NSW, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Careways, Greater Cities Commission, Office of Sports, Department of Planning and Environment, Parks and Leisure NSW, Sport NSW, Outdoor NSW. Preliminary consultation also occurred with School Infrastructure NSW and feedback provided. Introductory engagement with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council has been requested by Council and is proposed to occur as part of the formal exhibition process. All external stakeholders including the broader community would be given opportunity to comment further during public engagement phase. The project team has commenced working with Council's engagement team to develop an engagement strategy for the public exhibition process.

Staff are proposing to undertake the broad community exhibition early in 2023 following school holidays.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of a number of Our Wollongong 2028 goals with a specific delivery of Goal 1 – We value and protect our environment. It specifically delivers on the following –

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2022	Operational Plan 2021-22
Strategy	4 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
Land Use Planning	1.6 West Dapto Planning	1.6.4 Review West Dapto recreation needs in line with the bi-annual review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan

RISK MANAGEMENT

There are a number of risks associated with this project and ongoing in regarding the finalisation of the West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and the ongoing delivery of social infrastructure.

The two key risks include -

- 1 Insufficient social infrastructure to meet community needs.
- 2 Deliverability and funding shortfalls and cost burden to Council.

Staff have undertaken this contemporary needs assessment to ensure that planning for the social Infrastructure needs of the growing and future West Dapto residents remains sufficient and relevant. The previous needs assessment specific to West Dapto was from 2007. Engaging with community and stakeholders as an important next step to ensure we understand a number of perspectives when considering need.

As addressed further in the financial implications section below Council has prepared a West Dapto Financial Model to understand all costs associated with the release area including cost of upfront capital investment and ongoing management, maintenance and replacement of community assets. Council's financial model will be updated based on this Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment work.

Council staff have also commenced review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan, 2020 and will use the findings of the Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment to ensure the contributions plan reflects the social infrastructure needs. The contributions plan will be reviewed by IPART and ultimately Council will receive direction from the NSW Minister for Planning before adopting the plan. Staff will also continue to seek grant funding opportunities and work with the private sector and other social infrastructure providers to ensure an equitable approach to funding is achieved.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Delivering the Social Infrastructure Needs of West Dapto is and will continue to be reliant on a co-ordinated, equitable contribution by Council, the State and private sector, in particular the development industry.

Council staff have for some time now developed a West Dapto Financial Model to understand the total infrastructure costs associated with delivery of the WDURA. The model currently includes assumptions regarding existing planned social infrastructure at West Dapto. The model provides an estimate of capital costs and lifecycle costs. When a final social infrastructure needs assessment is adopted by Council the financial model would be updated to reflect the adopted position.

When considering West Dapto Section 7.11 development contributions in a social infrastructure context it is important to note that development contributions do not always meet the full cost of social infrastructure. For example, development cannot be charged for the building works required to deliver a new community facility building. Council formally raised concern, regarding lack of Section 7.11 funding of Community Facilities buildings, with the Department of Planning and Environment on 10 December 2021 during exhibition of the Department's proposed contributions reforms. This concern was ratified by Council at the 21 February 2022 Council meeting. Delivery of Community facility building works would be subject to the availability of future budgets if delivered by Council general revenue.

The largest increase in proposed social infrastructure provision recommended in the needs assessment is open space. However, land and embellishment is funded from development contributions when supported by IPART and the NSW Minister for Planning.

It is also important to note that more than 2,000 residential subdivision certificates have already been issued at West Dapto. Therefore any increase in developer contributions required to adequately meet the cost of social infrastructure will not be recoverable from those 2,000 plus residential lots.

Staff also engaged Genus Advisory Quantity Surveyor to produce contemporary cost estimates for social infrastructure identified in the draft needs assessment. All costs of infrastructure, including social infrastructure are increasing. Contingency and cost escalation allowance are an important inclusion when considering costs. This work will inform the update to the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan, 2023, which will be required to reflect final adopted social infrastructure needs.

As there are likely funding shortfalls which present a risk to Council and social infrastructure delivery it is important that Council staff maintain an ongoing dialogue with other levels of Government and private sector to explore all potential co-ordinated funding opportunities.

CONCLUSION

There is an ongoing need to plan for the social infrastructure needs of our growing community at West Dapto to create the places and spaces for people to meet, be active, connect, create and learn.

Council staff have undertaken a review of the Social Infrastructure needs of West Dapto with the assistance of a consultant team lead by Ethos Urban. This report seeks support to undertake a public exhibition of the draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment for community feedback.

The findings of a final West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment will inform much of Council's ongoing work within the community including our ongoing review of Development Contributions.

Delivering and achieving many of the recommendations in the draft West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment will require co-ordinated efforts of Council, the State and Private Sector. Further analysis, master planning and neighbourhood plan will also be needed to confirm the spatial deliverability of all recommendations.

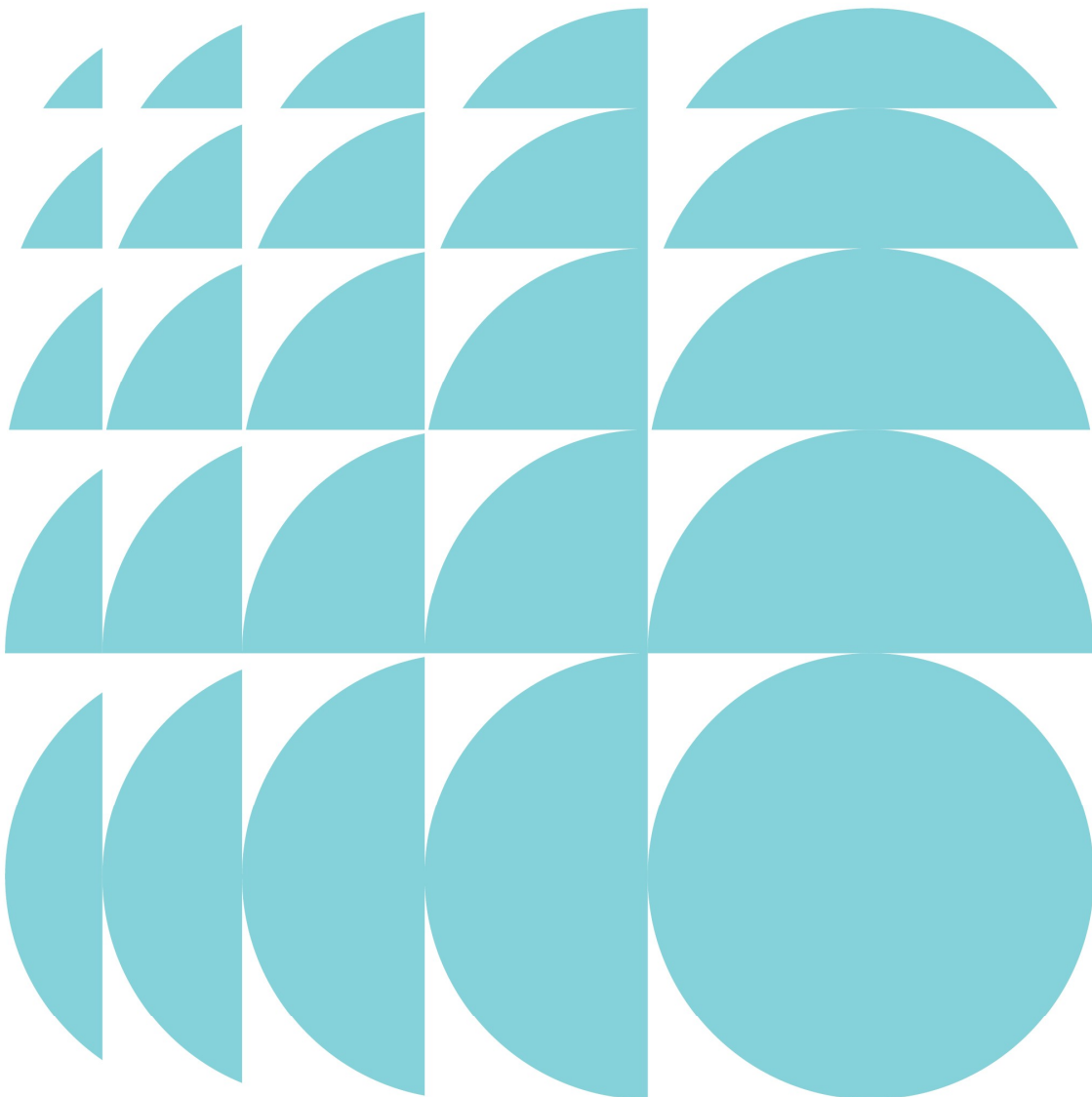
**ETHOS
URBAN**



**West Dapto Community Infrastructure
Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis**

FINAL DRAFT REPORT
Prepared for Wollongong City Council

14 July 2022 | 2210779



Ethos Urban acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We acknowledge the Gadigal people, of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land where this document was prepared, and all peoples and nations from lands affected. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Wollongong City Council would like to show their respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Dharawal Country, Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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VERSION NO.	DATE OF ISSUE	REVISION BY	APPROVED BY
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The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Ethos Urban and Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Ethos Urban and Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of the afore mentioned, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused

Contents

Executive summary	6
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PART A: INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH

1.0	Introduction	11
1.1	Background	11
1.2	Purpose of this study	11
1.3	Study context	12
1.4	West Dapto Vision	13
2.0	Scope of this study	14
2.1	What is social infrastructure?	14
2.2	Council's role in social infrastructure provision	15
2.3	Overview of approach to this study	15
2.4	Assumptions and inclusions	16
2.5	Study area definition	17
2.6	Existing social infrastructure frameworks for consideration	19
2.7	Developing the social infrastructure typology for this study	22
3.0	Approach to this assessment	24
3.1	Community and cultural infrastructure types	24
3.2	Open space and recreation	27

PART B: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

4.0	West Dapto context	34
4.1	Introduction to the West Dapto Community	34
4.2	Existing community profile	34
4.3	Social issues and trends	37
4.4	Contemporary trends in open space, recreation and sport	38
5.0	Strategic policy context	47
5.1	Key strategic documents	47
5.2	Open space and recreation policy drivers	53
5.3	Community infrastructure policy drivers	58

PART C: PLANNING RESEARCH AND CONSIDERATIONS

6.0	Social infrastructure trends	63
6.1	20-minute neighbourhoods	63
6.2	Age-friendly approach to social infrastructure planning	64
6.3	Resilience and a changing climate	65
6.4	From standalone facilities to multipurpose hubs	66
6.5	The role of faith in planning	67
6.6	The evolving role of libraries	68

Contents

6.7	Cultural Infrastructure to the fore	70
6.8	Importance of open space	72
7.0	Planning and delivering social infrastructure effectively	74
7.1	Council's role in infrastructure delivery	74
7.2	Development contributions	75
7.3	Planning Agreements	75
7.4	Planning for social infrastructure in greenfield growth areas	76
7.5	Timely delivery of community infrastructure in greenfield areas	77
7.6	Case study analysis: effective planning for growth areas	78
7.7	Aerotropolis Plan, NSW	84
7.8	Waterloo Youth Centre	85

PART D: UNDERSTANDING SUPPLY AND DEMAND

8.0	Supply: current and planned social infrastructure	886
8.1	Introduction	86
8.2	Community facilities	86
8.3	Specialised community spaces	91
8.4	Education infrastructure	93
8.5	Health and childcare services	94
8.6	Creative and cultural infrastructure	95
8.7	Open space	98
9.0	Demand: population forecasts	105
9.1	Projected population of WDURA	105
9.2	Population forecasts – service age groups	105
9.3	Horsley population data	107
10.0	Community and stakeholder perspectives	108
10.1	Summary of consultation activities	108
10.2	Participants	108
10.3	Key findings	108

PART E: COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ANALYSIS

11.0	Quantitative Gap analysis	112
11.1	Introduction and approach	112
11.2	Summary gaps – whole of release area	115
11.3	Summary gaps – stages	119
11.4	Summary gaps – Horsley	119
11.5	Summary delivery priorities, challenges and opportunities	121

PART F: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS ANALYSIS

Contents

12.0	Sport infrastructure planning – underpinning assumptions	130
12.1	Method 1 Demand Analysis Model	130
12.2	Method 2 Benchmarking	132
12.3	Summary of Land needed for Sport	134
12.4	Indoor and aquatic needs	136

13.0	Quantitative assessment by stage area and typology	138
13.1	Site specific open space increases	139
13.2	Additional public open space sites	140

14.0	Horsley open space assessment	141
14.1	Background	141
14.2	Existing Public Open Space in Horsley	141
14.3	Functional assessment of existing Public Open Space in Horsley	142
14.4	Provision rate of Public Open Space in Horsley	147

PART G: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15.0	Summary recommendations	149
15.1	Community and cultural facilities	149
15.2	Open space and recreation	150
15.3	Horsley	151

Figures

Figure 1	WDURA – aerial view looking north east	12
Figure 2	Primary and Secondary Study Areas	17
Figure 3	Horsley Study Area	18
Figure 4	Wollongong SIPF framework – hierarchy of social infrastructure and population	20
Figure 5	Top 10 most participated recreational activities in Wollongong City Council	43
Figure 6	Top 10 club-based participation in Wollongong City Council	43
Figure 7	West Dapto Vision 2018 – Structure and relationships of principles to planning tools	48
Figure 8	WHO Age-friendly cities framework	64
Figure 9	Waterloo Youth Centre – integrated indoor and outdoor facility	85
Figure 10	Existing and planned community facilities – WDURA	87
Figure 11	Existing education infrastructure – WDURA	93
Figure 12	Existing health and childcare infrastructure – WDURA	94
Figure 13	Existing creative and specialised community spaces – WDURA	95

Contents

Figure 14	Australian Motorlife Museum	96
Figure 15	West Dapto Selected Built Heritage Items	97
Figure 16	Existing open space – West Dapto Urban Release Area	99
Figure 17	Constrained Public Open Space at Stane Dyke Park	100
Figure 18	Site elevation of the high voltage powerline running north-south within Stane Dyke Park	100
Figure 19	Planned open space – West Dapto Urban Release Area	103
Figure 20	Classification of the Planned Open Space as per the new proposed framework	104
Figure 21	Otium's Demand Analysis Model	130

Tables

Table 1	Current open space planning hierarchy (as identified in the West Dapto Open Space Design Manual)	21
Table 2	Catchments applied to this study	24
Table 3	Community infrastructure typology	25
Table 4	Proposed open space framework for West Dapto	28
Table 5	WDURA Community Profile	36
Table 6	Top five participation activities in Wollongong City	46
Table 7	West Dapto Vision – Planning Principles Appraisal	49
Table 8	Key open space and recreation policy drivers	53
Table 9	Strategic policy review	59
Table 10	Planned community facilities	90
Table 11	Existing Public Open Space serving WDURA	98
Table 12	Public Open Space in WDURA Proposed in the 2020 Contributions Plan	101
Table 13	Existing functional and all future planned public open space by stage	104
Table 14	WDURA Population Projections by Stage, 2018 to 2058	105
Table 15	WDURA population forecasts – service age groups, 2018 to 2058	106
Table 16	Horsley population – service age groups, 2016	107
Table 17	Engagement findings summary	108
Table 18	Benchmarks applied to this study	113
Table 19	Provision gaps across the release area to 2058	116
Table 20	Benchmark Gap Analysis for Horsley	119
Table 21	Demand Analysis Model Outputs for WDURA	131
Table 22	Outdoor Sport Requirements for WDURA with consideration to dual-use	131
Table 23	Existing and planned provision of District Sport in WDURA	134
Table 24	Area required for District Sport across WDURA stages	135
Table 25	Staged facility mix recommendations	136

Contents

Table 26	Indicative West Dapto Community Leisure and Recreation Centre Areas	136
Table 27	Quantitative Assessment Public Open Space for the West Dapto Urban Release Area (Note figures are cumulative)	138
Table 28	Recommended increase in area of Planned Open Spaces to meet District Sport land size	139
Table 29	Additional Public Open Space Sites and Areas	140
Table 30	Typology of existing parks in Horsley	141
Table 31	Existing parks and open spaces in Horsley	143
Table 32	Provision by typology	147
Appendix C.	Raw benchmarking output Table 33 Raw output for the WDURA	159
Table 34	Local/neighbourhood benchmarking output by stages	160

Appendices

Appendix A.	Key Benchmark Sources	152
Appendix B.	Open space site-land suitability and constrained land assessment	153
Appendix C.	Raw benchmarking output	159

Executive summary

West Dapto is expected to be an area of exponential growth within the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region, with the West Dapto Urban Release Area (WDURA) to provide approximately 19,500 additional dwellings and accommodate 56,750 additional residents over the next 50 years.

As a key source of new housing for the region moving into the future, the West Dapto Urban Release Area will require strategic planning of infrastructure and service delivery to adequately support its new population, while also conserving the area's environmental assets.

In February 2022, Wollongong City Council (Council) engaged Ethos Urban, in partnership with Otium Planning Group, to prepare a Community Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis of Open Space, Recreation, Community and Cultural facilities for the WDURA.

The objectives of this study are to deliver a best practice needs assessment and gap analysis informed by contemporary Government policies and planning benchmarks, and to enable Council's considered response to IPART's 2020 Final Assessment Report of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan in due course.

This Assessment will supersede the current informing planning study as Council's contemporary position for open space, recreation and community and cultural facilities planning for West Dapto. It will further inform the revision of the broader West Dapto Vision and master planning.

Scope and Approach

This study has the following key methodological points:

- Social infrastructure is defined as including two core categories of infrastructure: open space and recreation, and community and cultural facilities. These two categories of social infrastructure provide the places and spaces for people to meet, be active, connect, create and learn. This study primarily assesses the 'hard' social infrastructure, the built facilities and open spaces, that support community connection and cohesion (see **Sections 2.1 and 2.4**).
- This study assesses the whole ecosystem of social infrastructure to provide a holistic picture, including infrastructure types that Council does not have primary responsibility for delivering (eg. childcare centres, schools and hospitals). Council's role in social infrastructure provision is further described in **Section 2.2**.
- This study uses both quantitative (eg. Population benchmarking, producing raw numeric data results) and qualitative (eg. Strategic information, research, engagement outcomes, and spatial considerations) to provide an informed and holistic outcome that informs understanding of gaps and needs for social infrastructure in the WDURA (see **Section 2.3**).
- There are two levels of study area applied in this study (see **Section 2.5**) – based on the staging identified in the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020. These are:
 - Primary study area: the boundary of the WDURA, as defined in the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020
 - Secondary study areas:
 - Stage 1/2 (excluding those parts that are in the Horsley suburb)
 - Stage 3
 - Stage 4
 - Stage 5
 - Horsley (existing suburb boundary)

Community and cultural infrastructure

This report sets out the findings of a community needs analysis that has been methodically undertaken to understand gaps in provision and informs recommendations for future provision. Although this assessment has focused on Council owned and / or managed assets, it is important to consider and appreciate the role of other facilities, which play a supplementary role in the existing social infrastructure network.

The community and cultural hierarchies applied in this study are based on Council's *Places for People: Social Infrastructure Planning Framework* (see **Section 2.6**) These include a neighbourhood, local, sub-district, and district catchment. Regional and sub-regional catchments are not assessed, as falling outside the scope of the WDURA (see **Section 3.1**).

The process of predicting demand for social infrastructure and services in growth areas is typically based on quantitative benchmarking for adequate provision of infrastructure according to the anticipated population. While benchmarking provides a useful starting point for social infrastructure needs assessment with figures for demand calculation, they are not intended to provide clear-cut answers, as social planning is by nature not black and white. Rather, they guide best practice facilities provision, to be used as part of a broader analysis that takes account of a rich range of qualitative and quantitative information.

The quantitative element of this analysis has included the following steps:

- **Section 8.0** audits current and planned social infrastructure provision across the WDURA.
- **Section 9.0** outlines current and projected population forecasts.
- **Section 11.0** applies benchmarks to the supply and population forecasts to undertake a supply-demand gap analysis. Benchmarks enable a quantitative assessment of community facilities provision based on a prescribed set of principles. The term 'benchmark' refers to the ratio of facility provision per population size, such as one library per 20,000-30,000 residents in a catchment.

These identified gaps are outlined in **Section 11.5** – and are used to inform priorities for delivery.

Equally important to the planning process are qualitative considerations. The need for infrastructure and services is not homogenous across every growing community; policy, emerging trends, existing facilities, local needs, area context, and stakeholder perspectives must all contribute to each local planning process.

The qualitative element of this analysis has included the following:

- Understanding the existing West Dapto community (**Section 4.0**), including its demographic profile (**Section 4.2**), and social issues and trends (**Section 4.3**).
- Considering the strategic policy context (**Section 5**), including key strategic documents from local, state, and federal sources (**Section 5.1**) and summarising key policy drivers influencing provision in the WDURA (**Section 5.3**).
- Researching and appraising dominant social infrastructure trends (**Section 6**). Key trends identified include the push for 20-minute neighbourhoods (**Section 6.1**), age-friendly approaches to social infrastructure planning (**Section 6.2**), resilience and a changing climate (**Section 6.3**), harnessing faith-based organisations for social infrastructure delivery (**Section 6.5**), the trend towards multipurpose community hubs (**Section 6.4**), the evolving role of libraries (**Section 6.6**), and the increasing role of cultural infrastructure in community building (**Section 6.7**).
- Analysing issues and opportunities in planning and delivering social infrastructure effectively in greenfield urban release areas (**Section 7.0**). Understanding Council's role in infrastructure delivery as both provider, facilitator and advocate (**Section 7.1**) opens up a range of mechanisms for private delivery or collaborative approaches with potential for the WDURA (**Section 7.2-7.3**). Additionally, it is recognised that growth areas have unique planning challenges (**Section 7.4**), including prominently the importance of timely delivery (**Section 7.5**).
- Case studies, outlined in **Sections 7.6-7.8**, provide a contextual understanding of opportunities and cautions for strategic planning, and the delivery and design of community facilities in comparative contexts.

The synthesis of these inputs, both quantitative and qualitative, has produced the recommendations outlined in **Section 15**. Arising from these recommendations are three key findings:

- There is demand for one additional neighbourhood-level multipurpose community centre in stage 4. Additionally, there is demand for one additional sub-district community centre in the WDURA, which could suitably be accommodated through an amendment of item CF05 of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020.
- Collaborative delivery and partnership with government agencies, not-for-profits, and private developers are crucial to ensuring that core infrastructure is delivered in the WDURA, as well as opportunities for innovation and best practice facilities. These include the potential for a community arts centre and performing arts facility, Aboriginal cultural space, Coworking and business incubator spaces, and the adaptive reuse of existing heritage homesteads for community use.
- Continuing to engage with key stakeholders and the community, and undertaking additional strategic preparation including the master planning of town and village centres across the WDURA, will be essential to implementing the recommendations outlined in this Study and ensuring the appropriate provision of social infrastructure for the current and future West Dapto community.

Open space and recreation

The West Dapto Urban Release Area (WDURA) is planned to grow by more than 50,000 residents by 2058. The area includes several existing parks and open spaces that service the current residents in and adjacent to the area. Some of these pre-date the release of West Dapto for urban development and subsequent provision planning. This study has been focused on assessing the open space for sport and recreation needs of the WDURA and the anticipated future population that the public open space network will need to service.

The suburb of Horsley is physically located within the WDURA boundary. Parks and open space required to support the existing population of Horsley have been planned or provided within the suburb. The current planning for the WDURA should consider what excess capacity may be available in Horsley to meet future needs arising from growth in the WDURA generally. Therefore, a separate assessment of Public Open Space in Horsley has been undertaken to determine how any excess capacity can contribute to meeting the needs for the WDURA.

The Public Open Space needs assessment primarily focuses on the existing and planned provision of Public Open Space within all five stages of the WDURA. A qualitative review of existing supply and a quantitative assessment of public open space requirements for the WDURA has been undertaken to understand the functional open space land requirements by stage area and typology over 10-year increments. The requirement for sport infrastructure in the WDURA is calculated utilising two methodologies (i.e. Otium Analytics) - a demand analysis model and a benchmarking model.

This report proposes a new draft public open space planning framework in alignment with the existing West Dapto Open Space Design Manual. The draft Public Open Space framework is primarily driven by the latest industry standards, experience of similar release areas across NSW and a set of performance criteria that seek to ensure equitable distribution and access to functional public open space as well as effective integration and co-location of recreation facilities suitable within the proposed hierarchy levels. The intention of the proposed performance criteria is not to supersede current Council guidelines, but to complement and reinforce them to ensure the provision of high-quality Public Open Space in the WDURA.

Assessment and provision methodologies have referenced the Draft Greener Places Design Guide and the prior work undertaken for the WDURA. A key part of this updated provision planning is the adoption of performance criteria which ensures a sustainable infrastructure network suitable for public recreation and sporting use. The aim is to ensure that a more efficient land use outcome is realised, and that land acquired for recreation and sporting use is fit for purpose, cost effective to develop and affordable to maintain.

The key findings of the Public Open Space assessment are:

- The existing provision of 42.12 Ha serving Stage 1/2, of which 42.55% is assessed as functional (fit for purpose) open space, leaving 54.77% as non-functional.
- Functional Public Open Space is defined as the total area within an open space/park suitable for or used for, recreational activities like playgrounds, kick-a-bout areas, sports grounds, etc. Net functional area is exclusive of constrained land that is not fit for purpose due to slope, flooding, incompatible infrastructure (drains, high voltage lines etc.) size, shape and environmental constraints such as riparian and bushland vegetation cover

- A surplus of 7.97Ha in district sport and district recreation parks was identified in the suburb of Horsley. However, with the anticipated marginal population increase (through infill development) in Horsley along with existing and future demand from Dapto residents, it is doubtful this surplus will provide any significant capacity to meet the needs of future residents of WDURA.
- The total existing functional and future planned, public open space for WDURA currently totals 75.04 Ha.
- As a result of the quantitative needs assessment of WDURA, the total required Public Open Space in WDURA by 2058 is 162.823 Ha. This indicates that an additional 87.78 Ha of Public Open Space is required to service the anticipated population growth in WDURA.

The adoption of the performance criteria to ensure future parks and sporting areas are fit for purpose is strongly recommended. The provision rates suggested in the new planning framework rely heavily on improving the quality and functionality of land acquired for parks and sporting areas. In other words, the hectares per 1000 supply rates will only meet needs if the land quality improves significantly. The current supply assessment illustrates the importance of adopting land quality/ suitability criteria with more than 50% of the existing Public Open Space assessed as not fit for purpose.

The next stage of future open space planning should implement performance criteria to ensure site suitability and that only functional land is acquired for public recreation. This open space for sport and recreation will be complemented by other forms of open space such as that protecting habitat and riparian corridors. An overall open space network plan should be developed that can consider the public open space needed for sport and recreation and ensure that suitable land is planned within the overall open space network and that opportunities for multiple use outcomes are pursued while still meeting performance criteria for functional land.

PART A: INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Delivering adequate and appropriate social infrastructure, including community facilities, is fundamental to achieving Council's vision of a city that is 'safe, healthy and happy.'¹

In February 2022, Wollongong City Council (Council) engaged Ethos Urban, in partnership with Otium Planning Group, to prepare a Community Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis of Open Space, Recreation, Community and Cultural facilities for the West Dapto Urban Release Area (WDURA).

Council plays a key role in providing social infrastructure to support and sustain the liveability and wellbeing of the residents, both present and future, in the WDURA.

Parks, recreation facilities, libraries and cultural and creative spaces and other social infrastructure are important places through which social cohesion and social capital is fostered over time by bringing diverse community members together; providing spaces for communities to connect, create and learn. They are also an important touchpoint for Council and the community, through the delivery of amenities and services.

Social infrastructure and services are critical to support community health and wellbeing. Delivering adequate and appropriate social infrastructure, including community facilities, is fundamental to achieving Council's vision of a city that is 'safe, healthy and happy.'²

With a fast-growing community, Council now faces a range of challenges and opportunities in meeting community needs in the WDURA for social infrastructure over the duration of its development – challenges and opportunities for which this analysis provides insights and guidance.

1.2 Purpose of this study

The purpose of this study is to provide contemporary and robust analysis and recommendations for Council to develop, facilitate, and accommodate social and other infrastructure to support existing and future residents of the West Dapto Urban Release Area.

This study arises from Council's recognition of the importance of providing adequate infrastructure to sustain the social, cultural and economic development and success of the WDURA into the future.

The objectives of this study are to:

- Deliver a best practice needs assessment and gap analysis informed by contemporary Government policies and planning benchmarks
- Enable Council's considered response to IPART's 2020 Final Assessment Report of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 in due course.

This Assessment will supersede the current informing planning study as Council's contemporary position for open space, recreation and community and cultural facilities planning for West Dapto. It will further inform revision of the broader West Dapto Vision and master planning.

¹ Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan (Wollongong City Council, 2018, p. 37)

² Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan (Wollongong City Council, 2018, p. 37)



Figure 1 WDURA – aerial view looking north east

Source: Illawarra Mercury (2014)

1.3 Study context

West Dapto is expected to be an area of exponential growth within the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region, with the WDURA to provide approximately 19,500 additional dwellings and accommodate 56,750 additional residents over the next 50 years.

As a key source of new housing for the region moving into the future, the West Dapto Area will require strategic planning of infrastructure and service delivery to adequately support its new population, while also conserving the area's environmental assets

The West Dapto Area will also serve to further the region's economic productivity by providing flexible employment lands which benefits from proximity to Port Kembla. While infrastructure delivery such as roads and other transport projects are ongoing in the area, significant investment into social infrastructure is required to support West Dapto's growing population. Strategic planning by Wollongong Council has outlined several social infrastructure directions for the area in the *West Dapto Vision 2018*, including:

- Deliver open space which features high amenity, is functional, accessible, and connected to other places of interest and key infrastructure.
- Open space should be delivered across a hierarchy of local, neighbourhood, district, and city-wide spaces, which each offer different functionalities.
- Community facilities should be co-located where possible in convenient locations, promote community safety, provide equitable access, be flexible, encourage diversity, and contribute to a high quality of life.
- Sharing facilities under a joint-use arrangement between schools, local governments, and other institutions should be explored.

1.4 West Dapto Vision

The West Dapto Vision (2018) is a key Council strategy guiding the desired future character of West Dapto. The Vision, summarised succinctly at the outset of that strategy, is worth extracting here in full.

West Dapto will grow and develop as a series of integrated and connected communities. Set against the spectacular Illawarra Escarpment and a landscape of riparian valleys, these communities will integrate the natural and cultural heritage of the area with the new urban form.

The communities will be healthy, sustainable and resilient with active and passive open space accessible by walkways, cycleways and public transport. To support these new communities, local centres will provide shopping services, community services and jobs while employment lands will facilitate further opportunities for the region.

West Dapto will be supported by a long-term strategy to oversee the timely implementation of infrastructure to deliver sustainable and high-quality suburbs with diverse housing choices.³

This document is one of many such long-term strategies commissioned by Council to guide the implementation of infrastructure, in this case, social infrastructure.

³ *West Dapto Vision 2018* (Wollongong City Council), p. 2.

2.0 Scope of this study

The following section outlines the assumptions and inclusions informing the scope of this study. It outlines key definitions and defines the boundaries of social infrastructure, the study areas, and the typology of infrastructure examined in this needs assessment and gap analysis.

2.1 What is social infrastructure?

Infrastructure Australia defines social infrastructure as:

*'Social infrastructure is comprised of the facilities, spaces, services and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities. It helps us to be happy, safe and healthy, to learn, and to enjoy life. The network of social infrastructure contributes to social identity, inclusion and cohesion and is used by all Australians at some point in their lives, often on a daily basis. Access to high-quality, affordable social services has a direct impact on the social and economic wellbeing of all Australians.'*⁴

Social infrastructure includes open space, recreation, and community and cultural facilities which provide places and spaces for people to meet, be active, connect, create and learn. They also represent an important touchpoint for service providers to connect with the community through the delivery of services and amenities.

Social infrastructure includes hard and soft infrastructure. Hard social infrastructure refers to the facilities, buildings and spaces, and soft infrastructure refers to the programs, services and networks that occur in these spaces. Built assets, such as libraries and recreation centres, facilitate the delivery of social services by governments and other service providers.

The Wollongong Places for People: Social Infrastructure Planning Framework (see **Section 2.6.1**) notes that:

'Hard' and 'soft' social infrastructure depend on each other – services, networks, community and recreational programs, faith and interest groups rely on places and spaces to meet and participate. Buildings and assets rely on the activation of community if they are to continue to be a worthwhile investment for Council.'

It is widely recognised that social infrastructure provision is essential for the development of sustainable, liveable, resilient and socially cohesive communities.⁵ Quality social infrastructure is not only the 'building block for the enhancement of human and social capital,'⁶ but also works to attract investment, growth and economic development to local communities.⁷ Additionally, several studies have demonstrated the pronounced economic benefits of cultural activities, events and festivals for local economies.⁸ These benefits are seen through both direct employment opportunities, and the economic flow-on effects of increased visitation and expenditure in local areas.

There is also growing evidence that failing to provide adequate social infrastructure results in significant costs to governments and communities.⁹ Further, deficiencies in social infrastructure provision can create long-term, complex social problems that require costly remedial measures, particularly in socio-economically disadvantaged areas.¹⁰ Conversely, there is a substantial body of evidence that the benefits of social infrastructure far exceed the economic costs of provision.¹¹

⁴ Infrastructure Australia, *Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019*, <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-08/Australian%20Infrastructure%20Audit%202019%20-%206.%20Social%20Infrastructure.pdf>

⁵ British Property Foundation, 2010, *Planning for Social Infrastructure in Development Projects: A guide to tackling the key challenges*; Teriman et al., 2010, *Social infrastructure planning and sustainable community: example from southeast Queensland, Australia*; Brown and Barber, 2012, *Social infrastructure and sustainable urban communities*.

⁶ Teriman et al., 2010, page 3.

⁷ City of Greater Geelong, 2015, *Social Infrastructure Plan 2014-2031*.

⁸ Museums and Galleries NSW, 2010, *Value Added! The economic and social contribution of cultural facilities in Central NSW*; Museums and Galleries NSW, 2014, *A report on the economic impact of the cultural facilities of the Evocities*.

⁹ Teriman et al., 2010; Casey, 2005, *Establishing Standards for Social Infrastructure*.

¹⁰ Teriman et al., 2010; Casey, 2005; Liverpool City Council, 2018, *Community Facilities Strategy: A Blueprint for a Modern Network of Community Facilities*.

¹¹ See for example: Teriman et al., 2010; Casey, 2005.

2.2 Council's role in social infrastructure provision

Wollongong City Council plays a key role in providing social infrastructure to support and sustain liveability, community health, wellbeing, and participation. Open space, recreation and community facilities provide places and spaces for people to meet, be active, connect, create and learn. They also represent an important touchpoint for Council to connect with the community through the delivery of services and amenities.¹²

Council is responsible for the delivery of certain types of social infrastructure, including libraries, community facilities, parks and recreation facilities. However, Council is only one provider of community spaces within the Release Area, and Council is not solely responsible for meeting demand for community facilities. Additionally, Council has a role as advocator and facilitator of social infrastructure through partnerships and collaboration with other providers.

Increasingly, community services and the infrastructure that supports them are provided by the private or non-for-profit sector. The inclusion of this infrastructure in this study is premised on the relevance of understanding the full spectrum of community infrastructure, whether provided by Council or not.

Recognising local government as only one provider of community space within a broader network of community facilities will assist Council to identify a clear pathway to better manage growing demand for community facilities now and into the future, through a multi-pronged approach.

Understanding gaps in the delivery of traditionally private infrastructure types can inform Council's advocacy or partnership approaches – creating opportunities for collaboration and discussion to ensure that the community is provided for. Ultimately, the inclusion of non-council infrastructure aids in understanding a community's entire social infrastructure fabric.

2.3 Overview of approach to this study

This chapter outlines the methodology used to assess the existing provision and future needs of social infrastructure for the WDURA.

The process of predicting demand for social infrastructure and services in growth areas is typically based on quantitative benchmarking for adequate provision of infrastructure according to the anticipated population. While benchmarking provides a useful starting point for social infrastructure needs assessment with figures for demand calculation, they are not intended to provide clear-cut answers, as social planning is by nature not black and white. Rather they provide guidance on best practice facilities provision, to be used as part of a broader analysis that takes account of a rich range of qualitative and quantitative information.

Equally important to the planning process are site-specific considerations. The need for infrastructure and services is not homogenous across every growing community; policy, emerging trends, existing facilities, local needs, area context, and stakeholder perspectives must all contribute to each local planning process. The assessment contained in this needs assessment is therefore undertaken in two core stages of analysis:

- **Quantitative analysis** of current and planned supply of social infrastructure against industry standard benchmarks for provision (number/ size) considered adequate to meet the needs of the anticipated population for the WDURA according to population forecasts prepared by Wollongong City Council.

The quantitative methodology for this study has involved the following steps:

- Mapping of current and planned social infrastructure;
- Accessing reliable data sources on participation in sport and recreation activities to inform the analysis, and
- Undertaking a gap analysis, i.e. applying the benchmarks to current and forecast population numbers to identify forecast gaps in provision of social infrastructure, in order to derive recommendations for future provision to address identified gaps.

¹² Places for People, Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028 (Wollongong City Council).

- **Qualitative analysis of:**

- Local and state policy directions relevant to community infrastructure planning;
- Geographic distribution of supply from a population equity and accessibility/ walkability perspective;
- the quality of supply (whether infrastructure is fit for purpose/ in need of maintenance etc), and
- Capacity/ utilisation of current supply based on information provided by Wollongong City Council (infrastructure that is poorly utilised may mean it is surplus to community needs, for example, or rather not effectively meeting community needs through its design or functionality).

This study has included consultation with a range of state government agencies with a role in social infrastructure and services provision, including Create NSW, NSW Health, DPE, and the Office of Sports. In addition, the Local Aboriginal Land Council and a non-profit community service provider were engaged to ascertain their perspectives on community needs and priorities for social infrastructure provision in the urban renewal area.

Effective strategic planning for social infrastructure also takes account of issues such as funding availability – in terms of government investment required for the development and ongoing operation of facilities; land availability (e.g., land areas required to deliver sports and recreation facilities is usually not available in dense urban areas, unless planned for and delivered at the earliest stages); third party provision models; the need to take advantage of opportunities arising, along with broader community priorities and emerging issues that may arise and require a rethink of social infrastructure priorities.

2.4 Assumptions and inclusions

This study, while acknowledging and auditing other aspects of social infrastructure, focuses on the built assets that Council is primarily responsible for delivering. Examples of social infrastructure owned and/or managed by Council include:

- Integrated multipurpose facilities and library space
- Local community facilities, e.g. community centres, scout halls
- Cultural facilities, e.g. arts centres
- Public open space including spaces for active recreation and organised sport, and passive recreation
- Recreation facilities, eg. aquatic and leisure centres

This study refers to aspects of social infrastructure in numerous ways. This assessment, as a methodological decision, divides social infrastructure into the following two categories:

- Open space and recreation infrastructure
- Community and cultural facilities
 - Community facilities are defined to align with references to 'Hard' and 'Foundation Social Infrastructure' in the Places for People, Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028 (Wollongong City Council). Community facilities are defined in this study as physical spaces where social services, community, cultural development or recreational activities take place. These spaces provide accessible facilities and places for people to formally or informally meet, supporting 'soft' social infrastructure outcomes.¹³
 - Cultural infrastructure is defined as those spaces which generate cultural or creative capital, being either linked professionally with the creative industry or integral to the community's participation in cultural activities. This broad lens provides a fuller understanding of cultural infrastructure, capturing all spaces important to the local community's cultural generation.

The study area definition (see **Section 2.5** below) and typology (outlined in **Section 2.7** and **Section 3** below) further identify the scope of this study.

¹³ See *Places for People Social Infrastructure Planning Framework* (WCC, 2018), p. 8.

2.5 Study area definition

The primary study area for this assessment has been defined as the West Dapto Urban Release Area, which will also be referred to as the WDURA (see **Figure 2**). The secondary study areas have been identified as the five stages for the release area (identified in **Figure 2**), and the Horsley study area (see **Figure 3**). These study areas form the basis of this needs assessment, and corresponding gaps will be identified in relation to both the primary and secondary study areas.

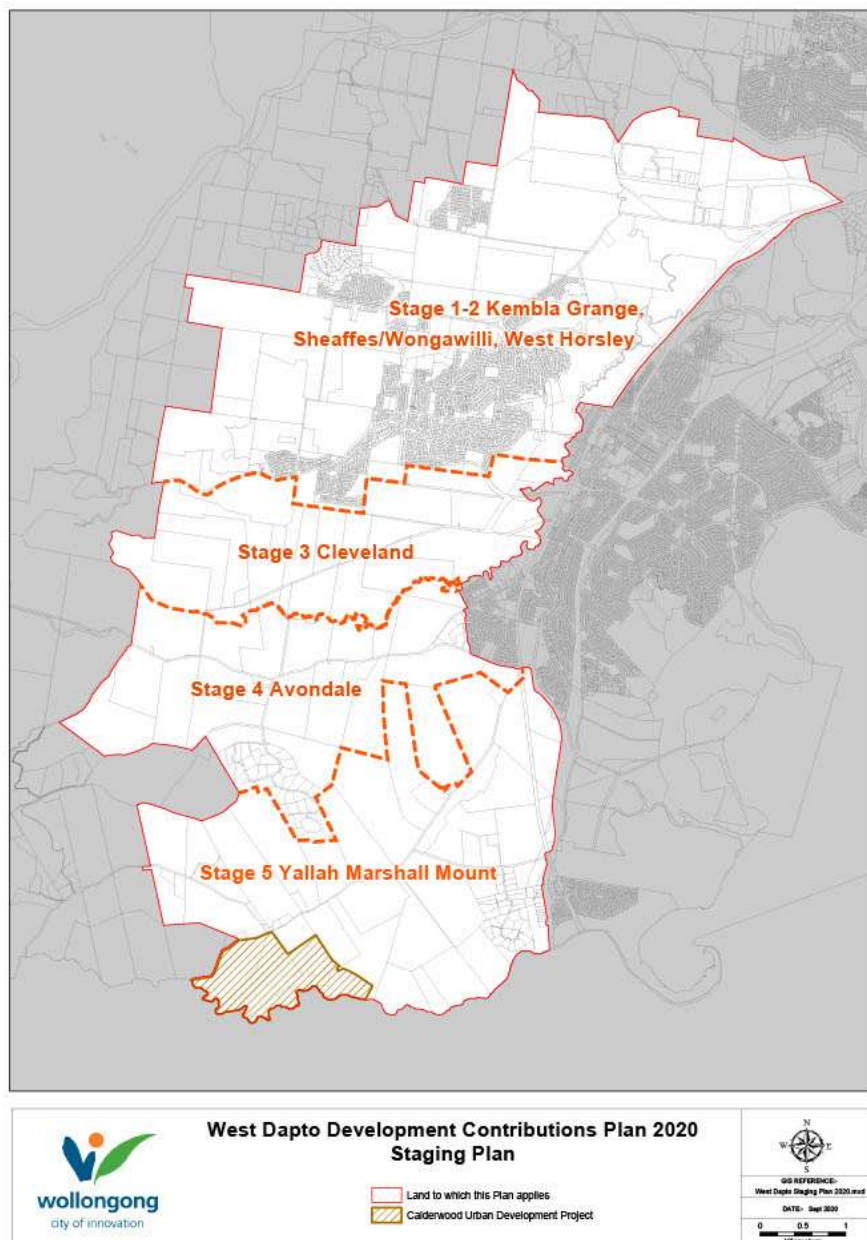


Figure 2 Primary and Secondary Study Areas

Source: Wollongong City Council

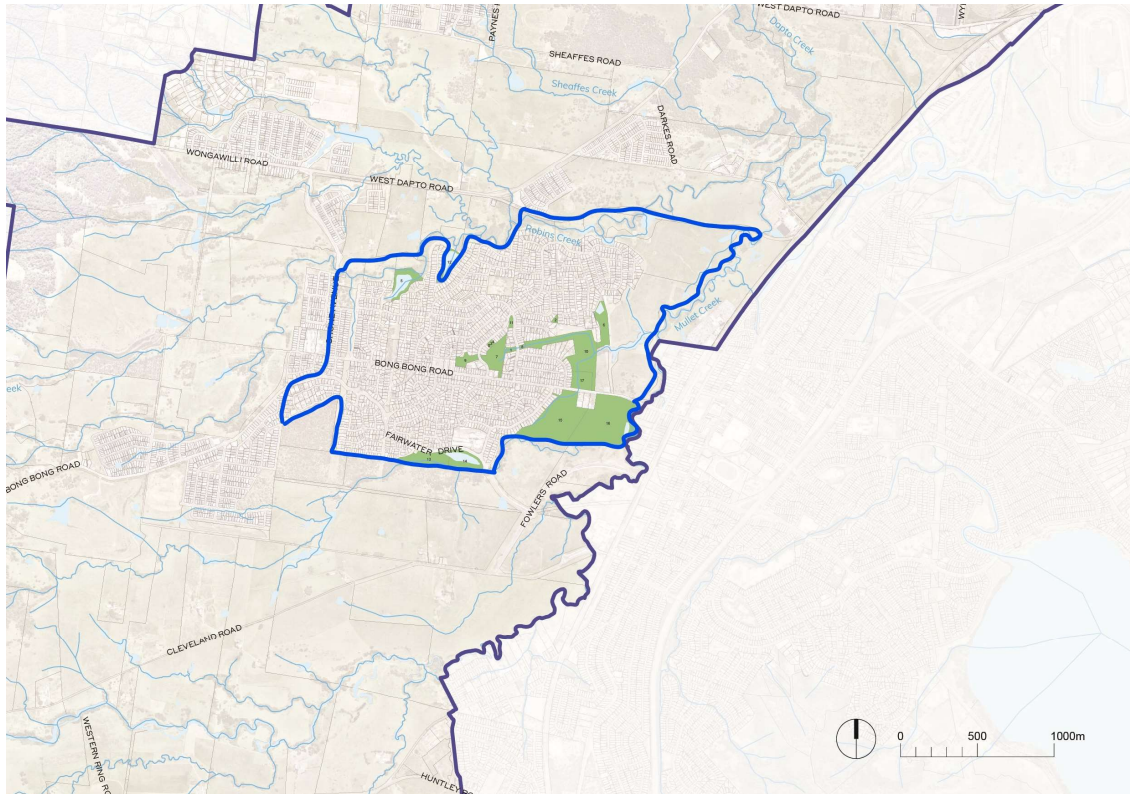


Figure 3 Horsley Study Area

Source: Ethos Urban, aligning with ABS Statistical Area Level 1s

There are three important methodological clarifications:

- Community infrastructure outside the study area is considered in this study when it has a catchment that includes the WDURA, as shown above. There is qualitative appraisal of reliance by WDURA residents on social infrastructure outside of the catchment.
- The established suburb of Horsley has been included as a separate secondary study area in this study. This is to ensure alignment with existing frameworks and demographic data, reflecting Horsley's status as an existing urban area. Stage 1/2, while geographically encompassing Horsley, has been assessed separately and excludes the Horsley boundaries.
- It is noted from the outset that the five stages are not sequential, and are used only as identifiers.

2.6 Existing social infrastructure frameworks for consideration

2.6.1 Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework

The Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework (SIPF) is a 10 year framework for long-term strategic planning and management of Council's social infrastructure. It aims to enable Wollongong City Council to deliver 'high quality facilities that support service delivery and meets the needs and expectations of the Wollongong community, in a way that is both economically and ecologically sustainable'.¹⁴

Wollongong City Council recognises that 'cohesive, active and involved communities are created when the right kinds of spaces and places are available for people to come together'.

The framework guides elements of social infrastructure across the entire lifecycle, from guiding principles, to hierarchy and typology of provision, and the role of council and innovative models for future delivery. Key points of comparison are as follows:

- The SIPF is based on Bradshaw's Taxonomy of Social Need, dividing community infrastructure need across normative, comparative, felt, and expressed dimensions. These align broadly with the approach taken to this assessment.
 - Comparative: spatial analysis of the stages *vis a vis* broader Wollongong, and comparative demographic analysis to determine particular community needs and to understand key social issues and trends.
 - Normative: quantitative assessment, applying benchmark gap analysis to determine ideal provision rates for social infrastructure in West Dapto.
 - Felt: community consultation as part of the exhibition of the draft needs assessment and draft masterplan.
 - Expressed: qualitative assessment of community use of existing community infrastructure.
- The SIPF recognises that Council's role is not limited to the actual delivery of community infrastructure, but rather extends to the planning and advocacy for social infrastructure to be delivered by state government and private providers. This partnership approach to social infrastructure delivery is noted in the development of the below typology.
- The SIPF outlines a set of guiding principles for community infrastructure. These principles align with best practice community infrastructure planning, and are considered in the key findings and recommendations – as well as in the masterplan.
- The SIPF outlines a hierarchy aligning with population size and geographic accessibility (see **Figure 4**). This hierarchy is adopted in this study, as outlined in the typology below. It is noted that Regional and Sub-regional facilities are not assessed in this study, given the lack of anticipated provision for these scales of infrastructure in the WDURA.
- The SIPF identifies Gross Floor Area benchmarks for Foundation Social Infrastructure Facilities. These benchmarks will be adopted to determine recommendations for GFA in the delivery of social infrastructure.
- The SIPF outlines key population trends and social infrastructure assessment outcomes by designated planning area. Planning areas 7 (~stages 1-3) and 10 (~stages 4-5) align broadly with the WDURA. Key outcomes from Council's assessment for these study areas include:
 - There is a gap in provision of a multi-purpose 'District' community centre, although noting the provision of a centre in adjacent Dapto.
 - Facilities in planning area 7 are well-utilised when observing data on the hours of hire. Data for stages 4 and 5 (Planning Area 10) showing a lack of utilisation is commensurate with a lack of existing population and no current facilities.
 - There is not a good level of non-Council social infrastructure and supporting infrastructure in the area.
 - Stages 4 and 5 are geographically isolated and lack public transport connections, highlighting the importance of access to local facilities in the area.

¹⁴ *Places for People Social Infrastructure Planning Framework (2018)*, p. 5

- The majority of facilities in West Dapto are small, older, stand-alone facilities.
- The majority of facilities in stages 1-3 are unlikely to have capacity to meet high levels of future demand.
- There will be a high proportion of young children in West Dapto, indicating a need for facilities, activities and programs for young children and their carers. This is compounded by a high proportion of couples with children and/or single parent households, driving a need for services and informal spaces for socialising and play.
- High proportion of older people indicates a need for senior citizens' services and spaces.

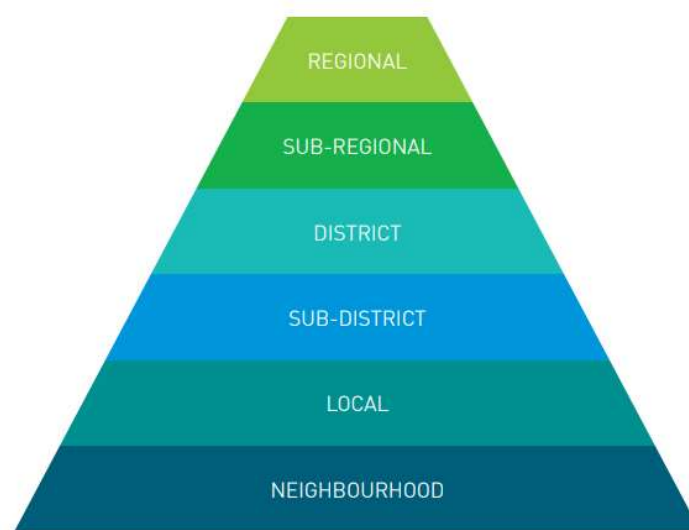


Figure 4 Wollongong SIPF framework – hierarchy of social infrastructure and population

Source: Wollongong City Council

2.6.2 West Dapto Open Space Design Manual

Design Principles of the design manual include:

- Well-distributed network of open spaces: accessible, attractive and usable public spaces
- Design Flexibility: variety of uses, sufficient size and design flexibility
- Managing competing functions: flood and water management, traffic and road infrastructure and biodiversity areas.
- Open space embellishment: planning for sustainable embellishments-cost, maintenance and user satisfaction
- Active and Passive split: allow for equal split
- CPTED principles: passive and active surveillance
- Connectivity: shared pathway/active transport network and connections to key places
- Urban Greening: quality and quantity tree canopy and vegetation management
- Conservation: bushlands and ecological corridors
- Amenity: social needs and embrace local landscape character
- Value: quality of infrastructure to minimise maintenance

The strategic principles of *West Dapto Vision 2018* and *West Dapto Design Manual* outlines the standards for open space planning around catchment distances in the future urban and residential areas to the open space.

Table 1 Current open space planning hierarchy (as identified in the West Dapto Open Space Design Manual)

Current Guidelines			
Classification		Size	Catchment (radius)
Local Passive	INFORMAL	0.5-2ha	400-600m
Neighbourhood Passive		2-4ha	2km
Local Active	FORMAL	1-2ha	400-600m
Neighbourhood Active		3-5ha	2km
District Active		5-8ha	Southern Ward of LGA
City Wide Active		8+ ha	Facility to serve whole LGA

Source: *West Dapto Open Space Design Manual*

It is understood that the current open space hierarchy was developed through the NSW Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government (2010) and the recommendations of a report prepared by Elton Consulting in 2007.

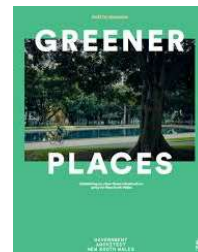
2.7 Developing the social infrastructure typology for this study

A range of contemporary approaches and infrastructure types have been considered through this study – outlined below.

2.7.1 Open space planning – contemporary approaches

The way we plan public open space is changing. The Urban Green Infrastructure Policy *Greener Places* (NSW) was released by the state government in 2017 and the Draft Guidelines *Open Space for Recreation* were released late in 2018 by the NSW Government Architect in 2018 for public review and discussion.

The *Greener Places*¹⁵ document aims to create a networked urban ecosystem of green space that encompasses parks and open spaces to help create a healthier, more liveable and resilient place to live. The policy advocates for green infrastructure to be considered as essential infrastructure throughout the urban design process, from strategy to construction and maintenance.



The objectives of the draft policy are:

- To protect, conserve and enhance NSW's network of green and open natural and cultural spaces
- To secure a network of high quality, high performing and well-designed green space, establishing a crucial component of urban infrastructure to address the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century
- To promote healthy living, encouraging physical activity, social cohesion, and enhancing wellbeing by providing liveable places for the NSW community
- To create a more strategic approach to planning for Green Infrastructure, encouraging early and integrated investment through statutory planning
- To deliver better tools for the delivery of Green Infrastructure across NSW.

The Draft Greener Places Design Guide contains three manuals/ tool kits that support the Greener Places policy; one being the *Open Space for Recreation Guide* which proposes a new framework for planning.

This guide has informed the WDURA Needs Assessment of Public Open Space and has provided significant guidance on the planning principles and performance criteria used for open space planning in particular.

In summary it advocates:

- A shift in focus from coarse measures such as hectares per 1000 to a performance approach combining a number of measures.
- An emphasis on the recreation opportunity outcomes required and defining the spaces needed to support these.
- A recognition that existing parks have a capacity and can only accommodate so much use before additional land is needed.
- Increased multiple use of open space and public spaces such as those within schools
- The Guide details a range of performance criteria that guide successful planning and delivery. It outlines **six core performance criteria** for consideration when planning for open space:
 - **Accessibility and Connectivity** - Ease of access is critical for the community to be able to enjoy and use public open space and recreation facilities.
 - **Distribution** - The ability of residents to gain access to public open space within an easy walk from home, workplaces, and schools is an important factor for quality of life. The geographic distribution of open space is a key access and equity issue for the community.

¹⁵ Source: <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/policies/greener-places>

- **Size and Shape** - Size and shape of open space has a direct bearing on the capacity of that open space to meet and accommodate recreation activities and needs.
- **Quantity** - In low- and high-density areas, good provision of public open space is essential to compensate for the lack of private open space to support active living and contribute to a more liveable neighbourhood.
- **Quality** - The quality of design and ongoing maintenance and management is critical to attracting use and activating the open space network.
- **Diversity** - The range of open space setting types within an urban area will determine the diversity of recreation opportunity for communities.

2.7.2 Cultural infrastructure types

The following typology adapts – for social infrastructure in the built environment – the typology used in the *Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+* and the City of Sydney commissioned Western Sydney University report *Mapping Culture: Venues and infrastructure in the City of Sydney* (2016). The typology is as follows:

- Practice: cultural infrastructure for professional creative practice and art form development, such as rehearsal rooms, artist studios, workshop spaces, and makers spaces
- Presentation: Cultural venues and infrastructure for audiences or spectatorship
- Participation: Cultural infrastructure for active participation that is centred on local communities. This includes any spaces which provide the forum for generating culture specific to the local community, and may include such venues as community centres, Aboriginal Cultural Centres, local libraries, and local history museums.

It is noted that there is some cross-over between cultural and general local community infrastructure under this typology, namely:

- Libraries are common venues for the local community to participate in culture
- Local community facilities are often relevant for both generating local participation in culture and in its presentation
- Open space has been extensively noted in the source typologies as relevant in the public presentation of culture, including through outdoor event spaces and public art.

While some forms of cultural infrastructure can be audited quantitatively, it is important for these spaces to be understood as dynamic processes. Here, the typology should be applied as a guide only, considering the peculiarities of cultural generation in a locality.

Section 6.7 outlines in further detail some of the emerging trends in cultural infrastructure planning.

2.7.3 Specialised community spaces

The audit and benchmarking of specialised spaces, for example youth or seniors friendly spaces, recognises that general audits of community space fails to recognise the particular needs of certain demographics within that community. The inclusion of these spaces within the typology recognises these needs, and any quantitatively or qualitatively understood gaps in their provision can be specifically addressed.

Although often these spaces are provided within larger multipurpose community centres, or integrated with other facilities such as open space or cultural centres – this typology recognises that these spaces must be understood as distinct community needs from the outset.

A further explanation for the rationale behind specialised community spaces is provided for in the research on age-specific community infrastructure planning (**Section 6.2**).

3.0 Approach to this assessment

3.1 Community and cultural infrastructure types

The community infrastructure typology shown below has been selected to be applied in the quantitative assessment that forms the core of this study. This represents a range of infrastructure essential to social sustainability in growth areas.

It is noted that these typologies were selected for general assessment and analysis to inform future discussions relating to gaps with key stakeholders. It is not anticipated that Council will be suitable to deliver on every typology identified. Many of these typologies will be addressed by state government agencies and private delivery. The role of council in this context therefore differs – ranging from direct delivery, partner, and advocate for provision.

3.1.1 Guiding principles

The following guiding principles have been identified based on best practice community infrastructure planning. It is noted that the language and terminology of these principles aligns closely with Council's Social infrastructure Planning Framework (see **Section 2.6.1**). These guiding principles will direct the analysis and recommendations arising from this study. Some of the underlying research and trends for these principles are identified in **Section 6.0**.

1. **Holistic** – consideration of the whole lifecycle of community infrastructure, aligning hard and soft infrastructure
2. **Strategic** – co-location of social infrastructure with other facilities and activity centres
3. **Fit for purpose** – flexible, adaptable spaces; prioritising multipurpose facilities and encouraging shared use
4. **Equitable** – accessible, inclusive and culturally appropriate, including age-friendly and child-friendly design
5. **Quality** – contributing to place-making and community identity, and achieving innovative models
6. **Sustainable** – social infrastructure will be ecologically, socially, and financially sustainable over generations

3.1.2 Study catchments

The catchments applied to this study have been chosen to align with the Wollongong Social infrastructure Planning Framework. It is noted that regional scale infrastructure has not been assessed quantitatively in this study. The hierarchy applied in this study is outlined in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Catchments applied to this study

Hierarchy Level	Population catchment	Geographic catchment
District	30,000-50,000 residents	4-10 km radius
Sub-District	20,000-30,000 residents	3-4 km radius
Local	5,000-20,000 residents	1-3 km radius
Neighbourhood	1,000-5,000 residents	<1km radius

Source: Wollongong City Council SIPP

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Table 3 Community infrastructure typology

Infrastructure category	Typology		Description	Notes	Hierarchy (Wollongong SIPP)	Geographic catchment (adapted from Wollongong SIPP)
General community facilities	Sub-district multipurpose community centre		Hubs based around libraries and/or other services, to include some specialised spaces.		Sub-district	3-4km
	Library space (standalone or combined)		Typically serve as anchors for hubs.		Sub-district	3-4km
	Neighbourhood multipurpose community centre		Smaller hubs to include multipurpose rooms with potential for some service provision and specialised spaces.		Neighbourhood	<1km
	Non-council bookable space		This typology captures those private spaces which provide for local community meeting needs		n/a	n/a
Specialised community facility	Youth	Youth-friendly space	These are lower-order youth spaces that are likely to be based at a centre or incorporated into open space.		Local	1-3km
		Youth centre	Higher-order youth services hub.		District	4-10km
	Seniors space			Opportunities to provide these will be addressed in relation to community centres	n/a	n/a
	Community Sheds and Gardens				n/a	n/a
	Co-working/ business incubator spaces				n/a	n/a
	Aboriginal community space				District	4-10km
	Places of worship				Local	1-3km
Education and Early Years	Child care places				Neighbourhood	<1km
	Government primary school				Local	1-3km
	Government high school				Sub-district	3-4km

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Creative and cultural facilities	Practice (incl. studio/workshop space)	Local community practice space		Consider integrated within community facilities	Local	1-3km
		<i>General qualitative assessment</i>		This assumes that higher order (regional/ sub-regional) arts and cultural facilities are provided elsewhere in Wollongong.	n/a	n/a
	Presentation (incl. performance and exhibition spaces)	District presentation facilities			n/a	n/a
		Local presentation spaces			Local	1-3km
	Participation (local cultural participation, incl. through public art and local heritage programs)				Neighbourhood	<1km
Health & wellbeing	Health Hub		These typically deliver primary care services and some allied/ outreach services such as mental health, drug and alcohol support.	This assumes higher-order (regional/sub-regional) facilities are provided elsewhere in Wollongong	District	4-10km
	Local Medical centre				Local	1-3km
	General Practitioner (GP)				Neighbourhood	<1km

3.2 Open space and recreation

This section provides a revised approach to the public open space provision in WDURA based on research and analysis. It strives to achieve optimal community recreation outcomes that will contribute to positive long term public health outcomes.

An overarching objective of the framework is to:

Ensure 85-90% of residents within WDURA are located within a 5-7 minute walk of high quality and functional open space.

3.2.1 Guiding principles

1. **Country First** – Acknowledging the rich and diverse history as well as the unique landscape character of WDURA. A place-based approach will be central to planning and design of the public open space network.
2. **Local Character and Heritage Conservation** - Ensuring public open spaces reflect, create and enhance local character of the various neighbourhoods and communities of WDURA.
3. **Equitable, Accessible and Diverse** - Ensuring all residents of WDURA are within walking access to functional public open space. Open space and recreation facilities are equitably distributed, providing a diverse range of recreation opportunities that embed universal design outcomes.
4. **Quality and Capacity** – Public open spaces in WDURA are to be of a high standard and ensure sufficient capacity for organised and informal open space uses. The provision of public open spaces will be integrated with the urban environment, connected to active transport and green space networks. Public open space will maximise opportunities for recreation by ensuring sufficient land area and land quality to accommodate multiple-use and changing community and activity demands over time.
5. **Resilient and Sustainable** –Public open spaces and recreation facilities in WDURA will aim to incorporate best practices in environmentally sustainable design and enable efficient ongoing asset management. Public Open Spaces should be located and designed to be resilient to the impacts of a changing climate while providing for multiple use open space that supports Council's sustainability and resilience initiatives.

3.2.2 Performance based approach to Public Open Space in WDURA

Based on assessment of the existing framework, review of the latest industry guidelines and experience of similar release areas across NSW, this proposed new draft public open space framework seeks to:

1. Simplify the number of levels in the hierarchy of provision to encourage more effective provision with an emphasis on capacity and better return on investment along with meeting future provision needs
2. Provide the basis for a performance-based criteria to ensure equitable distribution of and access to functional public open space as well as effective integration and co-location of recreation facilities suitable within hierarchy levels
3. Ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate use and acknowledging the nexus with land quality and suitability – including the development of performance criteria to ensure land is 'fit for purpose' and that planning to meet demand considers the functional area for recreation and sport as a subset of the overall open space estate which includes land with multiple other functions¹⁶ or 'primary purposes'.
4. Outline indicative activations to ensure diversity of recreation is achieved
5. Provide flexibility and adaptability to respond to changing demographic and participation trends.
6. Ensure deliverability through infrastructure investment and development which delivers sustainable and flexible resources that are affordable to develop and efficient to maintain.

¹⁶ Which generally could include drainage corridors, stormwater basins, waterways, powerline easements, buffer corridors, etc in their gross area calculation.

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Table 4 Proposed open space framework for West Dapto

Performance Criteria	Local Park	Linear Parks / Open Space corridors	District - Recreation	District - Sport	Urban Release Area Wide / Destination Parks
Size, Shape and Distribution	<p>Indicative area: 0.5-1.5ha SIZE: Min size- 0.5ha with 100% net functional area. Preferred size-1ha with 80% net functional area. Max size- 1.5ha with 60% net functional area **</p> <p>SHAPE: No side of the park to be less than 15m Distribution: 400-600m walking catchment. 5-7 min walking distance from residential areas (NOTE: walking time is based on available/planned active transport infrastructure i.e. footpaths, shared paths, etc.) Road frontage: min 50% (i.e. at least 2 sides of the park shape) Connectivity: Barrier free connectivity to the surrounding street network, open space network and residential areas</p>	<p>Indicative area: subject to the future green and blue grid. NOTE: Watercourses are acceptable as linear open space corridors. These will primarily serve as connection corridors. SIZE: Watercourses- Min 10-50m for each side of watercourses in line with Wollongong-DCP-2009-Chapter-E23-Riparian-Land-Management. Powerline easements- within 30m Net Functional area: N/A SHAPE: No entry to be less than 10m Road Frontage: Min 25% NOTE: No section of road frontage less than 50 m and gaps between road frontage or connection to other public spaces no greater than 100m Connectivity: Connectivity to residential street network, active transport corridors</p>	<p>Indicative area: 3-5ha SIZE: Minimum functional area of 2ha Net Functional area: 60% of total area SHAPE: min width-150m (to allow for proper orientation of fields) Distribution: 1.5-2.5km radius catchment Approx. 20-25min walking distance and drive time of 10min from residential areas. Road frontage: min 50% (i.e. at least 2 sides of the park shape) Connectivity: Connectivity to residential street network, active transport corridors, public transport and local centres</p>	<p>Indicative area: 5-10+ ha SIZE: Min-5ha Net Functional area: 70% of total area SHAPE: min width-150m (to allow for proper orientation of fields-min 2 fields) Distribution: 1.5-2.5km radius catchment Approx. 20-25min walking distance and drive time of 10min from residential areas. Road frontage: min 50% (i.e. at least 2 sides of the park shape) Connectivity: Connectivity to residential street network, active transport corridors, public transport-buses and local centres</p>	<p>Indicative area: 15+ ha SIZE: Min-15ha Net Functional area: 60% of total area SHAPE: min width-150-200m (to allow for proper orientation of fields-min 2 fields) Distribution: One centrally located to the release area with an approx. 15min drive time</p> <p>Road frontage: min 50% (i.e. at least 2 sides of the park shape) Connectivity: Connectivity to broader street network, active transport corridors, public transport-trains and buses and local centres</p>
<p>** - Net Functional Area is defined as the total area within an open space/park used for recreational activities like playground, kick-a-bout area, sportsgrounds, etc. Net functional area is exclusive of constrained land.</p>					

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Performance Criteria	Local Park	Linear Parks / Open Space corridors	District - Recreation	District - Sport	Urban Release Area Wide / Destination Parks
Land Quality and Land suitability	<p>Slope and Topography- no more than 20% of the area with slope greater than 1:10 (where 1 is vertical length and 10 is horizontal length)</p> <p>Hazards and Constraints (excluded from Public Open Space calculation): powerline easements, drainage corridors</p> <p>Flood prone land-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For substantial building infrastructure like clubhouse: 1% AEP and above - Other infrastructure related to park activation may be located in areas within: 1-5% AEP provided the floor levels of these facilities are above 5% AEP + freeboard. - Location of parks in flood zones: Local Park preferably located outside 1% AEP i.e. flood free land (considering everyday use of the Park) - Co-location with stormwater infrastructure: Preferably located separate to detention basins. Detention basin can form part of open spaces with functional land area greater than 1ha. - Barriers: road and railway corridors, waterways and drains, etc. - Visibility from street level - Safer Design Principles: blind spots, high vegetation cover, low surveillance areas, etc. - Solar Access: at least 3 hours of sunlight across 75% or more of the area, on the winter solstice - 21 June. - Universal accessibility 	<p>Slope and Topography: Watercourse embankments</p> <p>Hazards and Constraints: drainage corridors, loose soil, etc.</p> <p>Flood prone land- Infrastructure related to park activation (like toilets, kiosks) may be located in areas within: 1-5% AEP provided the floor levels of these facilities are above 5% AEP + freeboard.</p> <p>Consider flood resilient materials in amenities buildings that are subject to flooding.</p> <p>Barriers: waterways and drains, flood detention basins, etc.</p> <p>Safer Design Principles: high vegetation cover, low surveillance areas, etc.</p> <p>Solar access (where possible) and lighting</p> <p>Universal accessibility (where possible)</p>	<p>Slope and Topography: - no more than 20% of the area with slope greater than 1:10 (where 1 is vertical length and 10 is horizontal length)</p> <p>Hazards and Constraints (excluded from Public Open Space calculation): powerline easements, drainage corridors, etc.</p> <p>Flood prone land-1% AEP and above for substantial building infrastructure like clubhouse.</p> <p>Other infrastructure related to park activation (like toilets, kiosks) may be located in areas within 1% AEP or high flood frequency for constrained sites.</p> <p>Consider flood resilient materials in amenities buildings that are subject to flooding.</p> <p>Co-location with stormwater infrastructure: District Parks can be co-located with detention basins to allow dual functions.</p> <p>Barriers: road and railway corridors, waterways and drains, flood detention basins, etc.</p> <p>Safer Design Principles: blind spots, high vegetation cover, low surveillance areas, etc.</p> <p>Buffers: adjacent land use, noise impacts</p> <p>Solar Access: at least 3 hours of sunlight across 75% or more of the area, on the winter solstice - 21 June.</p> <p>Universal accessibility</p>	<p>Slope and Topography: Playing field areas are to be on one level (not tiered) to allow for maximum flexibility. The playing surface should be no steeper than 1:100 (where 1 is vertical length and 100 is horizontal length) along the line of play.</p> <p>Hazards and Constraints (excluded from Public Open Space calculation): powerline easements, drainage corridors, flood prone land, etc.</p> <p>Flood prone land-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For substantial building infrastructure like clubhouse: 1% AEP and above - Other infrastructure related to park activation (like toilets, kiosks) may be located in areas within: 1-5% AEP provided the floor levels of these facilities are above 5% AEP + freeboard. - Playing Fields: 5% AEP and 10% AEP where land is highly constrained. <p>Consider flood resilient materials in amenities buildings that are subject to flooding.</p> <p>Co-location with stormwater: District Sport can be co-located with detention basins to allow dual functions, preferably with functional land area greater than 2ha.</p> <p>Barriers: road and railway corridors, waterways and drains, flood detention basins, etc.</p> <p>Safer Design Principles: blind spots, high vegetation cover, low surveillance areas, etc.</p> <p>Buffers: adjacent land use, noise impacts</p> <p>Solar Access: at least 3 hours of sunlight across 75% or more of the area, on the winter solstice - 21 June.</p> <p>Universal accessibility</p>	<p>Slope and Topography: Playing field areas are to be on one level (not tiered) to allow for maximum flexibility. The playing surface should be no steeper than 1:100 (where 1 is vertical length and 100 is horizontal length) along the line of play.</p> <p>Hazards and Constraints (excluded from Public Open Space calculation): powerline easements, drainage corridors, flood prone land, etc.</p> <p>Flood prone land-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For substantial building infrastructure like clubhouse: 1% AEP and above - Other infrastructure related to park activation (like toilets, kiosks) may be located in areas within: 1-5% AEP provided the floor levels of these facilities are above 5% AEP + freeboard. - Playing Fields: 5% AEP and 10% AEP where land is highly constrained. <p>Consider flood resilient materials in amenities buildings that are subject to flooding.</p> <p>Co-location with stormwater: Detention basin can form part of open spaces with functional land area greater than 2ha.</p> <p>Barriers: road and railway corridors, waterways and drains, flood detention basins, etc.</p> <p>Safer Design Principles: blind spots, high vegetation cover, low surveillance areas, etc..</p> <p>Buffers: adjacent land use, noise impacts</p> <p>Solar Access: at least 3 hours of sunlight across 75% or more of the area, on the winter solstice - 21 June.</p> <p>Universal accessibility</p>

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Performance Criteria	Local Park	Linear Parks / Open Space corridors	District - Recreation	District - Sport	Urban Release Area Wide / Destination Parks
Site Infrastructure	<p>Potential Activation and Infrastructure:</p> <p>Various play including intergenerational play, nature-based play and sensory play with built shade</p> <p>Kick-a-bout area</p> <p>Small sided multi-purpose courts</p> <p>Outdoor fitness station</p> <p>Covered Seating (natural or shading device)</p> <p>Picnic tables and BBQ (covered)</p> <p>General waste and recycling Bin</p> <p>Pathways</p> <p>Parking (on-street if needed)</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>Landscaping-vegetation hierarchy</p> <p>Bubbler/ tap</p> <p>Fencing</p>	<p>Potential Activation and Infrastructure:</p> <p>Public Art</p> <p>Informal Covered Seating (natural shade)</p> <p>Picnic tables and BBQ (covered)</p> <p>General waste and recycling Bin</p> <p>Shared ways (min 3m wide)</p> <p>Wayfinding Signage</p> <p>Lighting</p>	<p>Potential Activation and Infrastructure:</p> <p>Large inclusive play with built shade</p> <p>Youth Spaces incorporating skate facilities, multi-purpose courts (inclusive of basketball)</p> <p>Public Art features embedded in recreation elements</p> <p>Outdoor fitness station (various levels)</p> <p>Public Toilets/amenities</p> <p>Fenced Off-leash Dog Park (align with WCC guidelines)</p> <p>Covered Seating (natural or shading device)</p> <p>Picnic tables and BBQ (covered)</p> <p>General waste and recycling Bin</p> <p>Shared ways-min 3m wide</p> <p>Walk and Bike trail- min 3m wide</p> <p>Learn to ride</p> <p>Parking</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>Landscaping-vegetation hierarchy, landscaped gardens</p> <p>Bubbler/ tap</p> <p>Fencing</p>	<p>Potential Activation and Infrastructure:</p> <p>Formal playing fields-multipurpose (min 2 x playing fields) with drainage and irrigation</p> <p>Multi-purpose courts (min 4 courts) including skate opportunities</p> <p>Spectator seating</p> <p>Public toilet/Amenities</p> <p>Clubhouse-toilets, gender equitable change rooms, storage and canteen</p> <p>Sports lighting</p> <p>Local Playground with seating and built shade</p> <p>Co-location with Community and cultural facilities</p> <p>Public Art features embedded in recreation elements</p> <p>Informal Seating (natural shade)</p> <p>Picnic tables and BBQ (covered)</p> <p>General waste and recycling Bin</p> <p>Walk and Bike trail network- min 3m wide</p> <p>Parking</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>Landscaping-vegetation hierarchy</p> <p>Bubbler/ tap</p> <p>Fencing</p> <p>Fenced Off-leash Dog Park (align with WCC guidelines)</p>	<p>Potential Activation and Infrastructure:</p> <p>Integration of formal sports servicing higher level of play (inclusive of fields and courts)</p> <p>Playing fields to be inclusive of drainage and irrigation</p> <p>Spectator seating</p> <p>Off-leash Dog Park (align with WCC guidelines)</p> <p>Clubhouse-toilets, gender equitable change rooms, storage and canteen</p> <p>Sports lighting</p> <p>Large Destination Play with potential integration of nature play and/or water play with built shade</p> <p>Youth spaces for various activities</p> <p>Public toilet/Amenities</p> <p>Co-location with Community and cultural facilities</p> <p>Public Art features embedded in infrastructure elements</p> <p>Informal Seating (natural shade)</p> <p>Picnic tables and BBQ (covered)</p> <p>General waste and recycling Bin</p> <p>Trail based activities</p> <p>Other facilities (pump track, learn to ride, BMX, skate park, etc)</p> <p>Parking</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>Landscaping-vegetation hierarchy, landscaped gardens, large plantations (native flowering trees as per Council's Tree Canopy Guidelines)</p> <p>Bubbler/ tap</p>

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Performance Criteria	Local Park	Linear Parks / Open Space corridors	District - Recreation	District - Sport	Urban Release Area Wide / Destination Parks
Diversity and Opportunity	<p>Provision for Group Use</p> <p>Provision for Social events</p> <p>Multiple activations - Uses/ activities</p> <p>Play equipment to suit the local demographic</p> <p>Supporting Other facilities (bicycle circuit, walk and bike trails)</p> <p>Park that is walkable on an everyday basis- play for toddlers, walk/stroll, ride to the park, etc.</p> <p>Opportunity to develop and establish a shared way connectivity network between the Public Open Space typologies.</p>	<p>Activation of waterway corridors and green links, green connection between the escarpment and Lake Illawarra</p> <p>A web of links across the West Dapto Stages</p> <p>Provides opportunity for regional connectivity</p> <p>Multiple bush trail options with connectivity to residential areas</p> <p>Urban greening opportunities</p> <p>Increased tree canopy opportunity across all stages.</p> <p>Opportunity to develop shared way/pathway connectivity between linear open space corridors, watercourses and the broader Public Open Space network.</p>	<p>Provision for Group Use</p> <p>Provision for Social events</p> <p>Supports multiple age groups</p> <p>Multiple activations - Uses/ activities</p> <p>Multi-generational play opportunity</p> <p>Supporting Other facilities (bicycle circuit, walk and bike trails)</p> <p>Provides different recreation options to the community</p> <p>Co-location of activities</p> <p>Increased average length of stay</p> <p>Opportunity to develop and establish a shared way connectivity network between the Public Open Space typologies.</p>	<p>Number of activations - Uses/ activities</p> <p>Round the year activation</p> <p>Supports multiple age groups and interests</p> <p>Sporting Fields, courts, facilities</p> <p>Opportunity for local clubs</p> <p>Multiple sport options</p> <p>Opportunity to develop and establish a shared way connectivity network between the Public Open Space typologies.</p>	<p>Number of activations - Uses/ activities</p> <p>Round the year activation</p> <p>Sporting Fields, courts, facilities</p> <p>Multiple sport options</p> <p>Multi-generational play opportunities</p> <p>More recreation facilities suitable to all age groups</p> <p>Destination place</p> <p>Provision for cultural and main events</p> <p>Increased average Length of Stay</p> <p>Opportunity to develop and establish a shared way connectivity network between the Public Open Space typologies.</p>
Quantity Requirements	<p>0.96ha/1,000</p> <p>Based on 55 local parks at 1ha each. Please NOTE the total number of parks is a guiding number to meet the recreational needs of the projected population. Rather than a fixed number maybe a range of 35-55 local parks at 1ha/park.</p> <p>To be tested spatially in terms of access</p>	<p>Placed based approach</p> <p>Key source of the trail park network</p> <p>Will complement functional open space supply</p>	<p>0.26 ha/1,000</p> <p>Based on five sites at 3ha each</p>	<p>1.3ha / 1,000</p> <p>Based on 1 field to 2,015 people (Western District Average)</p> <p>14 sportsgrounds providing 28 fields</p> <p>14 sportsgrounds x 5ha (note that a mix of sportsground sizes to be provided. i.e. Some sites at 5ha, others at 10ha etc)</p> <p>Additional 3.36ha for tennis courts, netball courts including supporting infrastructure. This assumes courts will be co-located with sportsgrounds</p>	<p>0.26ha/1,000</p> <p>Based on one site in West Dapto at 15ha</p>

NOTE: Development of quantity benchmarks

The proposed Public Open Space Framework for WDURA is developed using a streamlined hierarchy combined with a range of performance criteria, as noted in table 4 of Section 3.2.2. The quantity benchmarks developed for the provision of public open space across WDURA have considered benchmarks from other Councils relative to the scope of WDURA alongside the Draft Greener Places Design Guide. The size/area recommendations for district recreation, district sport and city-wide park are conscious of the varied availability of land that is fit for purpose and also to ensure that they have the capacity to facilitate potential co-location of recreation facilities.

3.2.3 A note on constrained lands

Constrained lands are often not suitable for other land use purposes such as housing, retail etc and can be proposed as public open space. Depending on the nature of constraints and the topography of the land, these spaces can be poor quality, have limited functionality and effectively be unusable for public recreation.

The inclusion of constrained land should not form part of the public open space calculations if it cannot deliver functional recreation outcomes. Whilst these areas may be zoned as public open space, they are to be in addition to minimum requirements.

Where there is demonstrated capacity for meaningful public open space access within a dual-purpose site- only the proportion of functional space should be considered towards public open space provision.

Below are examples of constrained land generally unsuitable for inclusion in the public open space (public parks) network. This includes land that is:

- Known or suspected to be contaminated.
- Under high-voltage powerlines or within 50m of the line easement.
- Where community use is constrained by easements and other infrastructure functions.
- Constrained by proximity to noxious uses.
- High odour areas associated with waste management and water management facilities.
- Highly vegetated riparian corridors that are unable to accommodate recreation use.
- Unfavourable topography including slope gradients larger than 1:5 (20%).
- Areas of cultural significance where public use is inappropriate or insensitive.
- Waterways, drainage swales and stormwater treatments such as gross pollutant traps and retention systems. Multiple use corridors may be appropriate if design meets suitable criteria for dual or multiple use for drainage open space.
- Spaces that are not able to comply with minimum size and safety criteria including passive surveillance requirements as outlined above.
- Active Cemeteries, in particular grave plots and buildings. Such sites can provide opportunities for informal use in addition to minimum public open space requirements. Cemeteries can provide landscape treatment opportunities including native and exotic tree species.

PART B: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

4.0 West Dapto context

4.1 Introduction to the West Dapto Community

West Dapto is a growth area located in Wollongong's southwest, approximately 12km from the Wollongong CBD and 80km from the Sydney CBD. Previously rural/agricultural land, development of the area began in 1993 with the release of 1,400 lots in Horsley, including the Highcroft Estate. West Dapto has a current population of approximately 14,000 residents (2021).

The retail needs of residents are serviced by the Dapto Town Centre located on Bong Bong Road, across the rail line and Princes Highway. Access to the Wollongong CBD is provided by rail (via Dapto Station), and by road via Princes Highway and Princess Motorway, both major north-south arterial roads. In the future, it is expected that retail and service needs of residents in West Dapto will be increasingly met by the future town centres in the release area.

This section aims to understand the existing West Dapto community, including its particular needs to inform qualitative inputs to the social infrastructure gap analysis.

NB. Demographic components of this assessment rely on 2016 census data, and are updated using other official data sources. The existing community profile is based on the boundary of the WDURA outlined in the West Dapto Contributions Plan 2020 – including all stages and the existing suburb of Horsley.

4.2 Existing community profile

A summary of demographic characteristics of the existing West Dapto community is presented in **Table 5** and compared against the municipality and Greater Sydney. This information is largely sourced from the 2016 ABS Census, the National Skills Commission Small Area Labour Market Information, and the ABS Regional Population.

Despite the relative age of existing development, West Dapto's existing community profile (2016) is consistent with a typical greenfield development area, with larger households, a high proportion of couple families, a younger population, and a low proportion of medium and high-density dwellings. Notably, despite having significantly higher incomes and similar mortgage repayments, mortgage stress in West Dapto is higher than the City of Wollongong. This suggests a high proportion of households with incomes below the median (income) have repayments close-to or above the median (repayment).

WDURA Community Snapshot

Demographic trends and patterns provide an indication of the existing demographic profile and will inform future trends and needs.

Adaptable, high quality and accessible social infrastructure will be critical in supporting the high growth trends and meeting the changing demographic needs of the community.

Statistics are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Usual residence data) which have been compiled and presented in by .id and the Department of Planning and Environment Population Projections.

Population

14,000

*Estimated Resident Population
in WDURA (2021)*

Median Age

34

In WDURA

Median Income

\$1,824

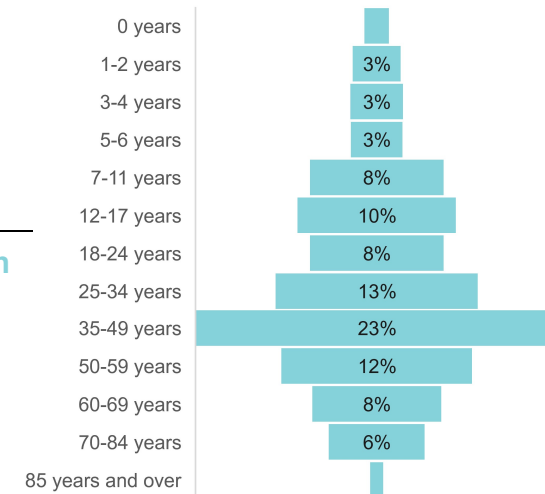
Per week per household

Overseas born

15%

*Of residents born
overseas*

Age Structure

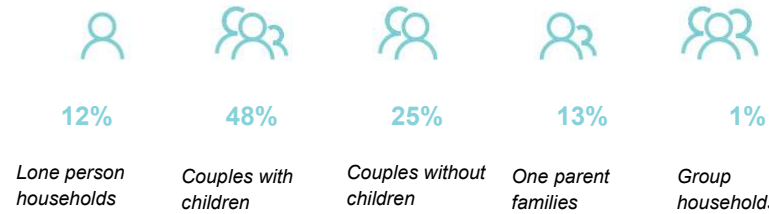


Average Household Size

3.1

Persons per household

Household Structure



Household Type

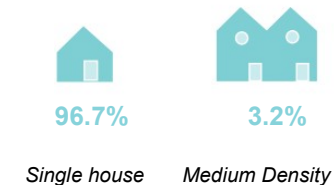


Table 5 WDURA Community Profile

Indicator	WDURA	City of Wollongong	Greater Sydney
Resident Population (2020)	14,000	219,800	5.4 million
Average household size	3.1	2.6	2.8
Medium and high-density dwellings	3.2%	29.4%	42.3%
Lone person households	12.1%	25.5%	21.7%
Median age	34	39	36
Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Population	2.4%	2.6%	1.4%
Language other than English spoken at home	11.1%	17.7%	37.5%
Overseas born	15.4%	22.9%	38.1%
Top 3 countries of birth (other than Australia)	England (4.9%)	England (4.2%)	China (5.0%)
	New Zealand (1.0%)	China (1.6%)	England (3.4%)
	FYROM* (0.9%)	FYROM* (1.5%)	India (2.9%)
Households experiencing housing stress	Mortgage (10.9%)	Mortgage (6.3%)	Mortgage (8.4%)
	Rent (6.0%)	Rent (13.0%)	Rent (14.2%)
Median weekly household income	\$1,824	\$1,342	\$1,773
University qualification	25.2%	39.2%	53.7%
Top 3 occupations	Clerical/admin. workers (17.6%)	Professionals (23.2%)	Professionals (26.3%)
	Technicians/ trades workers (16.0%)	Technicians/trades workers (14.8%)	Clerical/admin. workers (14.6%)
	Professionals (15.4%)	Clerical/ admin. workers (13.6%)	Managers (13.7%)
Unemployment rate (Sep 2021)	3.1%	5.5%	5.7%

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016; National Skills Commission, Small Area Labour Market Information, 2021; ABS, Regional Population; Ethos Urban

Note: *FYROM - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

4.3 Social issues and trends

Wollongong LGA experiences a relatively high level of disadvantage compared to Greater Illawarra and New South Wales, scoring an average of 989 on the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage in 2016. Within that, Ward 3 (containing West Dapto) scores even lower at 938.3 for the same year, signalling a substantial degree of socio-economic disadvantage. Aside from this, Ward 3 also contains a much higher proportion of residents living in social housing (8.3%) compared to Regional NSW.

While there is variation in SEIFA scores across the Council, the presence of relative disadvantage in some areas – particularly in proximity to the WDURA – has implications for the delivery of social infrastructure. For these reasons, delivery of social infrastructure must account for this disadvantage by enabling equitable access through affordability and proximity to public and active transport.

4.3.1 Housing affordability and rising costs of living

Housing is a central component of productive, healthy, and meaningful lives, and a principle social determinant of health and wellbeing.¹⁷ Cost of housing can form large ongoing expenses in household budgets. A survey done for the Committee of Sydney identified housing as the biggest issue among residents in Greater Sydney, impacting quality of life for many of them.¹⁸ The same survey revealed that rising cost of living is also a major issue for residents. About a third of the respondents have frequently chosen to forego essential goods and services because of the high cost of living, pointing to the challenge current residents face in addition to housing stress.

Housing affordability in Wollongong was identified as a challenge in the *Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper* (WCC, 2020). In Wollongong, house prices soared by 12% in 2021 and continues to climb as current supply and expected development does not match rapidly increasing demand for regional housing. Land availability crisis and increasing in-migration put pressure on housing supply that hikes up prices and further challenges housing affordability.

¹⁷ Baker, Lester, Bentley & Beer (2016) Poor housing quality: Prevalence and health effects, *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*

¹⁸ Life in Sydney 2022 (Ispos and Commission for Sydney, 2022)

4.4 Contemporary trends in open space, recreation and sport

Consideration of emerging trends in open space and recreation is important when planning for the future of parks, open spaces and recreation facilities. The most important considerations are:







- Changes in community preferences and participation patterns; and
- Changes in how parks, open spaces and recreation infrastructure is being planned and provided.

As identified by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, six megatrends – an important pattern of social, economic or environmental change - are likely to shape the Australian sports sector over the next 30 years:






- A perfect fit – Individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise. People fit sport into their increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles to achieve personal health objectives.
- From extreme to mainstream – This megatrend captures the rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports, which are particularly popular with younger generations. These sports typically involve complex, advanced skills and have some element of inherent danger and/ or thrill-seeking.
- More than sport – Governments, businesses and communities increasingly recognise the broader benefits of sport. Sport can help achieve mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development and international cooperation objectives.
- Everybody's game – Australia and other countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development face an ageing population. This will change the types of sports we play and how we play them.
- New wealth, new talent – Population and income growth throughout Asia will create tougher competition and new opportunities for Australia both on the sports field and in the sports business environment.
- Tracksuits to business suits – Market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport in the future. Loosely organised community sports associations are likely to be replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems in light of market pressures. The cost of participating in sport is also rising, which is a participation barrier for many people.

4.4.1 Drivers of participation and social trends

Sport Australia's 'Drivers of Participation' outlines broader social trends and how these influence trends in sport and active recreation participation and, subsequently, sport facility provision.

 Share economy: Consumers are becoming less attached to the ownership of goods, and are more frequently renting or sharing services through peer-to-peer platforms.	 Virtual is reality: Consumers are increasingly moving online to connect, deliver and access services, obtain information, perform transactions, and work.	 Experiences and personalisation: Consumers are increasingly seeking experiences over products with an expectation for these experiences to meet individual needs and wants.
 Convenience is king: Consumers expect instant gratification through the rise of on-demand services built upon speed and accessibility.	 Lifestyle and community: Consumers want to be a part of something and are attracted to products that define them and their lifestyle or community.	 Holistic health: Consumers are increasingly seeking out healthier lifestyles with a focus on measuring and maintaining optimal physical and mental health.

These social trends translate to the following current sport trends:

 New technologies: Technology is having a major influence on how spectators, participants and home-viewers observe, engage and consume sport.	 eSports: eSports is a significant contributor to the sport sector with approximately one-fifth of the world actively playing video games at a value of \$194m.	 Sport to get fit: Consumers are increasingly engaging in modified sport products designed to get fit whilst participation rates in traditional organised sports have declined.
 Less time more options: Consumers have less time to spend on sport and recreation yet have a greater range of options and opportunities to participate in.	 Adapted offerings: Sports are being challenged to capture the interest and involvement of diverse audience with many developing and modifying products to meet new consumer needs.	

4.4.2 Social factors impacting sport and recreation participation

The last 10 years has seen some significant shifts in the social factors affecting sport and recreation participation. These include:

- A generally ageing population and growing population of active and financially independent retirees who readily participate in outdoor recreation and travel.
- Increasing densities in larger cities and increasing take up of medium and high density living for young couples and families with young children.
- Declining housing affordability pushing many aspiring homeowners and renters to urban fringes, greenfield development fronts and regional areas.
- Increased 'seachange and treechange' activity with lifestyle and affordability driving interstate migration (along with employment).
- Rapid change in employment structures with increased prevalence of part time work and rising participation in the 24-hour economy. More than half of working Australians are now in part time or casual and insecure work.
- High correlation between low socio-economic areas and worsening health outcomes due to lifestyle related illness. This issue is driving an imperative to improve urban design outcomes to encourage more active lifestyles and reduce social isolation and disadvantage.
- Increasingly multi-cultural society. A greater variety of recreational activities reflecting a wide range of interests is desired.

These shifting social factors are impacting on the sport and recreation landscape in various ways, including:

- A higher demand for convenience focused offerings that can be undertaken at times that suit the individual.
- Increased utilisation of public open space for social and recreation activities due to increasing densities and reduced provision of private open space.
- A greater number of offerings and adapted formats of sport to encourage ongoing participation.
- A greater presence of commercial sport providers with convenience focused adapted offerings.
- A shift away from traditional sporting seasons.
- Declining volunteerism and changing sport governance structures.
- Increased use of technology to access and facilitate participation in sport and physical activity. One in five Australians (19%) use apps for tracking activity or training.
- Facilities require to be multi-purpose and adaptable, providing flexibility in programming and use in response to changing recreation demands.

4.4.3 National participation trends

Data insights provided by Sport Australia demonstrate that participation and physical activity has increased since 2001. The majority of this growth has occurred through non-sport physical activities such as walking and attending the gym. This is shown in the graph below.

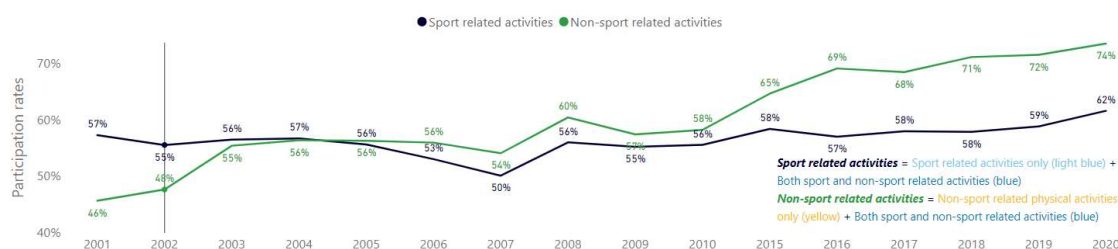


Figure 15 Participation over time by type (Source: AusPlay)

4.4.4 Changes in active recreation

Sport and physical activity are increasingly important to our health and wellbeing

In 2019 the National Heart Foundation of Australia released its third edition of the *Blueprint for an Active Australia*. Some key evidence cited in this report includes:

- Heart disease remains the single leading cause of death in Australia
- Physical activity can significantly reduce heart disease risk and the burden of a range of other chronic diseases, as well as improve mental health.

'Nearly 6 in 10 adults, 3 quarters of seniors and over 8 in 10 children and young people are not active enough for good heart health. This ranges Australia among the world's most inactive nations.'

Significant amount of research has provided insight into the importance of planning for active and healthy communities. The availability of green spaces, including parks, playgrounds and streetscapes that are safe, accessible, walkable and inviting are a key component of an environment that supports physically active lifestyles.

We need to have urban environments that make it easy and attractive to exercise as well as provide a range of opportunities to enable activity. While it is important to promote the benefits of physical activity to children and adults, there is a need to ensure that our parks can support and encourage physical activity for all ages, abilities, genders, cultures and socio-economic groups.

NSW residents are changing how active they are and what they do for active recreation

Over the last three years in NSW AusPlay participation data has highlighted:

1. Walking (recreational) continues to be, by far, the most popular activity (43.3% in 2020). This is consistent with previous trends.
2. Fitness/ Gym, Swimming, Athletics, Cycling, Football/ Soccer and Bushwalking have consistently rated as the top seven activities since 2015.
3. Only minor changes in participation are evident between 2017 and 2019:
4. Since 2015 participation has increased slightly in eight of the top 10 activities, with the largest increases being in Fitness/ Gym (↑4.8%) and Walking (↑2.8%).

4.4.5 AusPlay Sport and Physical Activity Participation Survey

Sport Australia conducts the AusPlay survey – a national survey to track the sporting behaviours and activities of the Australian population.

Over the last three years in NSW, AusPlay participation data has highlighted the following for adult participation:

- The top five activities have remained stable for the past 4 years; these are walking, fitness/ gym, swimming, athletics/ track (including jogging and running) & field and cycling
- Walking (recreational) continues to be by far the most popular activity. This is consistent with previous trends
- Participation has increased in 10 of the top 15 activities between 2017 and 2020, with the largest increase being in fitness/ gym (↑4.3%).

Over the last three years in NSW, AusPlay participation data has highlighted the following for child participation:

- Swimming is consistently the most popular activity for NSW children (likely as a result of learn to swim programs)
- Australian football and football/ soccer are significantly more popular among male children than females, while the reverse is true for dancing (recreational), netball and gymnastics
- Participation has increased in six of the top 10 activities between 2017 and 2020, with the largest increase being in swimming (↑5.9%).

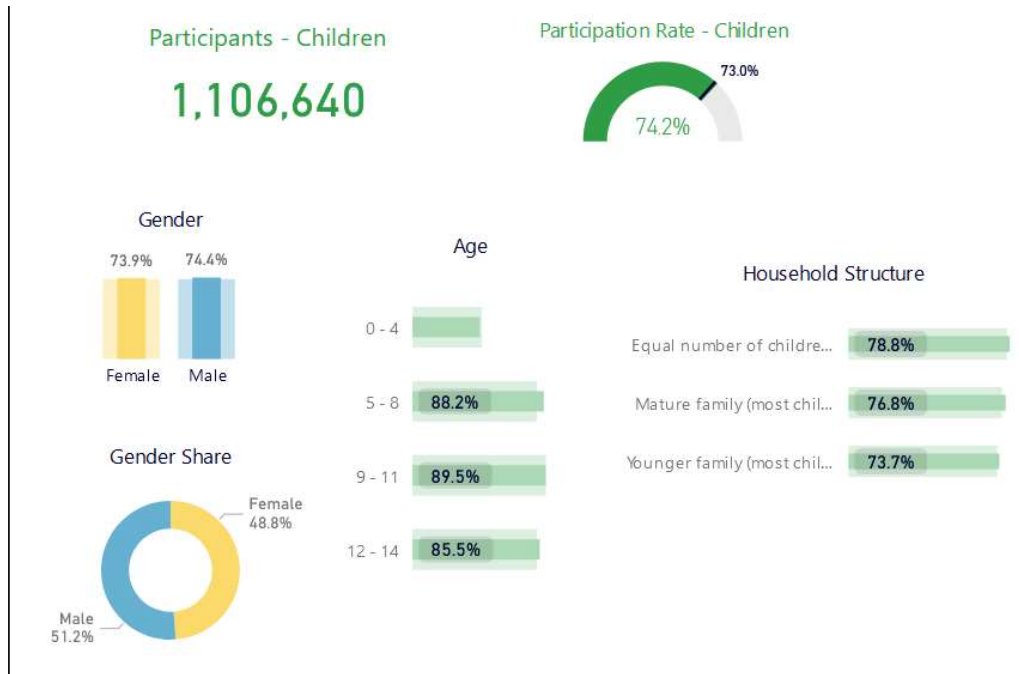


Figure 18 Sport participation for Children in NSW

Source: AusPlay Data 2020/21

4.4.6 Ausplay Results for Wollongong City Council

As show below, the AusPlay results for Wollongong participation across all forms of activities highlight the most participated activities are walking, fitness/gym, swimming, running and cycling. This indicates a preference towards conscience focused forms of participation where residents can choose a time and location to participate that suits their individual preferences.

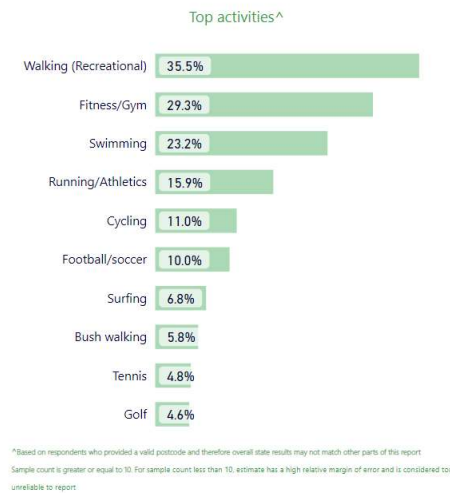


Figure 5 Top 10 most participated recreational activities in Wollongong City Council
Source: AusPlay Data 2020/21

AusPlay results for club-based participation in Wollongong indicates popularity in football, golf, tennis, Australian rules football and rugby league.

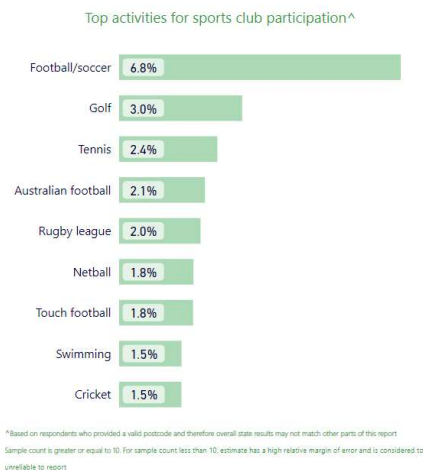


Figure 6 Top 10 club-based participation in Wollongong City Council
Source: AusPlay Data 2020/21

4.4.7 Emerging sport participation trends – impact of COVID-19 on organised sport¹⁹

The full impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the sporting industry is still emerging. However, an assessment of current evidence provides some insights into how organised sport has been affected so far. Sport Australia has conducted a brief assessment of the emerging trends impacting organised sport in Australia, to provide up to date insights, but also to potentially guide a future participation focus. Understanding how Australians' sporting habits have been affected could provide helpful context in assessing a future focus for Sport Australia and the sport planning industry.

The three broad areas of interest and impact are:

- Physical Wellbeing
- Mental Wellbeing
- Financial Wellbeing

Physical wellbeing

The Emerging Sport Participation Trends-Impact of COVID-19 on Organised Sport report indicates:

- Decrease in young participation in organised sport: Increased participation costs, reduction in volunteers, and a reduced sport development workforce have created more barriers affecting participation levels of young Australians.
- Older Australians appear to have been more active during the pandemic and over a sustained period.
- Females have consistently been more active on purpose across both waves of the pandemic. In contrast, the male data shows pronounced peaks and troughs. Women are more likely than men to participate in the types of physical activity, such as walking for daily exercise, which were still possible during periods of lockdown. Conversely, males play more organised sport, which was turned off and on throughout 2020.
- Aboriginal and Torres Islander People: During 2019 and 2020, an increase in physical activity was indicated in the AusPlay survey.

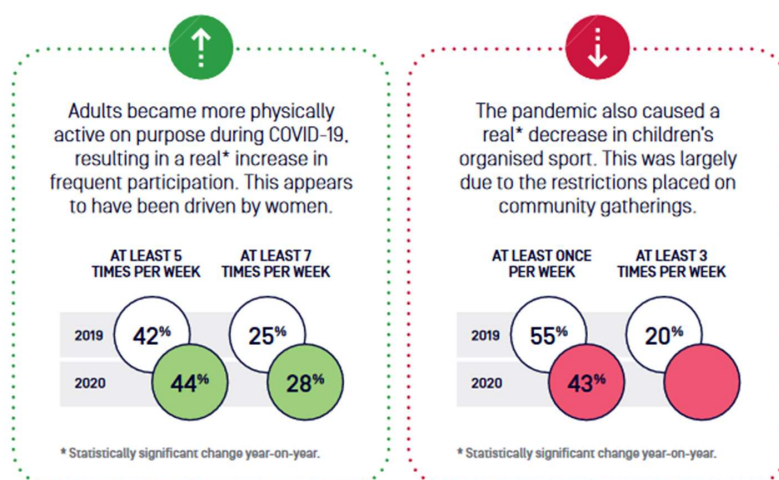


Figure 19 AusPlay 2021 – impact of the covid-19 pandemic

Under the cloud of COVID-19, Australians were about 3-5% more physically active during restrictions between April and June 2020 (AusPlay, 2020), at a time when organised sport was not possible for public health reasons. When considering which activities were the most popular for Australians, Figure 20 shows the prominence of non-organised, recreational activities during 2020. While this is influenced by the fact these activities are also COVID-19

¹⁹ SportAus, October 2021, 'Emerging Sport Participation Trends-Impacts of COVID19 on Organised Sport'

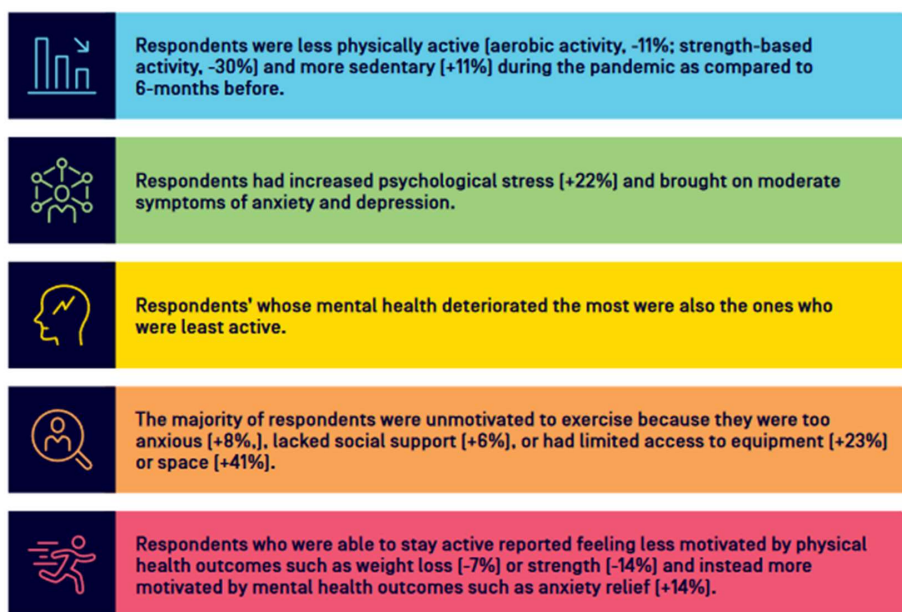
safe, the trend towards these activities has been established even prior to the pandemic. Golf and tennis reported growth during 2020 but this has been attributed to the social (while still socially distanced) element of the game.



Figure 20 Top Ten activities with increased participants 2020

Mental wellbeing

The pandemic has impacted the mental health of many Australians with numerous publications linking a decline in mental health to declining levels of physical activity and increased sedentary behaviour. A 2021 online survey sought to understand why and how physical activity and sedentary behaviour had changed because of the pandemic, and how those changes impacted mental health. The survey reported:



This study demonstrates a direct link between mental health and physical activity and the value in remaining active during periods of high stress.

Financial wellbeing

- Paying for sport in the current financial climate could be a barrier for many Australians as the impact of COVID-19 has affected disposable income and influences spending choices. With costs being an issue for many Australians, this will likely impact paying for traditional organised sports participation. Combined with the increasingly popular community trend towards free and lower cost outdoor and recreational physical activities, organised sport participation is at risk of becoming a more discretionary priority with many Australians.
- Sporting organisations primarily depend on membership income as a key source of revenue to fund ongoing operations and support their workforce. With sport cancelled across Australia, this lack of revenue is impacting sporting organisations at all levels and has placed the survival of some community sporting clubs in jeopardy.

Change will be easier for some sports than others due to many factors including resources, capability and possibly even a readiness or desire to change. But, even with limited resources, a review of current participation offerings to align with contemporary demand could build resilience and facilitate growth.

4.4.8 Active Kids Program

The NSW Active Kids Voucher provides up to two \$100 vouchers per household for school aged children to help with the costs of participating in sport. Results for Wollongong in 2019 (pre-Covid) are outlined below:

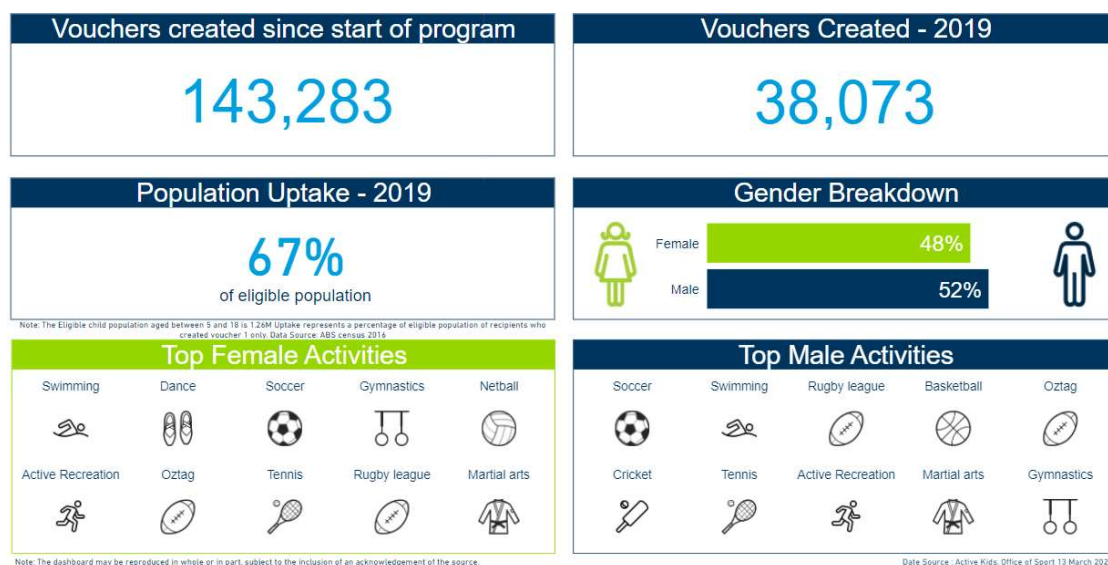


Figure 21 Active Kids Program in Wollongong for 2019 (pre-COVID)

Table 6 Top five participation activities in Wollongong City

Top Five Activities for Females	Top Five Activities for Males
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Dance • Soccer • Gymnastics • Netball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer • Swimming • Rugby League • Basketball • Oztag

5.0 Strategic policy context

5.1 Key strategic documents

A review of Council's key strategic documents impacting the project highlights the following key ambitions and drivers for delivering social infrastructure for this important area. Our work will closely reference and aim to deliver on these ambitions as a guiding star throughout. It is noted that Council's Places for People: Social Infrastructure Planning Framework (2018) has been outlined in **Section 2.6.1** above.

5.1.1 Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (2020)

The Wollongong LSPS sets out the 20-year land use vision for the Wollongong LGA. The vision is designed to guide land use decisions City-wide, being used for assessment of planning proposals and monitoring Council's implementation of State government plans. Key outcomes from this document with bearing on social infrastructure include to:

- Work with the community to deliver on their cultural and creative aspirations, unique identities, and needs.
- Build inclusive communities.
- Undertake recreation planning for aquatic and leisure facilities.
- Prioritise the provision of pedestrian/cycle paths along with the planning of key infrastructure along these routes.
- Provide community and recreational facilities.

This Study will help with meeting key strategies such as:

- 4.1.4 Social Infrastructure Planning Framework: to enable Council to deliver high quality facilities that support service delivery and meet the needs and expectations of the Wollongong community, that is both economically and ecologically sustainable.
- 4.1.6 Sportsground and Sporting Facilities Strategy: to increase sportsground capacity across the LGA
- 4.1.9 Public Toilets Strategy: assist Council in delivering effective and coordinated public toilet provision over the next 10 years.
- 5.2.1 Providing improved tree canopy and vegetation cover for urban greening.
- 6.1.3 Urban Greening Strategy 2018 seeks to increase the quality and quantity of all vegetation and open green space on all land types in an urban setting

5.1.2 Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan (2019)

This Community Strategic Plan is a whole of community plan, in which all levels of government, business, educational institutions, community groups and individuals have an important role. The Plan outlines the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and includes strategies for how we will achieve them.

The plan includes the following overall Community Vision: *From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and we will be leaders in building an educated, creative and connected community.*

The plan outlines a number of visions and goals with bearing on social infrastructure in this study, including that:

- Community assets are well-maintained and provided to meet the current and future needs of residents.
- Residents should have access to a variety of learning opportunities, timely and affordable medical services, quality public open and recreational space, and spaces for cultural/creative expression and appreciation.
- Development is supported by integrated transport connections, as well as active transport routes such as walking and cycling.
- The natural environment, including coastal areas and waterways is protected and enhanced.
- The sustainability of the urban environment is improved.
- Increase in physical fitness, mental health and emotional wellbeing of the residents.

5.1.3 West Dapto Vision 2018

The West Dapto Vision (2018) reviews the 2008 Structure Plan for West Dapto, testing previous assumptions that informed the plan. The vision recognises that, although the fundamental structure and outcome remains the same, there has been some refinement based on improved data and understanding of the area's opportunities and constraints.

The Vision outlines a number of strategic planning principles, which will feed into the development and implementation of the structure plan.



Figure 7 West Dapto Vision 2018 – Structure and relationships of principles to planning tools

Source: Wollongong City Council

The following table outlines how key principles are addressed in this report.

Table 7 West Dapto Vision – Planning Principles Appraisal

West Dapto planning principle	How this is addressed in this Study
Transport	An integrated transport system that caters for public transport, cars, pedestrians and cyclists will be important in creating equitable access to social infrastructure for residents of West Dapto.
Heritage conservation	Heritage items and sites of Aboriginal Heritage Significance will be assessed qualitatively when considering opportunities for cultural and creative infrastructure in this study, and in the open space and recreation sections through identification of potential opportunities. Particularly, embedding local history and character in new communities (principle 3) is considered a key priority for cultural infrastructure delivery – and is specifically assessed under the 'local participation' typology.
Open space and recreation principles	An overarching framework with four inter-related principles is designed to achieve the open space objective for the WDURA.
Community and Education Facilities	These guiding principles are addressed generally through alignment with best practice planning considerations for community facilities.
Town Centres	The masterplan will outline the hierarchy of town centres, adhering to the principles outlined in the West Dapto Vision. The town centres of West Dapto will fill diverse roles, functions and mixed uses. Accessibility (Principle 2) is addressed in the consideration of access to neighbourhood community facilities within a 400-800m radius to homes. The creation of diverse spaces (Principle 3) for people of all ages is addressed as a key principle in the design of community facilities.
Housing	The role that social infrastructure plays in creating affordable third spaces and alleviating some of the pressure of housing unaffordability on residents is an important consideration.
Employment	To support local sustainable employment and attract industries, enterprises to West Dapto. Innovative employment (principle 5) is addressed through the consideration of enterprise and start-up hubs as a facet of community infrastructure.
Water management	To support sustainable water infrastructure, with particular relevance for the role of some open spaces in the green-blue network.

5.1.4 West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020

The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 identifies infrastructure requirements for West Dapto as a result of the anticipated development and provides a framework for the equitable calculation, collection and management of contributions.

The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 indicates a five stage works schedule for West Dapto. Table 9 of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 identifies a schedule for the provision and timeframe of parks and open spaces to be delivered across five stages of the development.

It is noted that the IPART Assessment of the West Dapto Contributions Plan 2020 presents a set of recommendations on all contributions items listed. The Open Space recommendations include:

- Ensuring sufficient accessible recreation opportunities for all residents.
- Ensuring sufficient formal recreation facilities (sportsground) for the release area.

5.1.5 Draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper 2020

The Draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper provides evidence for the development of a new Housing Strategy for Wollongong LGA, which identifies key issues and planning priorities for housing and proposes options and recommendations.

Some of the key issues identified include:

- Performance of Land Use Zones: the type of housing being developed does not sufficiently correspond to the desired form in particular zones (e.g. 78% of the housing in medium density zones is single dwelling housing) which consequently is not being used to its full capacity.
- Housing for Particular Needs: ageing population in the Wollongong LGA has implications for the housing needs of the community in the future.
- Household Size vs Dwelling Size: there is a mismatch between the average household size in Wollongong LGA and dwelling types being developed or planned.
- Increasing Cost of Housing: median house and unit prices have substantially increased while the proportion of households who can afford to rent or purchase housing has remarkably declined.

In response to these key issues, three planning priorities have been recommended: increase housing diversity, plan for future housing growth, and increase the supply of affordable rental housing.

To address these planning priorities, the Paper recommended as part of Priority 2: Plan for future housing growth to define areas for urban growth around medium density residential zoned land and develop an urban growth strategy for each area to facilitate an appropriate level of growth whilst achieving the desired local character. The paper recognises that such growth entails adequate infrastructure including social infrastructure.

This Study will assist in the assessment and evaluation of social infrastructure that is adequate to support current and future communities based on WDURA's planned growth.

5.1.6 Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022

This strategy has been developed following an extensive review of the 2014-2017 Heritage Strategy and Action Plan, providing direction to Council and the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group on heritage outcomes for the strategy period.

This Study will work towards strategy 6 of the Heritage Strategy, namely identifying and managing key heritage precincts, streetscapes, cultural and natural landscapes. Council identifies itself as committed to ensuring heritage is a key consideration of town and village planning for public places and significant sites with recognised heritage values.

Heritage will be strongly considered in this study through the identification of cultural and creative infrastructure, referencing opportunities to build upon heritage through the delivery of social infrastructure.

5.1.7 Creative Wollongong 2019-2024

The Creative Wollongong Strategy seeks to build on previous Cultural Plans to celebrate the community's strengths and grow creative industries. Importantly, the strategy seeks to support community participation in creative life and celebrate the city's unique places and spaces.

With extensive engagement underpinning this strategy, it forms an important consideration for the cultural and creative infrastructure recommendations, comprising a key aspect of this community infrastructure needs assessment. This takes on increased importance when observing that 85% of residents interviewed as part of engagement agreed that arts, heritage and culture are important aspects of community life.

Key challenges and opportunities identified by the community include:

- Participation in creative activities should be expanded through more events at a variety of scales
- Aboriginal culture and heritage should be engaged with. This includes through greater celebration of Aboriginal culture, history, and sites of significance.
- Opportunities for creatives should be consolidated through increased investment and training
- There is an identified lack of creative spaces, including studios, rehearsal spaces and meeting rooms across the City. It is noted that while some expressed interest for a creative hub, others saw smaller and underutilised spaces have potential for activation as creative spaces
- Activating the suburbs is a key outcome for the community
- Public art should be made permanent and expanded into the suburbs, as well as in the city
- Local museums should be safeguarded, and local history and heritage preserved and celebrated to enhance local community identity and sense of place
- The night -time economy should be expanded and activated.

Ultimately, the provision of spaces to enable the development of creative capital is vital to achieving the community aspirations outlined above. The role of this study is to begin that process of identifying sites and spaces for creative uses, both within other forms of community infrastructure and as standalone items. Key outcomes identified in Creative Wollongong that may be addressed include:

- Provide and promote creative spaces which support opportunities to network, collaborate and share resources and knowledge
- Continue to consider opportunities to identify and develop a designated multi-day festival site within the region
- Seek to include the installation of three phase power in major park upgrades
- Identify and negotiate the use of underutilised space for innovations, events, performances and activations
- Ensure current and future planning for cultural and community infrastructure incorporates flexible, multipurpose spaces
- Deliver a new Public Art Strategy that would include West Dapto
- Involve children and young people in the design of public art features within key regional place space renewals
- As part of the development of Town and Village Plans, including in West Dapto, work with the community to capture the cultural and creative aspirations, unique identities and the needs of communities and include suggestions in concept plans
- Consider the inclusion of public art as an element of major Council infrastructure projects
- Support and provide opportunities for working in partnership with local Aboriginal people and communities to develop immersive cultural experiences that incorporate public art and local Aboriginal knowledge at identified local Aboriginal places/sites of significance
- Support exhibitions in our local libraries, community centres or public spaces which showcase and celebrate local history and heritage

5.1.8 Infrastructure Australia – 2021 Infrastructure Plan

The 2021 Infrastructure Plan focuses on reforms and policy recommendations which puts the community front and centre of infrastructure planning. The Plan's Vision for 2026 promotes 'Quality, accessible, future focused, multi-purpose and economically valued social infrastructure that supports a strong, healthy and prosperous nation and ongoing quality of life for all Australians'. For the first time the Australian Infrastructure Plan has included a whole section highlighting the critical role of social infrastructure (Chapter 8).²⁰

The 2021 Infrastructure Plan provides a practical and actionable roadmap for more socially equitable infrastructure planning with consideration to evolving user needs. It emphasises the importance of anticipating and managing risk in delivering resilient assets that prioritise community and social outcomes, and acknowledges the critical role that community assets play in supporting national wellbeing. It discusses the importance of community trust as a vital ingredient for change requiring effective engagement and transparent decision making.

The plan has identified seven key pillars of social infrastructure reform:

1. Valuing social infrastructure through a consistent national framework,
2. Uniform access for healthy and prosperous communities,
3. Embracing technology for optimised delivery,
4. Education hubs to support contemporary learning,
5. Housing stock to address the shortfall,
6. Valuing our culture to enhance liveability,
7. Co-location and precincts to drive better outcomes.

The Plan also includes themes and recommendations in relation to social infrastructure planning and delivery:

- **Place-based outcomes for communities** - deliver globally competitive quality of life in fast-growing cities by growing economies and populations, enabled by place-centric infrastructure investment and reform.
- **Social infrastructure is economic infrastructure** - support economic development by recognising the value of investment in social infrastructure.
- **Sustainability and resilience** - build community resilience to all hazards by considering systemic risks, interdependencies and vulnerabilities in infrastructure planning and decision-making.
- **Next generation infrastructure investment** - deliver a greater return on investment by ensuring governments act as model clients and custodians of industry health and productivity
- **Transforming social infrastructure to enhance quality of life** - support Australians to enjoy a healthier, safer, more connected and fulfilled quality of life by facilitating targeted investment in the right physical and digital social infrastructure.
- **Partnerships to build communities** – maximise social and economic community benefits by supporting shared use of social infrastructure through future agreements and capital funding programs prioritising shared use of facilities.

²⁰ Australian Infrastructure Plan (2021, p. 34)

5.2 Open space and recreation policy drivers

A number of documents have been reviewed to provide background information and context for the Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment. These documents are summarised below.

Table 8 Key open space and recreation policy drivers

Document	Key Aspects relevant to West Dapto Community Infrastructure needs assessment
NATIONAL	
Sport Australia Sport 2030 – National Sports Plan	<p>The Australian Government has a clear and bold vision for sport in Australia — to ensure we are the world's most active and healthy nation, known for our integrity and sporting success.</p> <p>Sport 2030 has four key priority areas which will, when fully implemented, create a platform for sporting success through to 2030 and beyond. The priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a more active Australia — More Australians, more active, more often; • Achieving sporting excellence — National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success; • Safeguarding the integrity of sport — A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption; and • Strengthening Australia's sport industry — A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.
STATE	
Premiers Priorities	<p>The Premier's Priorities represent the NSW Government's commitment to making a significant difference to enhance the quality of life of the people of NSW.</p> <p>The two Premier Priorities which this project closely aligns with includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10% by 2023. • Reduce the rate of suicide deaths in NSW by 20% by 2023
NSW Government - State Outcomes	<p>There are 37 agreed State Outcomes across nine Clusters. The State Outcomes cover the totality of all government activity and the Premier's 14 Priorities.</p> <p>The outcomes of highest strategical alignment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping people healthy through prevention and health promotion • A strong and liveable New South Wales • Maximum community benefit from government land and property • Active and inclusive communities
NSW Government – Public Spaces Charter	<p>The NSW Public Spaces Charter has been developed to support the planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in NSW. It identifies ten principles for quality public space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and welcoming • Community focused • Culture and creativity • Local character and identity • Green and resilient • Healthy and active • Local business and economies • Safe and secure • Designed for place • Well managed.
NSW Government - State Infrastructure Strategy	<p>The State Infrastructure Strategy is a 20-year infrastructure investment plan for the NSW Government that places strategic fit and economic merit at the centre of investment decisions.</p>
NSW Government: Everyone Can Play Guidelines	<p>The creation of inclusive play spaces requires a new way of thinking about the way play spaces are planned, designed and managed. The three principles of Everyone Can Play will promote thinking for more inclusive play spaces across NSW.</p> <p>The three key Principles of the guide:</p>

Document	Key Aspects relevant to West Dapto Community Infrastructure needs assessment
	<div> </div> <div> <h2>Can I get there?</h2> </div> <div> <p>Consider location, layout, signage, wayfinding and accessibility to ensure everyone can find their way to, in and around the playspace.</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Can I play?</h2> </div> <div> <p>The play experience, including the equipment and surfacing, should allow everyone to experience a variety of challenging and engaging play opportunities in a way that suits them.</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Can I stay?</h2> </div> <div> <p>Consider safety, facilities, landscape and the wider environment to ensure everyone can stay at the playspace for as long as they would like.</p> </div> <div> <p>The Six Design Principles:</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Find</h2> </div> <div> <p>Communicate the purpose and location of play elements and facilities.</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Fit</h2> </div> <div> <p>Provide a range of play opportunities for people of all abilities and sizes.</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Choose</h2> </div> <div> <p>Enable exciting individual experiences and social interaction.</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Join In</h2> </div> <div> <p>Create opportunities for everyone to connect.</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Thrive</h2> </div> <div> <p>Challenge and involve people of all capabilities.</p> </div> <div> </div> <div> <h2>Belong</h2> </div> <div> <p>Create a place that's welcoming and comfortable.</p> </div>

Document	Key Aspects relevant to West Dapto Community Infrastructure needs assessment
Government Architect NSW- Better Placed NSW	<p>Better Placed is an integrated design policy for the built environment of NSW. It seeks to capture our collective aspiration and expectations for the places where we work, live and play. It creates a clear approach to ensure we get the good design that will deliver the architecture, public places and environments we want to inhabit now and those we make for the future. GANSW defines a well-designed built environment as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy • Responsive • Integrated • Equitable • Resilient
Government Architects NSW-Draft Greener Places Design Guide	<p>The draft GPDG suggests the planning focus should be on providing a range of opportunities at different levels of access and intensity, rather than population and spatial standards. It offers specific criteria for greenfield sites to ensure that sufficient land is provided for future needs.</p> <p>The Draft Greener Places Design Guide contains three manuals/ tool kits that support the Greener Places policy; one being the 'Open Space for Recreation Guide' which proposes a new framework for planning.</p> <p><i>This guide has informed the Parks and Play Strategy and provided significant guidance on the planning principles and performance criteria used for open space planning in particular.</i></p> <p>There are six core performance criteria for consideration when planning for OS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility and Connectivity • Distribution • Size and Shape • Quantity • Quality • Diversity.
Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2020-2024	<p>The Office of Sport (lead NSW Government agency for sport and active recreation) aims to increase the levels of physical activity of the people of NSW by providing the leadership, policies, programs, funding and infrastructure necessary to enable higher rates of participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>Three outcomes are defined (social, health and economic) and four focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Places and spaces • Sector sustainability • Partnerships and investment. <p>Within each focus area a goal is outlined with measurable outcomes and actions (focus) to deliver the measurable outcomes.</p>
Office of Sport- Her Sport Her Way – 2019-2023	<p>A four-year strategy aims to build a stronger sport sector where women and girls are valued, recognised and have equal choices and opportunities to lead and participate. It provides a clear role for the NSW Government to work with the sector and new partners in innovative ways to shape the future of women's sport.</p> <p>The Strategy is underpinned by a three year actions plan that has a clear priority of advancing women leaders, encouraging adolescent girls to stay in sport, recognising and celebrating women leaders in sport, event legacy from major women's sporting events and prioritising funding for female friendly facilities in NSW.</p>
Office of Sport – Regional Sports Hub Model	<p>The Office of Sport outlines a Regional Sports Hub model – an approach to delivery integrated and coordinated sporting infrastructure through strategic alignment and partnerships with key stakeholders. The model defines a Regional Sports Hub as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary centre of co-located sport and active recreation facilities, sub-elite sport support services, sport administration offices • Potential to incorporate both Centres of Excellence concept and community facilities • Part of a regional network of hubs identified through Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans <p>At the heart of the Regional Sports Hub model is the formal establishment of partnerships to deliver integrated and coordinated facilities and services.</p>

Document	Key Aspects relevant to West Dapto Community Infrastructure needs assessment
Sport NSW- Future Directions (2018)	<p>This document is designed as a 'sector plan for the sector'. It outlines an aspirational and inclusive approach to the delivery of sport and active recreation in NSW for the next four years. It takes a high-level whole-of-sector view to improving the Sector across four themes which are used as the organising structure for priority proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration • Capacity • Innovation • Engagement
LOCAL	
Office of Sport- Illawarra Shoalhaven Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018-2023	<p>The Illawarra Shoalhaven Sport and Active Recreation Plan suggests the following objectives be considered when planning sport infrastructure in West Dapto (inc. consultation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Participation – including use of school facilities • Improved access – including natural areas and transport • Integrated performance pathways • For purpose facilities quality and design of facilities • Valued regional sport events • Effective collaboration: local sport and state body sports organisations.
Play Wollongong Strategy 2014 – 2024	<p>According to the PWS, the following six principles should be followed in planning for playgrounds.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality play opportunities are equitably distributed across the city, including large regional play spaces and smaller local play spaces. 2. Play spaces are easily accessed by walking and encourage healthy living and independent access by children. 3. Meaningful engagement is undertaken with the community, including children, in relation to play space planning, provision and management. 4. Play spaces are well designed, inclusive of all ages and abilities and encourage participation in play. 5. Informal play spaces and the provision of natural play elements is given priority, recognising the benefits of connecting with nature. 6. Play spaces will provide children with an appropriate level of risk and challenge, while complying with relevant safety standards.
Wollongong City Council- Sportsground and Sporting facilities Strategy	<p>The Strategy is built on five guiding principles and 10 Key focus areas which, when combined, will help to achieve Council's Vision for sport in Wollongong. The five guiding principles of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive and accessible • Participation • Safe • Partnerships and Collaboration; and • Sustainable <p>The strategy has the following actions identified under the KEY FOCUS AREA 5-Strategically plan for the development of new sport facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue planning for the provision of new sportsgrounds and sporting facilities in the West Dapto catchment area, with a focus on district level sportsgrounds. • Ensure West Dapto Open Space Design Manual and West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment are key informing documents in the provision of new and renewed infrastructure in West Dapto. • Consult and collaborate with Local and State Sport Organisations in pursuing hierarchical planning of sports facilities
Wollongong City Council- Public Toilet Strategy 2019	<p>Key land use planning actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Crime Prevention through Urban Design (CPTED), and Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles and guidelines of Council's Sustainable Building Strategy to the public toilet work. • Consider a hierarchical approach to public toilet provision in the preparation of open space and town centre masterplans and concept plans. • Continue to renew, install and upgrade accessible public toilets at locations experiencing increased use.

Document	Key Aspects relevant to West Dapto Community Infrastructure needs assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install adult lift and change tables and design accessible toilets to accommodate amphibious wheelchair use in line with the Beach Access Strategy at Austinmer Beach and Port Kembla Surf Lifesaving Club (Lower Boat Shed). • Provide a continuous path of travel and accessible parking when upgrading or building new accessible toilets in high use locations
Wollongong City Council- Urban Greening Strategy 2017-2037	<p>The Urban Green Strategy includes the goal that urban density and expansion, balances economic, social and environmental considerations.</p> <p>Planning future streetscapes which deliver best practice amenity, environmental performance, and associated benefits is a major challenge for the future. 19,000+ New homes proposed and 55,000+ additional people living in WDURA.</p> <p>Link to the study: Seek to enhance tree planting and canopy cover through appropriate species selection and location.</p>
Wollongong City Council-Climate Change Adaptation Plan	<p>The Climate Change Risk Assessment of Wollongong (CCRAW) examined the likely impacts on land parcels, networks such as roads, bridges, stormwater networks and cycle pathways. The CCRAW flagged Western parts of Dapto with large number of Category-1 bushfire prone areas. As a part of the adaptation works, Council has commenced a number works and assessments to have a finer understanding of risk factors and their mitigation measures. This includes, Urban Greening Strategy, Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan, Coastal Zone Management Plan, etc. The priority actions relevant to the public open space network in WDURA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement transitional landscape program aimed at increasing shade cover in passive open space across all parks and reserves in the LGA • Establish trial plantings of native trees species suited to predicted future climate suitability and use in streets and parks • Managing flood risk through floodplain risk management plans incorporating flood predictions • Proactively maintain bushfire trails and other related infrastructure to be fire ready <p>Consider rainwater, sewerage mining/recycling and stormwater harvesting and usage to support irrigation of sports fields</p>
Wollongong City Council- Future of Our Pools 2014-2024	<p>Wollongong City Council owns and manages 18 public swimming pools (9 supervised public swimming pools and 9 unsupervised tidal ocean rock pools). Seven of the nine public swimming pools are 50m pools, while the remaining two are 25m pools. Currently, the closest aquatic facility to WDURA is Dapto Heated Pool- a freshwater heated facility, open year-round. The Future of Our Pools Strategy has identified the following as one of the key actions in order to achieve Council's 10-year vision for all pools in WCC:</p> <p>Undertake recreation planning to facilitate aquatic/leisure facility development at West Dapto</p>

5.3 Community infrastructure policy drivers

The following documents have been reviewed to understand key policy drivers relevant to social infrastructure in West Dapto. **Table 9** provides a summary of these drivers.

- Housing 2041: NSW Housing Strategy (NSW DPE, 2021),
- Greener Places (Government Architect NSW, 2020),
- Everyone Can Play Guideline (NSW DPE, 2019),
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (NSW DPE, 2021),
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Sport and Active Recreation Plan (NSW Office of Sport, 2018),
- Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009, (NSW Government, 2021),
- Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009, Chapter D16 (Wollongong City Council, 2021),
- Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020 (Wollongong City Council, 2020),
- Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan (CSP) (Wollongong City Council, 2018),
- Places for People: Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028 (Wollongong City Council, 2018),
- Draft Housing and Affordable Housing Options Paper (Wollongong City Council, 2020),
- Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 (Wollongong City Council, 2019),
- Community Safety Plan 2021-25,
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025,
- Draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan (Wollongong City Council, 2020),
- Sustainable Wollongong 2030 (Wollongong City Council, 2020),
- Creative Wollongong 2019-2024 (Wollongong City Council, 2019),
- Play Wollongong Strategy 2014-2024 (Wollongong City Council, 2014),
- Sportsground and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2017-2021 (Wollongong City Council, 2017),
- City of Wollongong Pedestrian Plan 2017-2021 (Wollongong City Council, 2017),
- Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 (Wollongong City Council, n.d.),
- Wollongong City Libraries Strategy 2017-2022 (Wollongong City Council, 2017),
- West Dapto Vision 2018 (Wollongong City Council, 2018),
- West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (Wollongong City Council, 2020),
- West Dapto Open Space Design Manual (Wollongong City Council, 2018).

Table 9 Strategic policy review

Policy themes	Implications for needs analysis	Relevant documents
Growth of Wollongong LGA and the WDURA	<p>Wollongong LGA's population is forecasted to grow by 33,000 between 2016 and 2036 to reach 244,400 people. The population is also ageing, with consistent growth occurring in the over 50 age bracket. There is a need to align infrastructure and service delivery with projected population growth and change in order to support community wellbeing.</p> <p>NSW DPE recognises that 'Dapto town centre is ideally positioned to meet the needs of the growing population from the WDURA', however, 'as Dapto grows and changes it will need greater connections to public open space and cultural facilities' (Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan, pg. 66).</p> <p>As a key source of new housing for the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region, the WDURA is estimated to provide approximately 19,500 new dwellings and accommodate for an additional 56,500 residents once developed. In order to support the current and future population of the West Dapto area, there is a need for high quality social infrastructure which is delivered in a timely and equitable manner.</p> <p>The Wollongong DCP 2009 outlines a vision for the future of West Dapto: 'West Dapto will grow and develop as a series of integrated and connected communities... The communities will be healthy, sustainable and resilient with active and passive open space accessible by walkways, cycleways and public transport. To support these new communities, local centres will provide shopping services, community services and jobs...' (D16, pg. 4).</p> <p>It is a local and state priority to protect and conserve the biodiversity that exists within the WDURA, particularly the Illawarra Escarpment, in the context of planning for new communities.</p>	<p>Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (NSW DPE, 2021)</p> <p>Wollongong LEP 2009, (NSW Government, 2021)</p> <p>Wollongong LSPS 2020 (Wollongong City Council, 2020)</p> <p>Our Wollongong 2028: CSP (Wollongong City Council, 2018)</p> <p>Wollongong DCP 2009, Chapter D16 (Wollongong City Council, 2021)</p> <p>West Dapto Vision 2018 (Wollongong City Council, 2018)</p>
Demand for open space, sport, and recreation	<p>Government Architect NSW promotes the following principles for the planning and delivery of green infrastructure: co-locating green and grey infrastructure, creating an interconnected network, and maximising potential benefits through multifunctional design.</p> <p>Open space delivered within the WDURA should support multiple functions, be located within walking distance of residential areas across a well-distributed network, connect with other social infrastructure or places of interest, and feature high amenity. It must also allow for an equal split of active and passive open spaces and include appropriate embellishments.</p> <p>The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 identifies that population growth and subsequent residential development in the area will drive demand for parks, playgrounds, ovals and fields for a variety of sports, passive open spaces, and community recreation and leisure centres.</p> <p>The NSW Office of Sport's desired outcomes for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region include improved access to sport and active recreation for all, and the provision of fit-for-purpose facilities.</p> <p>It is a local priority to increase the capacity of and enhance existing sportsgrounds, with a focus on equity and accessibility. The ability for Council to provide new sports facilities will largely be limited to the opportunities presented by the WDURA.</p>	<p>Greener Places (Government Architect NSW, 2020)</p> <p>Everyone Can Play Guideline (NSW DPE, 2019)</p> <p>Illawarra Shoalhaven Sport and Active Recreation Plan (NSW Office of Sport, 2018)</p> <p>Play Wollongong Strategy 2014-2024 (Wollongong City Council, 2014)</p> <p>Sportsground and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2017-2021 (Wollongong City Council, 2017)</p> <p>West Dapto Vision 2018 (Wollongong City Council, 2018)</p> <p>West Dapto Open Space Design Manual</p>

Policy themes	Implications for needs analysis	Relevant documents
	<p>Planning and design of new sportsgrounds should consider the principles of shared use by co-locating synthetic cricket pitches where possible and allowing utilisation by sports played in opposite seasons.</p> <p>Wollongong Council has identified that many of its existing play spaces are poorly located, in poor condition, and offer limited opportunities for play. It is a local priority to ensure that 'quality play opportunities are equitably distributed across the city, including large regional play spaces and smaller local play spaces' (Play Strategy, pg. 9). The provision of play spaces should consider the principles of inclusivity and accessibility.</p> <p>The Sustainable Wollongong 2030 Strategy has identified as part of its sustainability outcomes for a city in harmony with the environment is the increased opportunities for active and passive recreation in public open space to improve the health and wellbeing of our community (pg. 47).</p>	<p>(Wollongong City Council, 2018)</p> <p>West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (Wollongong City Council, 2020)</p>
Equity and accessibility	<p>NSW DPE has established a vision for the future of the Illawarra Shoalhaven region: 'the region is more connected physically, socially, economically, culturally, and digitally. This has enabled more resilient communities, facilitated flexible working and education, and enabled people in smaller towns and villages to have the same access as people living in Metro Wollongong' (Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan, pg. 12).</p> <p>It is a local priority to create a convenient and connected network of active transport routes throughout the LGA which links to social infrastructure and other key destinations. Wollongong City Council recognises the value of active transport infrastructure in fostering a healthy, active, safe and equitable community.</p> <p>NSW DPE envisions that housing should be 'connected to local facilities, jobs and social networks, with infrastructure, services and spaces that people need to live sustainably' (Housing Strategy, pg. 8).</p>	<p>Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (NSW DPE, 2021)</p> <p>City of Wollongong Pedestrian Plan 2017-2021 (Wollongong City Council, 2017)</p> <p>Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 (Wollongong City Council, n.d.)</p>
Demand for social infrastructure	<p>NSW DPE recognises that 'with many people working from home, more people engage with their local neighbourhood centres and walk or shop locally', presenting an opportunity to 'improve local services and public places or to encourage a greater mix of uses including shared facilities, smart work or co-working hubs, education facilities, health services, or community and social services' (Illawarra Shoalhaven Plan, pg. 74).</p> <p>The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 identifies that population growth and subsequent residential development in the area will drive demand for childcare facilities, community meeting rooms, library spaces, and spaces for events or organised activities.</p> <p>It is a local priority to 'provide access to [library] services that meet the changing needs of the community' (Libraries Strategy, pg. 9). Libraries in Wollongong LGA should provide multipurpose flexible spaces and create opportunities for social engagement and cohesion.</p> <p>It is a local priority to ensure community wellbeing by providing high quality district level services, libraries, and facilities, as well as</p>	<p>Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (NSW DPE, 2021)</p> <p>West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (Wollongong City Council, 2020)</p> <p>Our Wollongong 2028: CSP (Wollongong City Council, 2018)</p> <p>Wollongong City Libraries Strategy 2017-2022 (Wollongong City Council, 2017)</p> <p>Places for People: Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028</p>

Policy themes	Implications for needs analysis	Relevant documents
	<p>opportunities for sport, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities.</p> <p>Social infrastructure should be delivered in accessible locations, close to other facilities and public transport, be strategically distributed and networked across the LGA, be co-located with other social infrastructure types where possible, be integrated with the public domain in a way which enables safety and accessibility, and cater to differing community needs, both present and future.</p> <p>Wollongong Council has identified that there is a lack of spaces for Aboriginal cultural learning, events and activities, and creative workspace, including studios, rehearsal spaces, and meeting rooms. The community has expressed an interest in these kinds of spaces, as well as the provision of public art and other cultural and creative activations.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Wollongong DCP to 'ensure the community's social and cultural needs are met through the provision of a range of community facilities across the [West Dapto] release area (co-located with other facilities in 'hubs', creating urban focal points)' (DCP, pg. 6).</p> <p>It is within the Council's climate change mitigation responsibilities to provide community infrastructure including 'public walking and cycling infrastructure, priority parking systems and electric vehicle charging stations on public land can encourage sustainable transport choices' (Draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan, pg. 9)</p>	<p>(Wollongong City Council, 2018)</p> <p>Creative Wollongong 2019-2014 (Wollongong City Council, 2019)</p> <p>Wollongong DCP 2009, Chapter D16 (Wollongong City Council, 2021)</p> <p>Draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan (Wollongong City Council, 2019),</p>

PART C: PLANNING RESEARCH AND CONSIDERATIONS

6.0 Social infrastructure trends

6.1 20-minute neighbourhoods

The 20-minute neighbourhood is all about 'living locally – giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute return walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local transport options. These connected and walkable places are where people can live, work and play; buy their bread and milk, work from home or local business, access services and meet their neighbours at the central gathering places.'²¹

In the 20-minute neighbourhood, people have ready access to a range of facilities, services, employment and recreation opportunities. By increasing local development density (e.g. dwelling or jobs per hectare), increasing diversity through mixed-use development and housing types and improving access to active and public transport, the principle of a 20-minute neighbourhood can enhance liveability of local areas, promote health and wellbeing of residents and strengthen the sense of community and connection to place.²²



There are particular challenges in creating 20-minute neighbourhoods in growth areas, due to lower population densities and a lack of established infrastructure. Careful planning and the facilitation of mixed housing densities in growth areas can support the development of 20-minute neighbourhoods. The creation of town centres with concentrations of social infrastructure within an 800m-1km walking distance will be key to ensuring the creation of 20-minute neighbourhoods in the WDURA.

²¹ 20-minute neighbourhoods (State Government of Victoria, 2017), <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/planning-for-melbourne/plan-melbourne/20-minute-neighbourhoods#:~:text=To%20improve%20liveability%2C%20we%20need,cycling%20and%20local%20transport%20options.>

²² Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 (State Government of Victoria, 2017)

6.2 Age-friendly approach to social infrastructure planning

An age-friendly approach to urban planning is essential to creating an inclusive urban environment that works for everyone. An inclusive city 'creates a safe, liveable environment with affordable and equitable access to urban services, social services, and livelihood opportunities for all the city residents and other city users to promote optimal development of its human capital and ensure the respect of human dignity and equality.'²³ Planning and designing urban environments that consider the needs of younger and older people are key to creating supportive environments that enable people to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

The global megatrend of ageing populations and growing urban populations have major implications for urban areas and how these will function in the future.²⁴ The World Health Organisation developed a framework for age-friendly cities, identifying eight interconnected domains of urban life that allow the participation of older people and promote their wellbeing, as shown in Figure 8 WHO Age-friendly cities framework.²⁵ Likewise, a child-friendly urban planning approach will ensure current and future generations are given the best chances to face the challenges of tomorrow. Furthermore, if urban areas fail to provide a conducive environment for children's development and wellbeing, they risk outward migration that entail economic and cultural impacts.²⁶ The benefits of child-friendly cities are not limited to children but ripple through the community – uniting and promoting health and wellbeing, local economy and social cohesion, safety, and sustainability.²⁷



Figure 8 WHO Age-friendly cities framework

²³ Enabling Inclusive Cities (Asian Development Bank, 2017)

²⁴ Cities Alive: Designing for Ageing Communities (ARUP, 2019)

²⁵ Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide (WHO, 2007)

²⁶ Cities Alive: Designing for Urban Childhoods (ARUP, 2017)

²⁷ Cities Alive: Designing for Urban Childhoods (ARUP, 2017)

6.3 Resilience and a changing climate

As the impacts of climate change become more evident, increasing the resilience of communities is vital to protect lives and promote sustainable development. Resilient cities are defined as cities where 'individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems have the capacity to survive, adapt, and grow - notwithstanding chronic stresses and acute shocks.'²⁸ Creating sustainable communities and driving resilience involve a systems approach to planning, taking into account the governance, economic, social, environmental assets and capacity of cities and communities.

In the Shoalhaven Illawarra region, which has regionally significant landscapes and natural assets, climate change impacts are expected to manifest through effects of extreme events that have direct and indirect impacts to communities. Heatwaves, extreme rainfalls, flooding, drought, and fire weather are expected to increase and worsen. Seven regional systems were identified to be vulnerable and needs to be addressed to mitigate risks and successfully adapt to climate change impacts²⁹:

- Satellite settlements
- Transport
- Emergency management
- Energy
- Food
- Industrial transformation
- Water

The recent flood crisis, and COVID-19 pandemic, has drawn attention to the important role social infrastructure plays in not just shaping a crisis response, but also in delivering adaptation and recovery outcomes for local communities. Over recent months and years, Australians have witnessed repeated examples of local government infrastructure - including leisure centres, sportsgrounds, and community centres - been rapidly re-purposed in response to crises, for example transforming into evacuation centres or COVID-19 testing clinics, enabling residents to access critical services when they can no longer access usual supports or facilities, such as hospitals.

Local government's recent roles in crisis and disaster responses, provides further evidence of the importance of social infrastructure. For example, disaster response research across several countries has shown that social infrastructure can foster disaster-resilient communities, as it strengthens opportunities for local social networks and responsive support systems.³⁰ Further, the *Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019* concluded that social infrastructure:

*'...helps to build social cohesion and identity, and can help foster community resilience in times of stress, such as natural disasters.'*³¹

Community and neighbourhood centres in particular play a key role in crisis and disaster response and recovery as they are able to be flexible and responsive to emerging local needs.³² Through various regular activities and programs aimed at a diverse range of stakeholders, community centres have been shown to contribute to community capacity building, reducing social isolation, and building social cohesion – key factors shaping community resilience in the face of crises.³³

Research into the role of community and neighbourhood centres in Brisbane's 2011 flood crisis also found that community centres were able to deliver a large number of benefits including:

- Coordinating and increasing volunteering and donation levels

²⁸ A Metropolis of Three Cities (Greater Sydney Commission, 2018)

²⁹ Shoalhaven and Illawarra Enabling Regional Adaptation (AdaptNSW, 2019)

³⁰ O'Sullivan, T. L., Kuziemy, C. E., Toal-Sullivan, D. and Corneil, W., 2013, 'Unravelling the complexities of disaster management: A framework for critical social infrastructure to promote population health and resilience', *Social Science & Medicine*, 93(2013), 238-246; Aldrich, D., 2012, 'Social, not physical, infrastructure: the critical role of civil society in disaster recovery', *Disasters*, 36(3), 398-419; Thornley, L., Ball, J., Signal, L., Lawson-Te Aho, K. and Rawson, E., 2015, 'Building community resilience: learning from the Canterbury earthquakes', *Kotuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 10:1, 23-35.

³¹ Infrastructure Australia, 2019, page 393.

³² West End Community House, 2014, 'Strengthening people and places: the role and value of community and neighbourhood centres', <https://www.communitify.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Neighbourhood-centre-Report.pdf>

³³ West End Community House, 2014; Infrastructure Australia, 2019.

- Becoming an evacuation centre for local residents prior to the floods, and a respite centre after the floods where residents could access meals and charge their phones
- Acting as a conduit for local contributions of time, money, equipment and materials
- Connecting with businesses, government and non-government agencies to access resources and services
- Developing local information kits and newsletters for residents
- Providing specific responses to vulnerable residents through pre-existing knowledge of the community³⁴

Climate change is anticipated to manifest in a host of environmental changes on a local and global scale, including habitat loss and biodiversity decline, higher urban temperatures, reduced rainfall and longer fire seasons, more frequent and extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and increased scarcity of resources. As with COVID-19, this will present complex and unprecedented challenges to Australian communities and have a significant economic and human cost.

In response, social infrastructure must be located, designed, and built to withstand a warmer, drier climate and extreme weather events, so that it can continue to provide essential services to people during ordinary times and times of crisis. Communities will also need to be more resilient, and this comes down to more than just having the right infrastructure and services. Our ability to withstand and recover from crises is greatly dependent on our social capital (the network of relationships that allow people to trust each other and work together) and our community capacity (the ability to solve collective problems through shared skills, knowledge, equipment, and other resources). Building this resilience does not happen overnight; communities must be supported to form strong social connections, share ideas and information, and seek support where and when it is needed.

In short, while historically local governments have not routinely included crisis management roles when undertaking their social infrastructure planning, there is a growing body of evidence to indicate that communities are increasingly looking to their local council to facilitate access to essential facilities and supports during times of crisis.

6.4 From standalone facilities to multipurpose hubs

Stand-alone facilities for the exclusive use of specific community or socio-demographic groups are not financially viable, nor do they deliver net social benefits. A shift towards more integrated, co-located or clustered service delivery models are needed. Single service delivery models are inefficient and consume significant amounts of land. As well as providing best value for money, shared community facilities provide positive social outcomes by providing opportunities for collaborative approaches to service delivery and 'one stop shop' for service users.

Co-location usually involves bringing community services together in a single location. It is a response to the fragmentation and lack of integration of related services. It is intended to enhance both coordination among services and convenience for clients who can access multiple services from a single point. Co-location can also relate to the relationship between community facilities and other compatible uses such as open space.

Leading practice favours the clustering of community facilities in centres to enhance accessibility and connectivity with related uses. Well used community facilities tend to be located in places that are readily accessible by public transport and where people already congregate, such as shopping centres and schools.

³⁴ West End Community House, 2014.

6.5 The role of faith in planning

Faith spaces and organisations form an integral aspect of social infrastructure fabric in new and old communities, acting as anchors for communities and often providing the community services lacking from other providers (e.g. schools, childcare, community gathering spaces).

Ives and Van Eymeren consider that Faith serves an important social purpose in urban areas, bringing city dwellers together to 'mourn, celebrate, remember, reflect and to help others'.³⁵ They also serve as a bridge between governments and citizens, building trust for communities to rally together.

Formal religious sites—such as churches, temples, cathedrals, and mosques—are places of great spiritual significance. They are often also centrepieces of community cohesion around which many urban residents' lives revolve. Further, such sites often contain vestiges of green space and natural features in otherwise grey urban landscapes. For this reason, religious sites can and should be incorporated more seriously by urban planners and designers into the urban fabric.³⁶

Recent research in Australia further highlights the role of faith communities in working with minority groups in communities with strong outcomes for accessibility and inclusion.³⁷ The Anglican diocese, for example, has undertaken strong engagement with Aboriginal communities and persons with disabilities as part of its outreach programs in particularly rural communities.³⁸ The successes in this denomination suggest a strong role for faith-based organisations in community capacity building.

It is therefore recommended that, in planning for new communities, the faith element of those communities is understood and integrated in the planning process. This process should involve a thorough understanding of the faith communities already operating in the local community.

Interfaith collaboration is a further best practice development in planning for faith in new communities. While there are considerable challenges in interfaith working, recent successes with multi-faith prayer rooms and collaboration in urban regeneration in the UK demonstrate this model's potential.³⁹

For West Dapto, it will be vital to bring local faith organisations into collaboration for the development of activated town centres that support the faith needs of these new communities and provide essential services to all residents, regardless of their faith.

³⁵ Ives, Chriss and van Eymeren, Andre. 2017, 'Religious faith can help people to build better cities – here's how', *The conversation*.

³⁶ <https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/how-should-religion-be-considered-in-urban-planning>

³⁷ See, e.g. Short, M. (2015). Three Anglican Churches engaging with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Sydney, NSW: Bush Church Aid.

Short, M. (2018). Anglican Churches engaging with people living with disabilities. The Bush Church Aid Society, CBM Australia - Luke 14 Program.

³⁸ Short, M. (2015). The Anglican Church of Australia and engagement with people living with disabilities. *St Mark's Review*, 232(July 2), 123 - 138.

Short, M., Broughton, G., Short, M., Ochala, Y., & Anscombe, B. (2017). Connecting to belonging: A cross-disciplinary inquiry into rural Australian Anglican Church engagements with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. 32(1), 119-133;

Tillotson, N., Short, M., Ollerton, J., Hearn, C and Sawatzky, B. (2017). Faith matters: From a disability lens. *Journal of Disability and Religion*. 21(3): p. 319-337.

Short, M., Seiffert, M., Haynes, R., & Haynes, L. (2018). Church, Disability, and Rurality: The Lived Experience. *Journal of Disability and Religion*, 18(1), 1-26;

Kime, K., & Short, M. (2019). Engaging with Aboriginal peoples: Challenging inequality in the rural Australian Anglican Church from a sociological, social work and theological perspective. *Australasian Pentecostal Studies Journal*, 20(2019), 35-54; Short, M., Burningham, G., Wright, S., Wardle, S., Byford, E., & Osburn, L. (2021). Four elders journeying ageing in isolation during uncertain or anxious times: an elder-directed, cross-disciplinary project about faith, *Journal of religion, spirituality and aging*, online.

³⁹ See eg. Farnell, Furby, Hills, Macey and Smith, 2003, 'Faith in Urban Regeneration: engaging faith communities in urban regeneration, The Policy press

6.6 The evolving role of libraries

Public libraries provide an array of social and economic benefits for communities beyond simply housing collections of books. Modern public libraries are key pieces of social infrastructure that provide communities with a variety of educational, cultural, social and support services. Importantly, the contemporary library service goes above and beyond simply being a place for book collections and borrowing - in addition to this long-standing function, the role of libraries has expanded to now play a key role in 'strengthening and championing the cultural lives of communities'.⁴⁰ This community support function is particularly important in areas that are geographically isolated, or service socially disadvantaged communities.⁴¹

Since the beginning of the 21st century, there has been clear research to show that well-designed and located social infrastructure plays a key role promoting both individual and community wellbeing.⁴² Public libraries, specifically, provide communities not only with a source of knowledge and information, but also a space in which to develop social connections and build social capital by providing access to shared spaces, as well through demonstrating model behaviour and other indicators of socially responsible behaviour.^{43,44}

As a foundational piece of social infrastructure, research from across the world (notably, Australia, England and the USA) highlights that services provided by modern libraries need to be dynamic, community-focused and responsive.^{45,46} That is to say, services should be different for every library as they are designed to reflect the needs and wants of the local community. Contemporary library services might include (but are not limited to):^{47,48, 49.}

- access to physical and digital resources
- support for literacy and reading for pleasure
- opportunities for social connection and community building
- lifelong learning
- support for local arts, culture and heritage
- promotion of local writers, artists and creators
- provision of safe spaces for meetings, study, work and relaxation
- access to information (in a variety of forms) for:
 - personal development
 - health, wellbeing and active participation in society, and
 - helping people learn about and engage with local institutions and agencies
 - connection with different tiers of governments

This breadth of services provided through libraries in the twenty-first century underscore their central role in building community, supporting local culture, plus enabling residents of all ages and backgrounds to participate in social, economic, cultural and political life.

In addition to the social benefits, libraries play a key cultural and economic function. Firstly, libraries are a 'touch-point' with the local Council, and so therefore play a first-hand role in shaping community perceptions of, and experiences with, Council services. As demonstrated in a survey undertaken as part of a wider research project on the social importance of libraries by CIVICA and UTS in 2016, close to 82% of surveyed individuals agreed, or strongly agreed, that libraries are one of the functions of local governments.⁵⁰

⁴⁰ Twomey, K, 2017, 'Libraries Building Communities' <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/libraries-building-communities>

⁴¹ Summers, S & Buchanan, S, 2018. 'Public libraries as cultural hubs in disadvantaged communities: developing and fostering cultural competencies and connections' *The Library Quarterly*, 88(3): 286-302

⁴² Davern et al, 2017 'Using spatial measures to test a conceptual model of social infrastructure that supports health and wellbeing' *Cities and Health* 1: (2), 194-209

⁴³ A Safe Place to Go: Libraries and Social Capital, 2000 https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/safe_place.pdf

⁴⁴ Klinenberg, E. *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality Polarization and the Decline of Civic Life*.

⁴⁵ Du, Y, 2016, *Small Libraries, Big Impact: How to Better Serve Your Community in the Digital Age*

⁴⁶ *The Intrinsic Value of Libraries as public spaces*, 2016. CIVICA.

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ AILA Statement on public library services, 2018 <https://www.aila.org.au/about-aila/policies-standards-and-guidelines/statement-public-library-services>

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ *The Intrinsic Value of Libraries as public spaces*, 2016. CIVICA.

As a traditionally 'free' service to the community, the economic contributions of libraries are less often the focus of research into their benefits. However, a study by the NSW Library in the financial period from 2007/8 indicated that public libraries in NSW contributed over \$1 billion dollars in economic benefit to NSW, and generated over \$800 million in economic activity.⁵¹

As such, it is clear that libraries play a multi-faceted role in the community. In addition to the social benefits that they provide, there is also a clear indication that libraries are essential in developing a local council culture and image. On top of this, they are significant generators of economic benefit and activity within the local community.

Some key additional considerations for effective library spaces include:

- **Access to digital technology:** Rapid technological change means it can be hard for many, particularly those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage, to keep up with the latest advances. Community facilities, particularly libraries, are increasingly providing spaces and tools to support effective working and learning. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed an even greater emphasis on the importance of this infrastructure, with many relying on quality internet and conferencing equipment for their work as well as socialising.
- **Unprogrammed spaces:** Social connection and informal activities (indoor and outdoor spaces) need to be considered in the conceptual design of facilities to attract a range of uses and users, to encourage casual interactions and the forming of social connections across generations, ethnicities, and other demographic groups.
- **Flexibility and adaptability:** Community facilities must be designed and managed to be flexible and adaptable over the long-term to ensure their inclusiveness and financial viability. This will ensure facilities can adapt to new or emerging uses and functions over time. Creating strong partnerships across government, not-for-profit and the private sector is critical in achieving effective hub design and maximising the use of shared spaces.

To make the best use of limited resources, and ensure that facilities are utilised as much as possible (including at night and at weekends), community buildings need to provide for multiple uses and serve a range of population groups, as well as being capable of adapting as needs change over time. Successful community centres tend to be those that offer a diversity of well organised and well attended services, programs and activities.

⁵¹ Enriching Communities: The value of public libraries in NSW, <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/public-library-services/enriching-communities-value-public-libraries-nsw>

6.7 Cultural Infrastructure to the fore

Cultural infrastructure is defined in Create NSW's *Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+* to include buildings and spaces that accommodate or support culture. It is more than just traditional museums, galleries, and theatres; including all places where the cultural sector and broader community come together to create, share, learn and store products or experiences.⁵²

Local governments play a key role in facilitating cultural activities, events and festivals, and several studies have demonstrated the economic benefits of cultural investment for local economies.⁵³ These benefits are seen through both direct employment opportunities, and the economic flow-on effects of increased visitation and expenditure in local areas. For example, Museums and Galleries NSW reported that cultural facilities across seven major regional cities, generated a 69% average return on investment by Local, State and Federal governments.

Other Australian research has highlighted other significant social benefits of local cultural activities, including: the promotion of civic dialogue in disadvantaged communities⁵⁴ and increased social capital for community members involved in planning and organising activities and festivals.⁵⁵

6.7.1 Adaptive reuse and cultural spaces

Adaptive reuse of cultural heritage spaces has become a key strategy in sustainable urban planning for its ability to preserve and potentially promote economic, social, environmental and cultural values of urban areas.

The outcomes of adaptive reuse contribute to the three pillars of sustainability through cost reductions (economic), resource efficiency (environmental), and retention (social sustainability). Adaptive reuse can transform heritage spaces into 'accessible and useable places' that suit the evolving needs of the community while retaining the identity of a place and its connection to the community.⁵⁶

In Australia, heritage buildings and archaeological sites are an integral element of the country's cultural capital⁵⁷ and its conservation and interpretation 'provide tangible and intangible links to our past and have great potential to play significant roles in the futures of our cities.'⁵⁸

6.7.2 Creative placemaking

Creative placemaking is defined as the utilisation of artistic practices through programmatic (events-based) approach or through built form (e.g. creative studios, performance venues, public art etc) to make a place more interesting and vibrant.⁵⁹ Local creative infrastructure can serve as both catalyst and platform for generating subsequent economic, social and environmental values especially for newly developed or renewed areas. A multitude of benefits can arise from creative placemaking including but not limited to increased civic participation, improved health and wellbeing, place attachment, reduced crime, increased infrastructure investment, education and skills development, employment opportunities, increased retail and local business, flow-on effects on tourism and place-brand value, investments to public domain and improved walkability.⁶⁰

Creative placemaking amenities such as public venues for cultural and creative practices and activities such as staging of festivals and exhibits can deliver socio-economic values to growth areas. They not only attract businesses, inward investment and talented workforce to the local area to boost the local economy but also serve

⁵² *Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+ (Create NSW, 11).*

⁵³ Museums and Galleries NSW, 2010, *Value Added! The economic and social contribution of cultural facilities in Central NSW*; Museums and Galleries NSW, 2014, *A report on the economic impact of the cultural facilities of the Evocities.*

⁵⁴ Kelaher et al., 2014, *Evaluating community outcomes of participation in community arts: A case for civic dialogue.*

⁵⁵ Reid, 2004, *The Social Consequences of Rural Events: The Inglewood Olive Festival.*

⁵⁶ Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings (Bullen and Love, 2011, p. 412).

⁵⁷ Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings (Bullen and Love, 2011, p.411).

⁵⁸ Adaptive reuse of industrial heritage: opportunities and challenges (Heritage Council Victoria, 2013, p. 1)

⁵⁹ Tourism planning and place making: place-making or placemaking? (Lew, 2017)

⁶⁰ Valuing Creative Placemaking (Cohen et al, 2018)

as ‘vehicles for social capital’ that facilitate community processes, which have the power to create new social networks and strengthen sense of community in the long term.⁶¹

⁶¹ Valuing Creative Placemaking (Cohen et al, 2018, p.21)

6.8 Importance of open space

Public open space supports the health and wellbeing of our residents. Parks are places where our residents and visitors to the city can relax, be physically active and play. They provide free locations for people to gather and socialise, helping people to make connections with one another and have a sense of belonging in our growing community. They provide opportunities to escape the built environment, and improved amenity provides habitat for wildlife and improved air quality. This critical green infrastructure supports and contributes to social, physical and mental health of our community.

Open space, sport and recreation infrastructure contributes to economic wellbeing, by creating numerous jobs in managing and maintaining community facilities, delivering programs and activities, supply of equipment and the multiple benefits that come from hosting community and competitive events.

Parks and recreation facilities are critical for community health and wellbeing. They ensure our urban environments support and sustain our communities through:

- **Physical and mental health benefits:** Open space, sport and recreation infrastructure and services promote physical activity and active lifestyles. Direct benefits to health include reduced risk of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, colon and breast cancer and diabetes; improved bone health; reduced risk of falls and fractures; assistance with weight management; enhancement of the immune system; and improvement of mental health and sense of wellbeing.
- **Social benefits:** Parks, public space and community recreation facilities generate stronger and more connected communities with improved social interaction and inclusion through provision of active and vibrant community hubs, access to facilities and resources, opportunities for volunteering and involvement.
- **Environmental benefits:** Development of well-planned and attractive settings for active living encourages uptake of active transport and use of public parks and leisure services. Further health benefits associated with provision of parks and green environments include temperature reduction and mitigation of the urban heat island effect; air quality improvement; management of storm water reducing the incidence of flooding and water-borne disease; ecosystem support and biodiversity enhancement.
- **Economic benefits:** Parks and leisure services can assist to reduce health care cost through reduction in disease and illness associated with lack of physical activity and social interaction. A park and public space network can provide local employment and investment opportunities; and contributes to maintaining a healthy workforce.
- **Heritage conservation:** opportunities for heritage interpretation of both listed landscape items, archaeology and 'ruins'.

Evidence from around the world for building cities and regional areas around public open space, active recreation areas, green streets and walking and cycling infrastructure, has repeatedly demonstrated this approach will deliver improved health, social cohesion, vibrant local economies, productivity, and environmental benefits.

Public open space, sport and recreation infrastructure could be defined as a critical investment in current and future populations. This 'Urban Health Infrastructure' delivers multiple returns on investment.

The National Heart Foundation observes:

- The health effects of physical activity are compelling. However, the potency of physical activity as a policy investment for Australia extends far beyond health. Active living plays a key role in broader economic and social goals for our nation:
walking, cycling and public transport are affordable and sustainable solutions to traffic congestion
- these same behaviours contribute to cleaner air, reduced carbon emissions and sustainable environments
- active neighbourhoods and cities are more liveable, with higher levels of social capital and community cohesion and lower levels of crime
- in the context of an ageing community, physical activity enables older Australians to live more active lifestyles with reduced risk from disabling and costly chronic diseases

- fit and active workers are more productive, take fewer sick days and make a positive contribution to our economic wellbeing.

Source: *A blueprint for an active Australia*, Heart Foundation, 2019 (pg. 8)

6.8.1 Lessons from the lockdown – restored recognition of open space

The recent impact of measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted just how important public spaces, parks and pathways are to the community. Anecdotal evidence from many towns and cities has highlighted the rapid increase in use of public space and how important the opportunity to get outdoors and be active has become to all. It is likely this rapid shift in behaviour will emphasise serious inequity in provision and may result in more permanent increases in outdoor activity and exercise.

'However, the sheer volume of people exercising in the open air has also exposed the limitations of historic design of some public spaces, with too many people crowded onto narrow walkways or poorly laid out parklands.'

'That's why our future precincts, parks and public spaces need to be designed to enable better social distancing, with wider footpaths, segregated cycleways and more linear parks, to meet the increased demand for these precious public spaces.'

- Rob Stokes NSW Minister for Planning. Source: *Guardian Australia* 12/05/20

6.8.2 Value of community sport infrastructure

In 2018, Australian Sports Commission and KPMG published a report titled: *The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure: Investigating the value of community sports facilities to Australia*. The headline finding of the report was that annually community sport infrastructure is estimated to generate more than \$16.2 billion annually to Australia. This includes:

- \$6.3 billion in economic benefits, including 33,900 FTE jobs and \$5.53 billion in increased productivity
- \$4.9 billion in health benefits including \$500 million in health system benefits and reduction of many personal health concerns, including reduction in chronic diseases, reduction of anxiety and depression
- \$5.1 billion in social benefits including \$4.2 billion in human capital uplift (improved educational and employment outcomes).

The report states:

In a competitive funding environment, proponents of community sport infrastructure projects must be able to demonstrate that their proposals will deliver value to their communities more broadly than only to direct interest groups (whether that be sports clubs, state sporting organisations, or other community groups).

The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure report outlines potential outcomes for the sector and policy makers. This includes:

- A shift from seeing provision of community sport infrastructure as a 'cost' to an 'investment, impact and value' to communities.
- Opportunity for further collaboration across all levels of government and government departments to deliver improved value to communities.

7.0 Planning and delivering social infrastructure effectively

7.1 Council's role in infrastructure delivery

Local Government Areas across Australia are experiencing significant demographic and socio-economic transformations as the process of globalisation, migration and other demographic forces change how people live and work.

The policy context for councils is shifting with growth in the service sector and knowledge industries, increasing cultural diversity, ageing populations and persistent inequalities within communities. Given the overwhelming evidence for its value in creating liveable and sustainable communities, it is imperative that councils invest in social infrastructure to ensure they meet the changing needs and expectations of their communities.

This increasing need for adequate social infrastructure provision has prompted many Australian local governments to develop frameworks that guide planning and investment in council-owned social infrastructure. The City of Greater Geelong outline their rationale for delivering social infrastructure as:

'Being able to plan for, respond to and provide infrastructure in a continually changing environment that is reflective of community needs is crucial to how Council continues to do business and support its vision and objectives'.⁶²

Councils across Australia continue to have responsibility for a large proportion of social infrastructure within their local areas, and therefore have a crucial role to play in ensuring adequate provision. Indeed, Wollongong City Council's *Social Infrastructure Planning Framework* identifies Council as 'the steward [on behalf of the community] of the majority of 'hard' social infrastructure across the city and as a key agency in fostering social well-being of the local community'.⁶³

This perspective was also highlighted in the major 2015 survey of Australian residents which revealed high levels of community recognition and support for the important role councils' play in delivering social infrastructure (such as parks, libraries, sport and recreation facilities, youth services and childcare facilities). For example, the majority of respondents reported that local government's provision of social infrastructure was either extremely important or very important.⁶⁴

Wollongong City Council provides a useful example of how councils can think about their specific roles in social infrastructure delivery. Council identifies three main roles, summarised⁶⁵ below:

- **Planner:** Council plans for social infrastructure to address community needs. For example, Council undertakes needs assessments and consults with the community to plan for upgrades to existing social infrastructure or development of new infrastructure. Council may also seek contributions towards social infrastructure as part of new residential developments.
- **Manager/deliverer:** Council builds and maintains community assets and delivers services that meet community needs. Council upholds its commitment to principles of social inclusion, social justice and public value and works to enhance affordability and access for the community.
- **Activator/facilitator:** Council facilitates events and programs, brokers linkages and forms partnerships with other organisations to deliver social infrastructure and assists with applications for non-council grants.

⁶² City of Greater Geelong, 2015, page 1.

⁶³ Wollongong City Council, 2018, *Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework*, page 14.

⁶⁴ Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG), 2015, *Why Local Government Matters Summary Report 2015*.

⁶⁵ For full details, see Wollongong City Council's *Social Infrastructure Planning Framework*, pages 14-15.

7.2 Development contributions

Local infrastructure contributions are charged by councils when new development occurs to fund key infrastructure, including parks and land for community facilities. While the system is administered by local government, the DPE sets the policy framework governing this system. There are two forms of local infrastructure contributions, contributions (s 7.11) and levies (s7.12), both of which are guided by Council's contributions plans.

It is noted that amendments to the NSW local infrastructure contributions framework are currently being considered.⁶⁶ These proposed changes may impact the way in which social infrastructure is funded in the West Dapto area.

The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 was adopted by Council on 7 December 2020 and came into force on 14 December 2020. It enables Council to levy contributions for local public infrastructure required as a result of development in the WDURA.

IPART review of West Dapto contributions plan

The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020 is considered an IPART reviewed contributions plan.⁶⁷ It has been updated on a number of occasions following review by IPART in 2016 and 2020, providing commentary and recommendations regarding the provision of social infrastructure.

It is noted that the review was satisfied with community infrastructure listed on the essential works list, for 1.85 hectares of land for four new community facilities – finding nexus between the number of community facilities and estimated population for the growth area, based on a previous study conducted by Elton Consulting.⁶⁸

This contemporary Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis will inform Council's review of the West Dapto Contributions Plan and IPART's subsequent assessment of the Contributions Plan.

7.3 Planning Agreements

Planning agreements are a legislative mechanism for delivering innovative and complex infrastructure in connection with planning proposals and development applications. They are negotiated between Council and developers in these contexts. Importantly, these agreements extend beyond the scope of local infrastructure contributions, and can include:

- Recurrent funding of public facilities
- Capital and recurrent funding of transport
- Protection and enhancement of natural environment
- Monitoring of planning impacts

Planning agreements will be considered as a mechanism for funding and delivery of social infrastructure in this study.

⁶⁶ See <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/local-contributions>

⁶⁷ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2019, Local Infrastructure Contributions Practice Note.

⁶⁸ Elton Consulting, *West Dapto Social, Cultural and Recreation Needs Study*, 2007.

7.4 Planning for social infrastructure in greenfield growth areas

'The long-term success or otherwise of [new outer suburbs] is to a large extent dependent on work undertaken early in the development cycle. This involves local and state governments working together with private developers to plan, fund and deliver the infrastructure necessary to support significant new populations'.⁶⁹

Key findings identified – considerations for West Dapto

- Neighbourhoods organised around an accessible town centre within a five-minute walk from their home.
- Co-located, multipurpose community facilities in strategic locations to serve a broader catchment for district-level need.
- Development of work hubs: small business incubators for residents to work remotely in a shared space in the local centre, designed for networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration. Opportunities include partnering with educational providers or private operators to manage incubators.
- Explore opportunities for income generating activities. The design of new facilities should create opportunities for commercial and social ventures alongside the community facility, such as cafes and gallery space.
- Program facilities to maximise participation, inclusion, and occupancy rates, especially at night.
- Improve promotion of key assets.
- Collaborative, partnership-based approach leveraging private sector, not-for-profit and state government cooperation. Ensure consistency and clarity to give clear signalling to the private sector.

Planning for social infrastructure in new release areas faces its own set of challenges. Delivering social infrastructure in a timely manner can, when successful, facilitate community cohesion from the outset of the new community. Key issues include:

- **Rapid population growth:** new release areas are confronted with significant rates of population growth, challenging existing community infrastructure and increasing the need for new infrastructure. These communities are also often more diverse, presenting challenges with catering infrastructure for multicultural communities. Managing growth, and meeting demand as it arises in urban release areas, is key to success.
- **While the need for infrastructure in new and developing communities is urgent, some types of infrastructure arrive long after they are required.** Outer suburbs and new growth areas may offer the most affordable homes to purchase, but they do not necessarily provide affordable living because they are less connected to neighbouring areas and associated opportunities. In addition, access to a range of social infrastructure is limited, particularly in the newest suburbs. A lack of social infrastructure can limit engagement with sport, recreation, social inclusion, and cultural expression.
- **Cost of new infrastructure in greenfield suburbs:** Developer contributions in new growth areas leaves a large gap in funding, and neither level of government recovers the full cost of infrastructure provision from the private sector. This gap in funding can be a barrier to the timely provision of new infrastructure
- **Libraries and community centres have large upfront capital costs:** new libraries can cost from \$20 million to \$30 million and new community centres between \$40 million and \$70 million.⁷⁰ The case studies provided in this report highlight that 21st century libraries and community centres are regional scale social infrastructure investments that provide for much more than places to borrow books or go for a swim. These multi-purpose

⁶⁹ Andrew Wear (2016) Planning, Funding and Delivering Social Infrastructure in Australia's Outer Suburban Growth Areas, Urban Policy and Research, 34:3, 284-297, DOI: 10.1080/08111146.2015.1099523

⁷⁰ Andrew Wear (2016) Planning, Funding and Delivering Social Infrastructure in Australia's Outer Suburban Growth Areas, Urban Policy and Research, 34:3, 284-297, DOI: 10.1080/08111146.2015.1099523

facilities are designed to service large catchments and provide a wide range of services, seven days a week, for all ages and abilities.

- **Integration of new and existing communities:** challenges arise when new and existing communities clash. Social infrastructure that draws on both of these communities in an equal and egalitarian manner can help to alleviate this challenge.

7.5 Timely delivery of community infrastructure in greenfield areas

Community infrastructure is integral to local sustainable development and its timely delivery is critical to facilitate successful growth of newly developed or redeveloped urban areas. However, for greenfield growth areas in Australia, planning, scheduling and delivery of social infrastructure is a persisting policy challenge, undermining the potential of growth areas.⁷¹

Lags and deficits in infrastructure in these growth areas impact new communities and new housing supply programs. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute found that a notable emerging pattern in community infrastructure delivery is that 'walking and transit access to social infrastructures in the growth areas invariably lags behind the regional average in all three cities,' suggesting lack of social infrastructure provision within these areas and insufficient transit services to connect residents to community infrastructure.⁷²

To support the development of greenfield areas and its communities, strategic coordination is essential to timely delivery of local social infrastructure and to address potential issues such as fragmentation of delivery agencies or overcommercialisation of delivery.

New technologies including big data and spatial analysis offer opportunities to improve planning and delivery of sufficient and highly accessible community infrastructure in greenfield areas.⁷³ Preferences of the community, changing population needs, health trends and current access are contributing factors to successful delivery of local social infrastructure.

Some of the key trends in social infrastructure provision identified in the Wollongong local government area include co-location and multi-use facilities, cultural and creative spaces, health and wellbeing services, with residents expressing preference for large multipurpose facilities for diverse community gatherings which solidify community ties.⁷⁴

⁷¹ Delivering social and community infrastructure in Australia's growing cities (AHURI, 2021)

⁷² Delivering social and community infrastructure in Australia's growing cities (AHURI, 2021, p.3)

⁷³ Delivering social and community infrastructure in Australia's growing cities (AHURI, 2021)

⁷⁴ Places for People: Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028 (Wollongong City Council, 2018)

7.6 Case study analysis: effective planning for growth areas

7.6.1 The Ponds, NSW

Area	Description
Project Overview	<p>Located within the Blacktown LGA, The Ponds is described as one of the most successful master planned projects in NSW.</p> <p>The Ponds includes approximately 80 hectares of parklands, bushland, waterways and six kilometres of bicycle and walkways.</p> <p>Centrepiece to this unique masterplan of 80ha are six major ponds and water features, complemented by a network of parks, gardens, reserves and sporting fields, recreational complexes, over 4kms of interconnecting cycleways and walking paths, connecting streets to green space and offering an active lifestyle for residents</p> <p>The design of the suburb has a wide range of recreation and community infrastructure that is well integrates with Second Ponds Creek being the 'spine' of the development.</p> <p>Underpinning the landscape planning and design is a commitment to best-practice sustainability measures. The project's Cumberland Plain landscape setting, a highly valued and endangered ecosystem of the Sydney Basin, presents distinctive opportunities and challenging constraints, requiring sensitivity throughout the planning, design and construction phases. The water-quality management system of rain gardens, wetlands and ponds, and the clearly delineated public/private open spaces, minimize encroachment of the more intensively managed landscapes into the surrounding bushland.</p> <p>Source: https://architectureau.com/articles/the-ponds/#https://clouston.com.au/project/the-ponds-parklands-riparian-corridor/</p>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a diversity of recreation opportunities within The Ponds including play spaces, multi-use courts, sporting facilities, fitness stations and a network of shared pathways. • The public open space network has a high level of road frontage. • The riparian corridor has been integrated, designed and activated as the focal point of recreation opportunities. • Ample shared pathways, wide and safe connections across Second Ponds Creek and multiple activation destination location throughout which is supported by way-finding signage.
Key learnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong integration of planning and design methodologies to deliver an integrated stormwater and recreation infrastructure network. • Early discussions with developers to bring them on a journey to deliver best outcomes for the community well-being. • Developing a comprehensive urban design manual to guide the development of public realm, built-form character and excellent quality public recreation network • Excellent integration of green and blue grid to maximise public open space opportunities

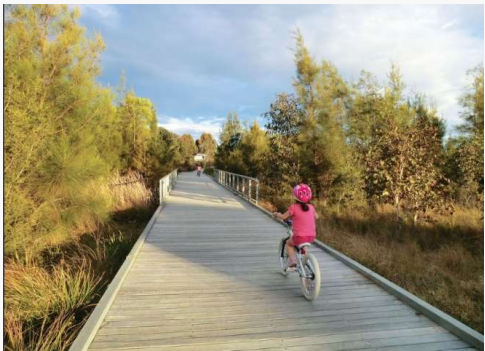
The Ponds Masterplan



High quality and integrated public open space and recreation facilities



4.5 kms of cycleways and pathways



Gathering artwork by Aunty Edna Watson and Graham Chalcraft compliments the playground adjoining the cycleway



Parkrun at The Ponds has over 400 people participate in the free 5km walk/run every Saturday morning.



Source: www.facebook.com/pg/thepondsparkrun/photos/?ref=page_internal

Public Art integrated into waterways, parks and streetscapes

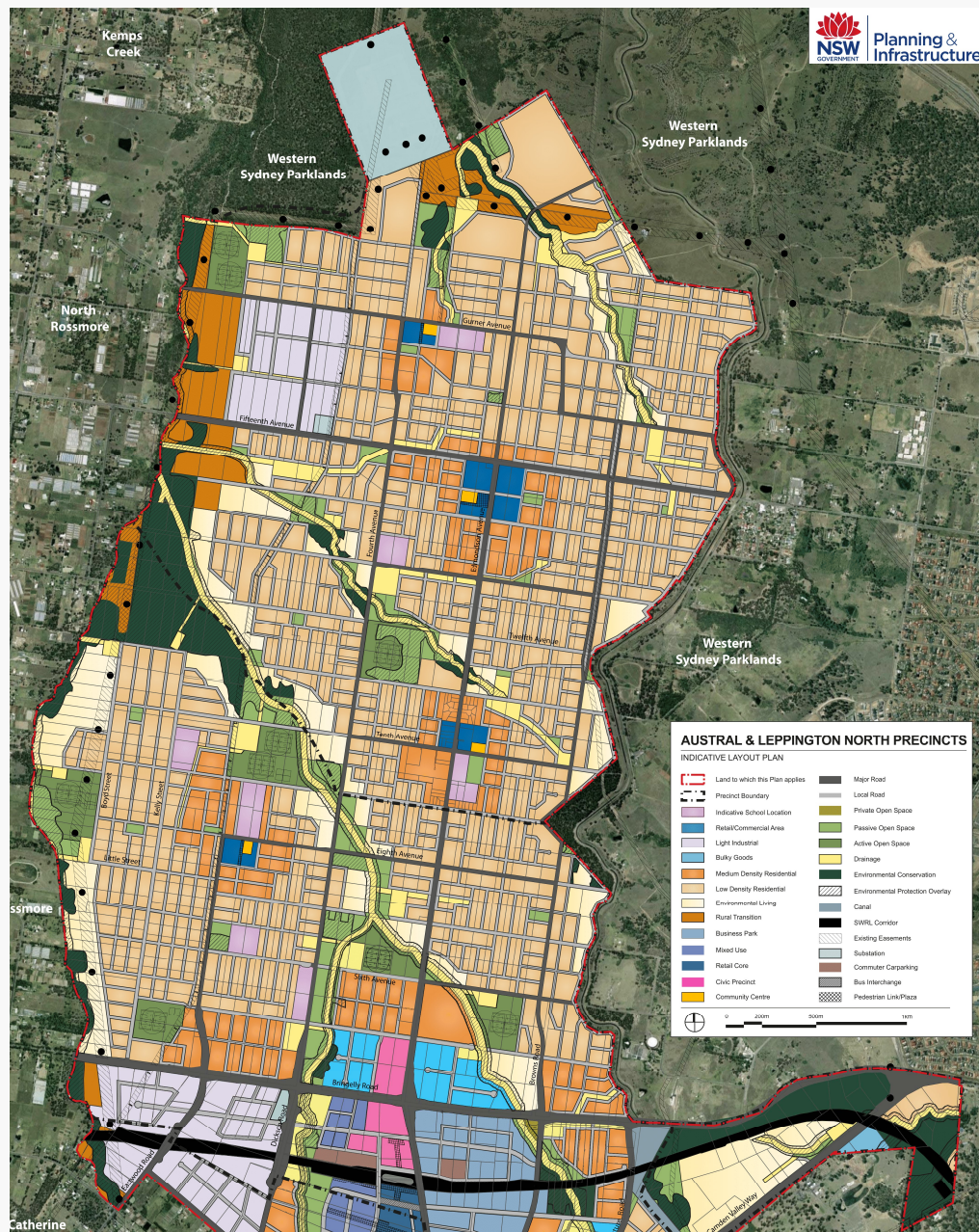


7.6.2 Austral, NSW

Area	Description
Project Overview	<p>The suburb of Austral is located within the Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA). Austral is located 10km to the east of the future Badgerys Creek Airport and 10km west of the Liverpool CBD.</p> <p>The population of Austral is projected to increase to approximately 70,000 residents by 2041- the time estimated for the suburb to be fully developed. Austral will be comprised of four (4) Town Centres to meet the needs and demands of its current and future population.</p> <p>The Austral and Leppington North Precincts were released for precinct planning purposes by the Minister for Planning in October 2009. The Austral Precinct is wholly located in the Liverpool LGA, while the Leppington North Precinct is located partly in the Liverpool LGA and partly in the Camden LGA.</p> <p>The Indicative Layout Plan (ILP) for the Austral and North Leppington Precinct was released in 2011, whereas Contributions Plan for the precinct was prepared in 2014 (CP 2014). CP 2014 was developed based on the demographic projections developed in 2014 i.e. approx. 16,133 dwellings and a population of 49,686. Public Open Space was planned for the demographic estimates in 2014. A total of 124.01HA of Public Open space was identified for Austral. However, the total quantum of land for Public Open Space was inclusive of constrained land (E.g.: steep slope, low passive surveillance, powerline easements, etc). Following is a breakdown of Public Open space (Public Open Space) identified for Austral in 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Public Open Space identified: 124.01HA • Existing/Dedicated land for Public Open Space: 19.17HA • Additional acquisition of land for Public Open Space: 104.84HA • Open Space provision rate: 2.5ha/1000 persons (NOTE: for projections made in 2014) <p>Hierarchy of planned provision of Public Open Space (2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Parks (0.1-2ha): 46 parks • District passive Parks (0.3-10ha): 11 parks • Local Sports Park (5-12ha): 4 parks • District Sport (10ha): 1 park <p>NOTE: Most parks (all hierarchies) are constrained with remnant vegetation, odd shape and size affecting functionality of the park which further reduces the net functional area of parks for recreation use.</p> <p>CURRENT SCENARIO: Austral's population in 2021 was 9,451 residents and approx. 2,883 dwellings. As per Forecast Id, Austral is estimated to reach a population of 69,049 residents and 22,768 dwellings by 2041. That is, an additional 19,363 residents and 6,635 dwellings to be accommodated with no investment in already deficit provision of Public Open Space.</p>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed land acquisition and delivery of Public Open Space. Residents have moved into brand new homes with no public park to access within a walking or driving catchment. • Existing parks are outdated and no longer meet the need of the new demographic. • Increased residential density to accommodate additional dwellings and residents. Areas zoned for low density are getting higher density residential development, which is affecting living conditions. • Poor built-form, urban design and social returns • Community frustration due to delayed delivery of social infrastructure • Additional pressure on Council to expedite land acquisition and delivery of parks with most parks funded through Contributions Plan. • Buying additional land for Public Open Space will be too expensive for Council.
Key learnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of planned provision of Public Open Space every 5 years to respond to the most up to date demographic projections and trends • Developing forward funding strategy to acquire land and deliver Public Open Space infrastructure to maintain and sustain delivery responsive to the population growth • Monitoring residential density development to ensure dwelling targets are not exceeding threshold numbers • Initiating partnership and collaboration opportunities with State agencies for land acquisition and joint delivery of major recreation facilities

- Developing innovative design and delivery models for recreation and open space to maintain demand by the time an urban release area reaches its full development potential.

Austral Indicative Layout Plan 2014



7.6.3 Melton Library, Victoria

Melton Library is a sustainably designed and energy efficient facility that opened in 2013. It is located in the Melton township and cost \$20 million to build. The library is open every day and integrates many services for community members, and integrates health, wellbeing, and education programs for a range of diverse audiences.

The multi-purpose facility includes the following:

- Housing the library's collection of books, journals and resources,
- Providing lifelong learning and community activities, with flexible spaces to cater for large and small groups,
- Eleven meeting spaces, varying in size from a ninety-seat auditorium to more intimate meeting rooms for small groups. These are available to residents and can be booked for various activities including community group meetings, arts and craft groups or business meetings,
- Offering programs for all ages and for a range of community needs including, programs for new arrivals such as providing English conversation classes and support for citizenship tests; job lab support for resume and job applications; after school programs for primary and secondary school students; and craft and activity groups to reduce social isolation,
- Offering children's programs and Maternal and Child Health services,
- A dedicated recording studio available for hire,
- Using the latest in wireless connectivity with well-equipped computer training rooms,
- Changing places - fully accessible toilets, with adult change table and hoist to ensure the centre is an inclusive place for people with disabilities.

7.6.4 Macarthur Gardens, NSW

Macarthur gardens is a part of the Greater Macarthur Growth Area, including urban infill and new release land. Delivered primarily by major development groups, the Macarthur Gardens retirement village and planned mixed use neighbourhood are a good example of the private delivery of best practice community infrastructure, tailored for local demographic needs.

The Macarthur Gardens Community Centre, built for Stockland Property Service, is approximately 1,600m² and contains the village administration facilities, hair salon, doctor's rooms, gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, town hall, billiards room, dining room, and a library. The co-location of services and facilities in a central location makes this facility a success for residents in the village.

Macarthur Gardens North is a mixed-use development that plans to deliver community infrastructure. The concept plan outlines:

- More than 13ha of open space, including a regional park, central park, and a vibrant civic plaza,
- Playgrounds,
- Fitness stations,
- Shared cycle and pedestrian way,
- Recreational space for sports and leisure.

7.6.5 Liverpool City Council – Community Facilities Strategy

The Liverpool City Council's Community Facilities Strategy contains a number of points developing best practice for community infrastructure planning in key growth areas and new release areas. A key focus for Council has been tackling the issues arising from the developer contributions scheme, and the limitations associated with this funding model. Improved facility planning for new release areas looks like:⁷⁵

- Preparing guidelines and functional briefs for new community facilities to inform developers and internal stakeholders of the general requirements for new community facilities
- Seeking resourcing to undertake necessary preliminary research to further inform functional briefs for new community facilities
- Explore funding opportunities for new facilities, outside of contributions
- Ensure all contribution plans require facilities of at least 1 000 sqm in size.

7.6.6 Thirroul District Community Centre & Library, NSW

The Thirroul District Community Centre & Library is an integrated multipurpose community facility servicing the northern part of the Wollongong LGA. The award-winning centre was built in 2009 and co-located with Thirroul's shopping village. Seating over 200 in its hall, the centre is host to numerous programmed events and activities. Key features include:

- Large hall for community events, coupled with a kitchen, foyer, and terrace,
- Six additional bookable rooms,
- Library space,
- Gallery space.

7.7 Aerotropolis Plan, NSW

The Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan envisions the Western Sydney Aerotropolis as the next global gateway of Australia with world-class infrastructure to support a thriving economy and a sustainable, liveable community built around the Western Sydney International Airport.

One of the objectives set in the Plan is to deliver social and cultural infrastructure that strengthens communities, highlighting the significance of efficient planning and timely delivery of social infrastructure in unlocking development in the Aerotropolis and successfully activating the planned precincts within the metropolitan area. With a landscape-led and integrated approach to social infrastructure, the Plan includes community, education and health, and creative and cultural facilities as part of the state and local infrastructure requirements, including:

- Community facilities and open spaces
 - Employment and residential development within 10 minutes' walk of public open space,
 - High quality facilities and services including community centres, multi-purpose hubs, libraries and aquatic centres
- Health and education facilities
 - strategic centres that integrate primary and tertiary education, with health facilities and the landscape to create places of learning and wellbeing
 - local centres where schools and community facilities are integrated into the parklands shared with the broader community
- Arts and creativity facilities
 - Provision of public art, and public spaces such as art galleries, museums and libraries
 - Co-location of artistic and creative organisations in science and education precincts to facilitate collaboration, enable enterprise and innovation and support the development of creative industries⁷⁶

⁷⁵ Community Facilities Strategy (Liverpool City Council, 2018), Page 28.

⁷⁶ Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan (NSW DPE, 2020).

7.8 Waterloo Youth Centre

Waterloo Youth Centre is an example of a refurbished inner city toilet block that has been transformed into a high-quality contemporary workspace and counselling facility for Weave, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting disadvantaged young people in the inner-city. The facility is located next to Waterloo Oval and a skate park which offers an ideal situation for providing services that need to appeal and reach out to the local youth community.

The project was commissioned by the City of Sydney Council and completed in 2012. It now delivers vital community services, achieving exceptional social and economic value. The key uses and features of the facility include:

- Offices for Weave's 14 staff
- Located next to a skate park and within a public parkland area
- Central courtyard to provide natural light and ventilation
- The design adapts the existing building and encloses it in an interlocking steel structure that can be dismantled and relocated.

The estimated cost of the project is \$1800/m² excluding land costs, professional fees and development approvals. The Gross Floor Area is 240m² on a 450m² site. The procurement process followed an open expressions of interest after which applicants were invited to enter a design competition. The architect was Collins And Turner.



Figure 9 Waterloo Youth Centre – integrated indoor and outdoor facility

Source: Green roofs Australasia

PART D: UNDERSTANDING SUPPLY AND DEMAND

8.0 Supply: current and planned social infrastructure

8.1 Introduction

This section audits existing and planned supply of social infrastructure within and with bearing on the WDURA. The section audits supply through a close analysis of GIS data, and Council's WDURA Developer Contributions Plan 2020, to understand existing and proposed provision. The results of this audit feed into the methodology for the gap analysis below.

8.2 Community facilities

There are a limited number of existing facilities catering for the WDURA. These include

- Horsley Community Centre (a council-owned neighbourhood-level community facility)
- Wongawilli Community Hall (a council-owned neighbourhood-level community facility)
- Dapto Ribbonwood Library and Community Centre (a council-owned sub-district integrated multipurpose facility)

A range of planned and upgraded facilities are identified in Council's WDURA Developer Contributions Plan 2020. These and existing facilities have been identified and mapped in **Figure 10** below.

Considering both existing and planned supply, as well as access to the Calderwood community centre, there is sufficient access to community facilities for the catchment generally. However, there is a noted gap in access for stage 5 and parts of stage 4 to sub-district level community facilities, including library space.

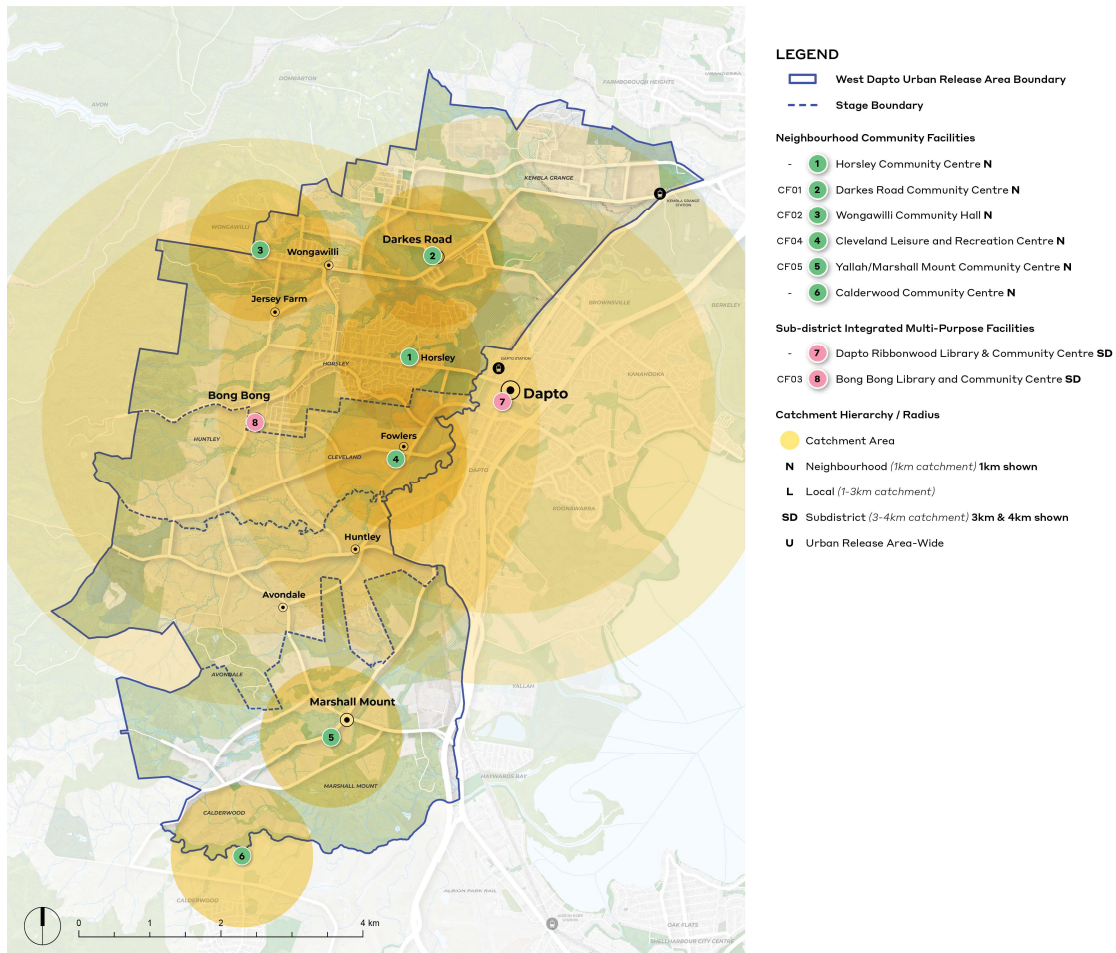


Figure 10 Existing and planned community facilities – WDURA

Source: Ethos Urban

8.2.1 Existing Council facilities



Wongawilli Community Hall - Interior



Wongawilli Community Hall – Exterior

Wongawilli Community Hall

The Wongawilli Community Hall is a 126sqm hall equipped with performing stage, kitchen facilities and outdoor amenities (including a playground and shade) used for community gatherings and activities.

The Wongawilli Community Hall is subject to planned upgrades, with design steps currently underway (see below).



Horsley Community Centre

The Horsley community centre is a Council-owned local community hub accessible by bus and train (1.4km from Dapto train station), offering various activities and services. The centre has bookable facilities including

- (1) Hall (capacity: 80 people, size: approx. 173sqm)
- (1) Sensory room
- (1) Meeting room (capacity: 24 people, size: approx. 50sqm)
- Amenities (kitchen, toilets etc.)



Dapto Library

Dapto Ribbonwood Centre

The Dapto Ribbonwood Centre is Council-managed facility which provides several services and spaces to the community. The centre is closely located to Dapto Mall and Dapto Showground and is accessible by bus and train. The centre includes the Dapto Library, three halls, five meeting rooms, two community offices, kitchen facilities, outdoor facilities, children's playground, parking and public toilets.



Dapto Ribbonwood Centre Hall



Heininger Courtyard



Scribbly Gym Room

Room	Dimensions (m)	Capacity (Theatre Style)	Capacity (Table Seating)
Kurrajong Hall 1 & 2	22 x 15m	400	324
Kurrajong Hall 1 (with large stage and dressing rooms)	15 x 13m	250	216
Kurrajong Hall 2	15 x 8.9m	150	108
Heininger Hall (small stage)	21.5 x 13.5m	250	216
Scribbly Gum Room	12.4 x 8.5m	90	80
Laurel Room	19.5 x 6m	100	70
Acacia Room	9 x 5.7m	50	32
Banksia Room	6.8 x 5.4m	32	22
Sassafras Room	8.2 x 5.2m	35	25
Community Office 1	5.4 x 4.2m	20	16
Community Office 2	6.6 x 4.2m	20	16

8.2.2 Planned community facilities

The *West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020* outlines planned supply for community infrastructure within the WDURA. This planned supply is summarised below:

Table 10 Planned community facilities

CF01	Darkes town centre	Neighbourhood multi-purpose community centre
CF02	Wongawilli	Neighbourhood community centre
CF03	Bong Bong	Sub-district multi-purpose community centre & library
CF04	Cleveland precinct	Neighbourhood multi-purpose community centre
CF05	Yallah - Marshall Mount	Neighbourhood multi-purpose community centre

Source: *West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020*

Wongawilli Community Hall refurbishment

The Wongawilli Community Hall is planned to be refurbished and extended from 126sqm to approximately 350sqm of floor space. The refurbishment plan involved design considerations to preserve the building's heritage significance and identified the following additional facilities:

- New kitchen
- New internal toilets & cleaners room
- Administration office with kitchenette
- Hireable office with kitchenette
- Hireable meeting room with kitchenette
- Foyer
- Building services

Darkes Town Centre District Sports Park and Community Centre Hub

The Darkes Town Centre District Sports Park and Community Centre Hub will be a 9.4ha site located along West Dapto Road under the Illawarra Escarpment. It is expected to serve the existing and future community in the West Dapto growth area. The Concept Plan for the Darkes Town Centre District Sports Park and Community Centre Hub details the following component schedule for the Community Centre, with an estimated cost of up to \$3,020,000. The following spaces have been identified for this facility:

- Hall
- 3 x meetings rooms
- Centre administration and staff amenities
- Community Office
- Building Services
- Public Amenities
- Shared foyer/ entry/ reception
- Kitchen – Commercial grade
- Enclosed covered forecourt

Calderwood community centre

The Calderwood Urban Development Project or Calderwood Valley is 700-hectare master planned site on the rural lands governed by Shellharbour and Wollongong Local Government Areas. The site is situated approximately 1.5 kilometres to southwest of the southern boundary of the WDURA. The project sits on a State Significant site and is expected to deliver 6,000 residential dwellings for more than 12,500 residents, 50 hectares of mixed-use land, open

space, environmental lands, internal roads and community infrastructure. The masterplan for Calderwood Valley by Lendlease includes the following proposed social infrastructure:⁷⁷

- Village centre
- Town centre
- Sprout hub (temporary community centre and café)
- Permanent community centre
- District park with playgrounds
- Parks and sportsgrounds
- Recreation precinct Several schools* and childcare centres including
 - Calderwood Christian School (K-12)
 - two (2) proposed government primary school
 - one (1) proposed government high school
- Active transport infrastructure such as walking and bike trails.

*Note: Whilst there are three (3) government school sites noted within the masterplan for Calderwood Valley (two primary and 1 high school), delivery timeframes for these sites are not confirmed. Wollongong Council staff understand that delivery timeframes for these sites would be subject to the growth rate of development. Further any future school sites within the Calderwood Urban Development Project (UDP) boundary will be needed to accommodate the dwelling growth within the UDP. Council staff understand that the Calderwood identified school sites were not planned to cater for West Dapto.

8.3 Specialised community spaces

Specialised community spaces, encompassing places of worship, youth and seniors spaces, are audited to fully understand the social infrastructure ecosystem in West Dapto. These spaces are often provided by non-council providers. Creative spaces are analysed separately below. The results of this audit (see **Figure 13**) has revealed a lack of youth and seniors spaces and Aboriginal community spaces, while identifying significant quantities of places of worship.

There is currently no non-council bookable space within the WDURA.

8.3.1 Places of worship

A **Place of Public Worship** is defined in the *Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009* (Wollongong LEP) 'as a building or place used for the purpose of religious worship by a congregation or religious group, whether or not the building or place is also used for counselling, social events, instruction or religious training.'

A **Place of Public Worship** is permitted with consent in the following land use zones under the Wollongong LEP:

- R1 – General Residential
- R2 – Low Density Residential
- R3 – Medium Density Residential
- R4 – High Density Residential
- R5 – Large Lot Residential
- B1 – Neighbourhood Centre
- B2 – Local Centre
- B3 – Commercial Centre
- B4 – Mixed Use
- B6 – Enterprise Corridor
- IN1 – General Industrial
- IN2 – Light Industrial

The audit has revealed a significant number of places of worship spread throughout existing urban areas surrounding the WDURA – including from a variety of denominations, both Christian and non-Christian.

The concentration and proliferation of places of worship in the Dapto area generally indicates that there is likely to be faith-based organisations present in the community. Establishing collaborative partnerships with faith-based

⁷⁷ Calderwood Urban Development Project (Shellharbour City Council) <https://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-build/planning-controls-and-guidelines/calderwood-urban-development-project>, Community Vision Calderwood Valley (Lendlease) <https://communities.lendlease.com/new-south-wales/calderwood-valley/living-in-calderwood-valley/community-vision/>

organisations will be essential to ensuring that these organisations provide the spaces necessary to meet the needs of their faith communities, as well as providing social benefit to all residents in the WDURA.

8.4 Education infrastructure

Education infrastructure, while the responsibility of the NSW Department of Education, has been audited to understand provisional need and inform advocacy with the department for adequate provision in the WDURA. Understanding school infrastructure from the outset is vital given their large footprints and pivotal relationship to developing town centres.

The role of independent system school infrastructure is also considered in this audit, mapped concurrently with existing and planned education infrastructure identified in Chapter D16 of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 (see **Figure 11**). It is noted that the *Illawarra Shoalhaven Special Infrastructure Contributions* outlines funding for primary and secondary school student places.

A spatial analysis of this planned supply shows an adequate distribution of high school infrastructure, however some spatial gaps in access to primary schools – particularly in stages 3-5.⁷⁸

It is noted that the Department of Education will undertake needs modelling to determine any changes to the proposed schools identified in the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009.

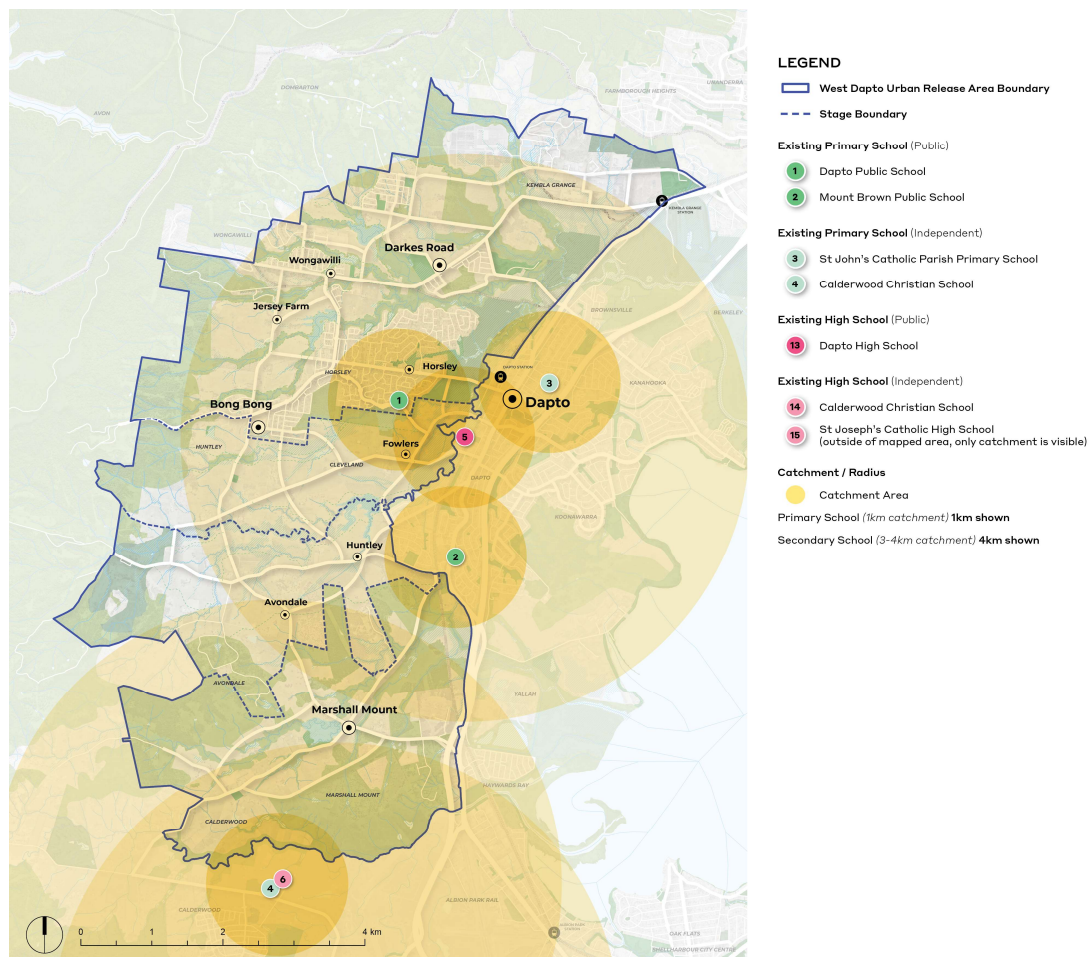


Figure 11 Existing education infrastructure – WDURA

Source: Ethos Urban

8.5 Health and childcare services

Health and childcare, generally provided privately, is audited to understand current provision and highlight the importance of these types of infrastructure to successful neighbourhoods in the WDURA. **Figure 12** below outlines the outcomes of this audit, noting a significant concentration of infrastructure in the existing Dapto town centre. While there is some distribution of medical centres and childcare facilities in Horsley and the WDURA – significant gaps remain.

Access to these types of infrastructure, without relying on substantial travel to the Dapto town centre for some parts of the release area, is a key consideration for planning for social infrastructure in new neighbourhoods in the WDURA.

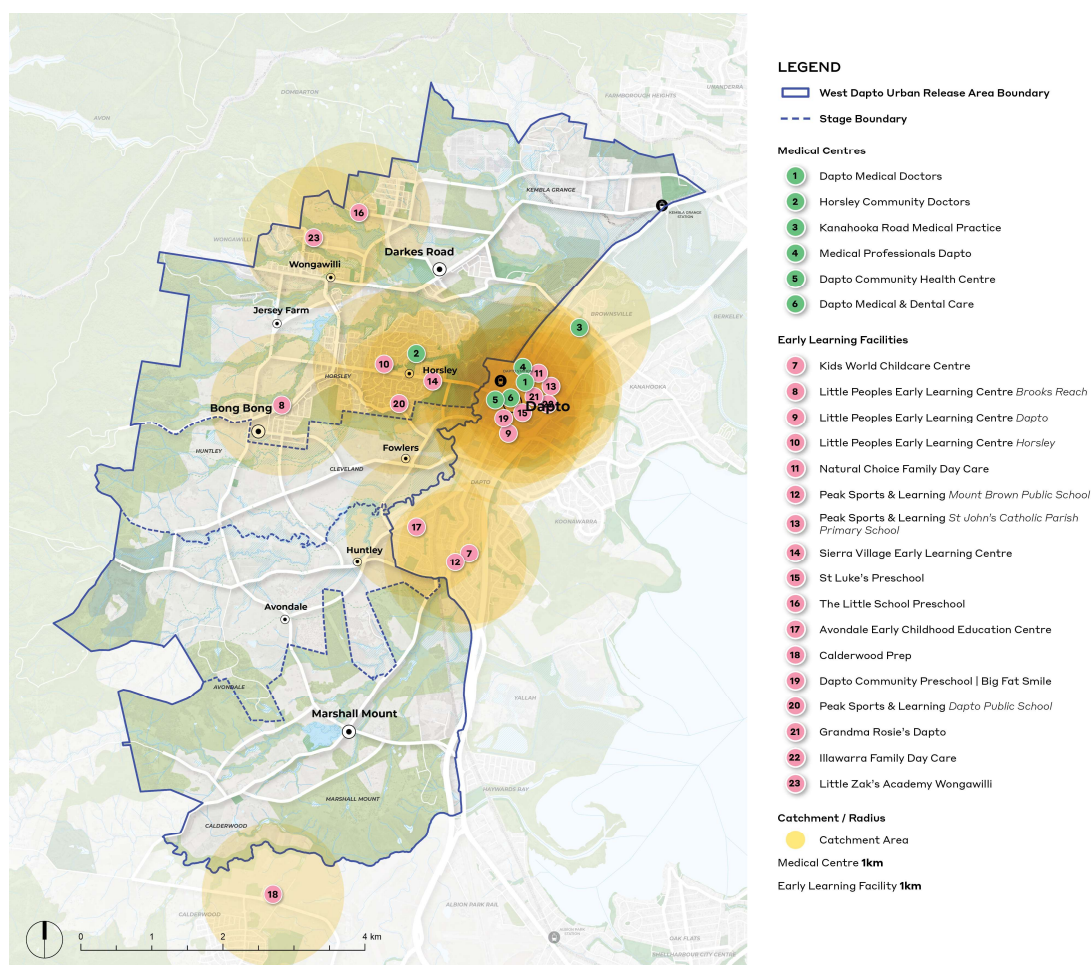


Figure 12 Existing health and childcare infrastructure – WDURA

Source: Ethos Urban

8.6 Creative and cultural infrastructure

Creative and cultural infrastructure is an essential element in building community cohesion and resilience in growth areas. The Creative Wollongong Strategy outlines these opportunities for creative participation through the provision of cultural spaces, noting that activating suburban areas is a key outcome for the plan (See **Section 5.1.7**).

There is limited accessibility to existing cultural and creative facilities for the WDURA. Aside from the Motorlife Museum, and local participation in cultural heritage through local and state listed heritage items, there is no provision currently for cultural infrastructure in the WDURA, nor any concrete plans.

Figure 13 outlines the outcomes of this audit of creative infrastructure.

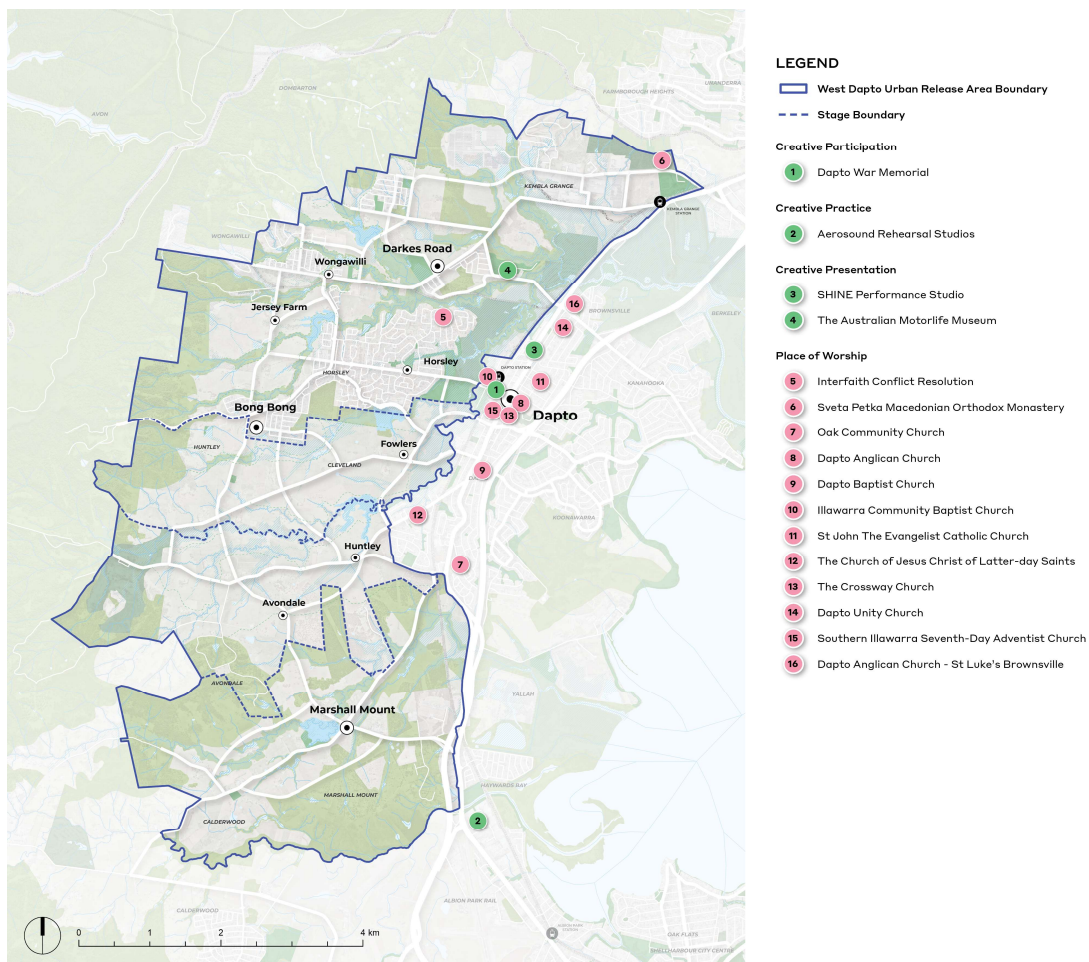


Figure 13 Existing creative and specialised community spaces – WDURA

Source: Ethos Urban

8.6.1 Motorlife Museum

Established by a group of motoring enthusiasts in 1992, the Australian Motorlife Museum is a cultural and heritage haven for the motoring community and beyond, showcasing veteran and vintage cars to both local and international audiences. It houses an impressive range of motoring heritage collection including the Paul Butler Collection, Mayne Garner Collection and NRMA Heritage display and have hosted popular events over the years including the Annual Motoring Expo and National Motoring Heritage Day. It also has an extensive library on motoring magazines and books and includes other heritage exhibits on Australian technology in the 1800s.

Apart from being a tourist spot, the Australian Motorlife Museum is also an important place for the local community, offering well-equipped bookable spaces for community gatherings and other facilities for social interaction such as café rooms and open areas with outdoor amenities.⁷⁹



Figure 14 Australian Motorlife Museum

Source: Google images

8.6.2 Heritage items

Local and state significant heritage items have been audited to understand opportunities for local participation in history and culture. These heritage items are spatially distributed across the WDURA, and are of substantial importance to local character and culture. Identifying opportunities to integrate this built heritage into neighbourhood plans, and explore shared opportunities with the provision of community space, will be important to ensuring the cultural heritage of the WDURA is protected.

Benefits of maintaining public access to these items includes:

- Sightlines to and showcasing of heritage items can increase connection with local history and assist in establishing connection to place for new residents.
- Heritage items generally include private open space within the protected lot, which is significant in greenfield release areas where open space can be challenging to provide

Homesteads can be utilised to provide community infrastructure, either commercially provided or with public involvement, that allows for community engagement with and connection to heritage items.

Figure 15 below outlines selected local and state listed **built** heritage items located within the WDURA.

⁷⁹ <https://www.australianmotorlifemuseum.com/>

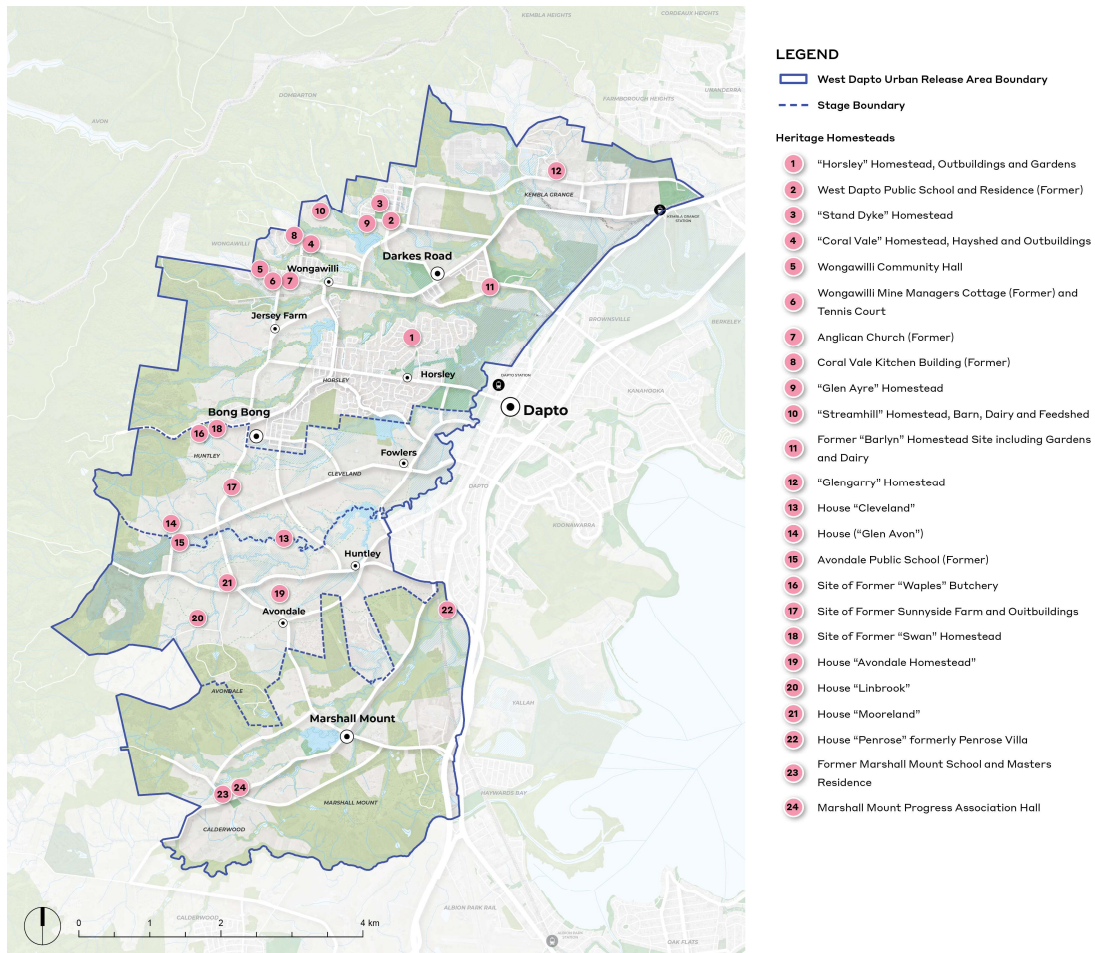


Figure 15 West Dapto Selected Built Heritage Items

Source: Ethos Urban

It is noted that some adaptive reuse of heritage cultural spaces has occurred in the release area, including the Coral Vale Smith Lane Café and commercial space, Wongawilli Mine Managers Residence childcare centre, and the use of Wongawilli Community Hall by Little Preschool at 150 Sheaffes Road.

8.7 Open space

8.7.1 Existing public open space

The table below summarises the existing public open space within the WDURA including each sites classification according to the proposed public open space framework. In addition, an assessment on the functionality of each site has been undertaken with consideration to constrained lands such as power easements and, conservation and drainage lands.

Table 11 Existing Public Open Space serving WDURA

Stage	CP Ref	Reserve Name	Indicative Location / Address	Indicative land area (Ha)	Functional Area (Ha)	Non-Functional Area (Ha)	Classification as per new proposed framework
Stage 1/2	NA	Ian McLennan Oval	50 Wyllie Rd, Kembla Grange NSW 2526	9.9	5.3	4.6	District Sport
	NA	Emu Park	Bunya St, Horsley	0.215	0.215	NA	Local
	NA	Brookes Reach Park	Stack St, Horsley	0.312	0.312	NA	Local
	NA		44 Mallon Avenue, Horsley	0.12	0.12	NA	Local
	NA		23 Siltstone Avenue Horsley	0.09	0.09	NA	Local
	NA	Integral Energy Park	88 Darkes Rd, Kembla Grange NSW 2526	20.08	9.05	11.76	District Recreation
	OS09	Bankbook Park	Bankbook Park, Wongawilli	1.79	1.06	0.73	Local
	OS03	Stane Dyke Park	Stane Dyke Park, Sheaffes Rd Kembla Grange	2.09	1.39	0.7	Local
	OS05	Mogomorra Park	Mogomorra Park, Paynes Rd (north) Kembla Grange	1.71	0.88	0.83	Local
	OS04	McPhail Reserve	McPhail Reserve, corner Sheaffes Rd & Paynes Rd, Kembla Grange	2.81	0.19	2.62	Local
	NA		Pasture Way, Greenview Estate	3	1.17	1.83	Local
TOTAL				42.12	19.05	23.07	-

NOTE: The above supply assessment does not include Public Open Space within the established Horsley area. This area has been assessed in **Section 14.0** to determine any excess capacity that may exist to meet future needs of the WDURA. The assessment found there is a slight surplus of 7.97 Ha but that this surplus will most likely be consumed by growth within Horsley and the adjacent Dapto area.

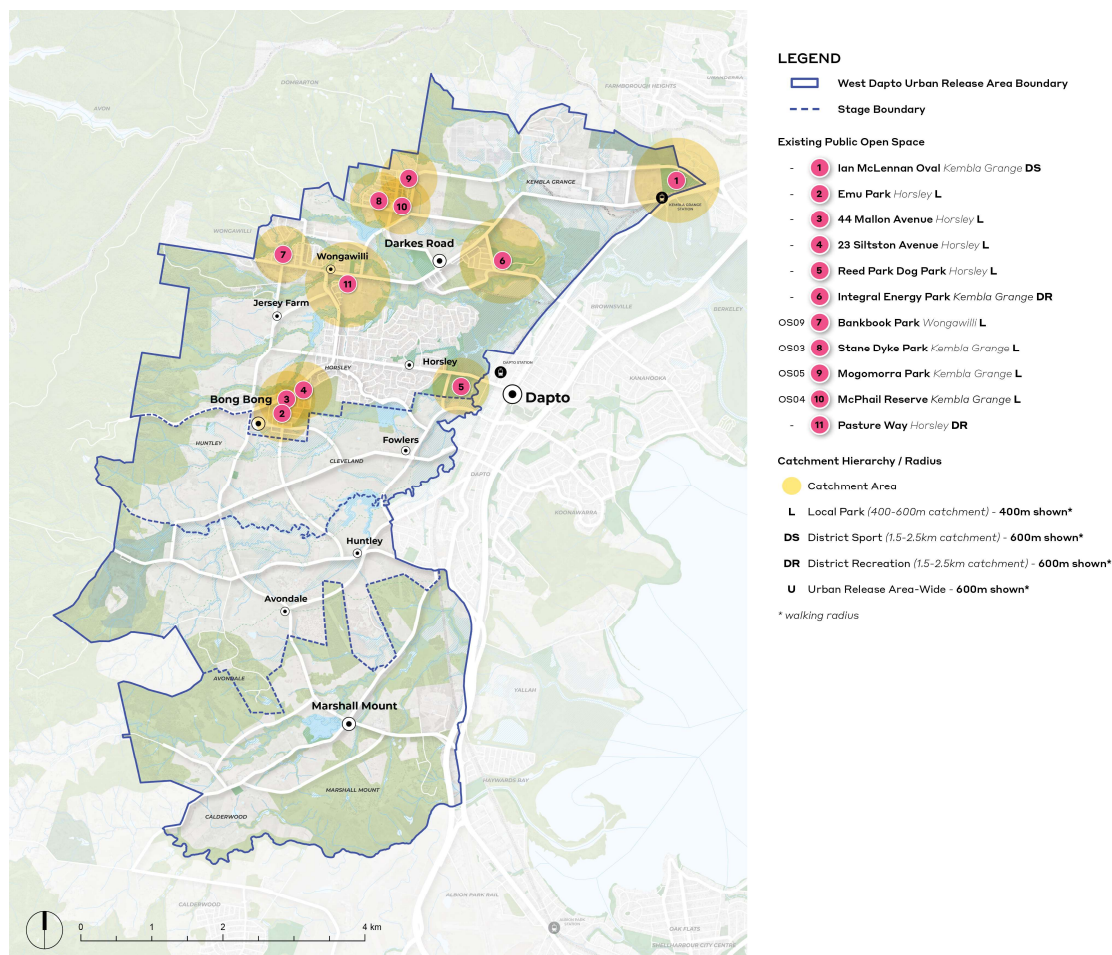


Figure 16 Existing open space – West Dapto Urban Release Area

Source: Ethos Urban and Otium Planning Group

Summary of existing public open space provision⁸⁰

- There are 11 existing public open spaces that have been classified within the proposed framework:
 - Local Park: 9 (81.81% of total existing public open space)
 - District recreation: 1 (9.09% of total existing public open space)
 - District Sport: 1 (9.09% of total existing public open space)
- Of the total land area (42.12Ha) provided for public open space, 19.05ha (45.22%) has been assessed as functional, whilst the remainder **23.07ha (54.77%) has been assessed as non-functional** due to land constraints. This means that only half of the existing public open space network is fit for purpose and usable for public recreation.
- Based on desktop analysis, the constrained and non-functional land within existing public open space mostly comprises of:
 - Drainage and waterway channels/ corridors with riparian vegetation on both sides
 - Conserved/protected vegetation areas
 - Powerline easements
 - Stormwater detention basins

⁸⁰ Excludes the 18 sites in Horsley which are discussed in section 14.2

An example of the functional assessment and determination of constrained land considered not fit for purpose is provided below, showing an area of RE1 zoned land that is located under a major power easement. High voltage power easements are not considered suitable for recreation use and buffer areas to remove risk of harm from exposure to electro-magnetic radiation (EMR) are commonly recommended. In the example below that area of primary exposure under the high voltage easement is considered constrained and not suitable for public recreation. That area of constrained land is removed from the 'functional' supply.

In the figure below, the area marked in blue corridor is identified as the high-voltage powerline easement.



Figure 17 Constrained Public Open Space at Stane Dyke Park



Figure 18 Site elevation of the high voltage powerline running north-south within Stane Dyke Park

Appendix B provides a desktop analysis of all sites identifying non-functional public open space areas.

8.7.2 Planned public open space

Further to the existing public open space identified in the above section, the table below summarises the proposed future public open space provision as per the previous West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2020). This table includes the new classification as per the proposed public open space framework recommended in this report

Table 12 Public Open Space in WDURA Proposed in the 2020 Contributions Plan

Stage	CP 2020 Ref	Infrastructure item	Indicative Location / Address	Indicative timing	Indicative land area (Ha)	Functional Area (Ha)	Non-functional Area (Ha)	Classification as per new proposed framework
STAGE 1/2	OS01	Darkes Town Centre District Sports Park and Community Hub	Adjacent to Darkes Town Centre and conservation land	2021/22 - 2025/26	9.40	9.40	-	District Sport
	OS08	Greenview Estate- Local Park (Site identified by Council)	Within residential area - along West Dapto Road & south of the railway line	2021/22 - 2025/26	2.00	0.09	1.91	Local
	OS02	Ridge Park- Local Park C2 zoned to protect EEC⁸¹ (Site identified by Council)	On ridge to east of Darkes Town Centre	2019/20 - 2022/23	10.23	0.50	9.73	Local
	OS06	Neighbourhood Park	Adjacent to Wongawilli Village Centre - along West Dapto Road	2019/20 - 2022/23	4.50	4.50	-	District Recreation
	OS07	Local Park	Within residential area - western end of Sheaffes Road	2021/22 - 2025/26	2.00	2.00	-	Local
	OS10	Neighbourhood Park	Adjacent to Jersey Farm Village Centre	2026/27 - 2028/29	4.00	4.00	-	District Recreation
	OS11	Neighbourhood Park	Adjacent to Bong Town Centre	2036/37 - 2040/41	3.00	3.00	-	District Recreation
	OS12	Local Park	Within residential area - along Haynes Lane	2021/22 - 2025/26	2.00	2.00	-	Local
Planned Public Open Space					-	25.49	-	-
STAGE 3					-	-	-	
	OS13	Aquatic Centre and Community Recreation Precinct	Southern side of Cleveland Road adjacent Daisy Bank Drive	2036/37 - 2040/41	N/A	-	-	NA
	OS16	Neighbourhood Park	Adjacent to Community Leisure & Recreation Centre	2036/37 - 2040/41	4	4	-	District Recreation
	OS15	Local Park	Sunnyside (Stockland Stage 3)- Within residential area - north of the western end of Cleveland Road	2026/27 - 2030/31	1	1	-	Local
	OS14	Local Park	Within residential area - south of the western end of Bong Road	2026/27 - 2030/31	1.5	1.5	-	Local

⁸¹ EEC- Endangered Ecological Communities

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Stage	CP 2020 Ref	Infrastructure item	Indicative Location / Address	Indicative timing	Indicative land area (Ha)	Functional Area (Ha)	Non-functional Area (Ha)	Classification as per new proposed framework
	OS17	Local Park	Within residential areas - south of Cleveland Road	2046/47 – 2050/51	2	2	-	Local
	OS18	Local Park	Within residential areas - northern side, far western end of Cleveland Road	2046/47 – 2050/51	2	2	-	Local
	Planned Public Open Space				-	10.5 Ha	-	-
STAGE 4	OS19	Neighbourhood Park	Adjacent to Huntley Village Centre and residential area	2045/46 – 2050/51	4	4	-	District Recreation
	OS20	Neighbourhood Park	Adjacent to Avondale Village Centre and residential area	2045/46 – 2050/51	4	4	-	District Recreation
	OS21	Local Park	Within residential areas - along Avondale Road & west of South Avondale Road	2046/47 – 2051/52	2	2	-	Local
	OS22	Local Park	Within residential areas - southern side along Avondale Road	2046/47 – 2051/52	2	2	-	Local
	Planned Public Open Space				-	12 Ha	-	-
STAGE 5	OS23	Yallah Recreation Area- Neighbourhood Park (Site identified by Council)	North side along Marshall Mount Road & adjacent to Marshall Mount Town centre	2031/32 - 2035/36	7.5	4.00	3.50	District Recreation
	OS24	Local Park	Within residential areas - along the western end of Marshall Mount Road	2031/32 - 2035/36	2	2	-	Local
	OS25	Local Park	Within residential areas - along the northern end of Marshall Mount Road	2031/32 - 2035/36	2	2	-	Local
	Planned Public Open Space				-	8Ha	-	-
TOTAL PLANNED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE					55.99HA			

Note – The above areas only consider functionality and site constraints where a known site has been acquired or designated. Assessment of site suitability/functionality (and compliance with performance criteria) is strongly recommended to ensure the future network of public open space for sport and recreation is fit for purpose. Please note, parks planned within the Stocklands Stage 3 development are constrained by detention basins and/or heritage items. Please note the classification of some proposed open spaces in table 12 may change further in the report, if the open spaces are required to be upgraded to meet the identified gap in future provision.

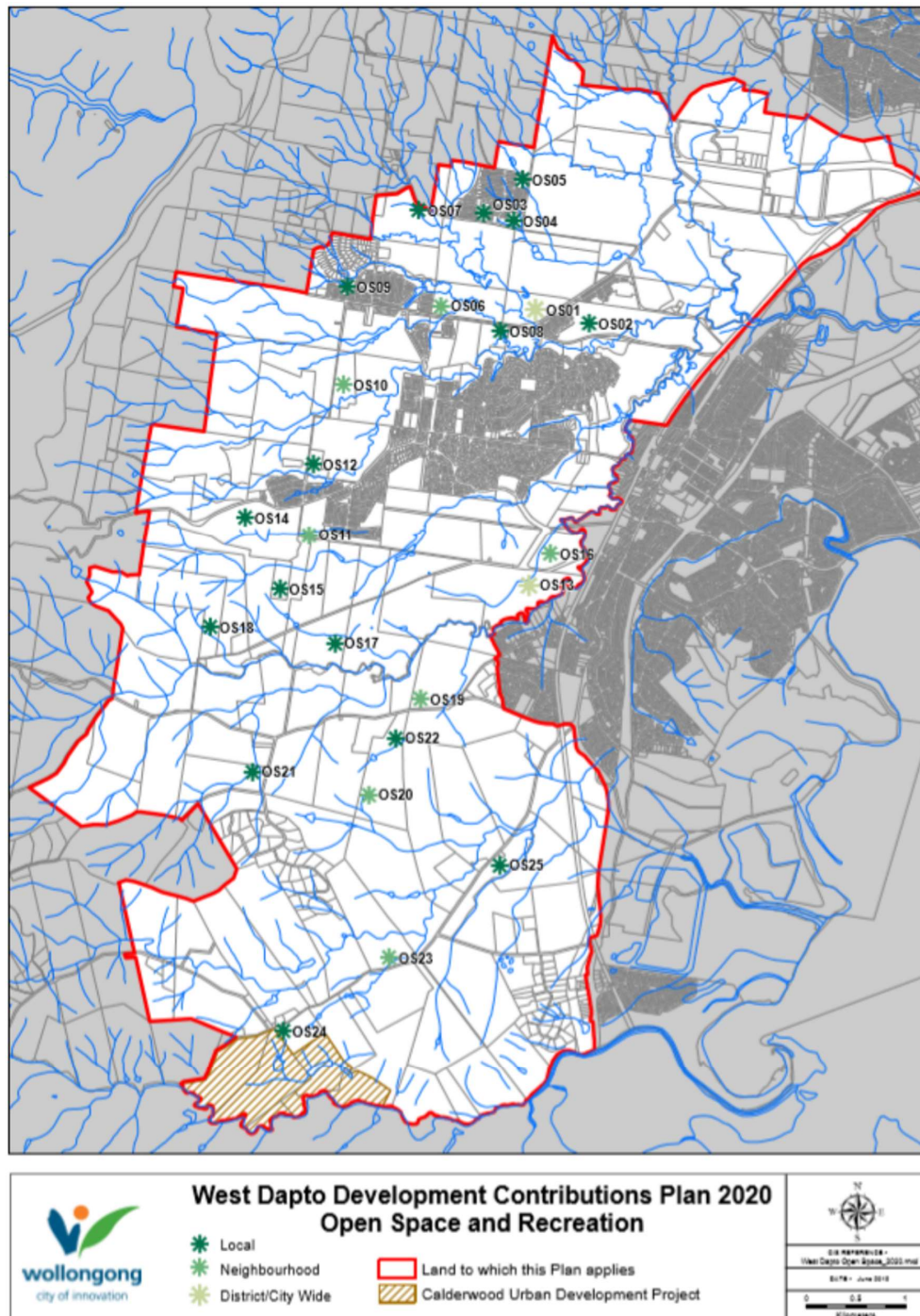


Figure 19 Planned open space – West Dapto Urban Release Area

Source: West Dapto Contributions Plan 2020, Ethos Urban and Otium Planning Group

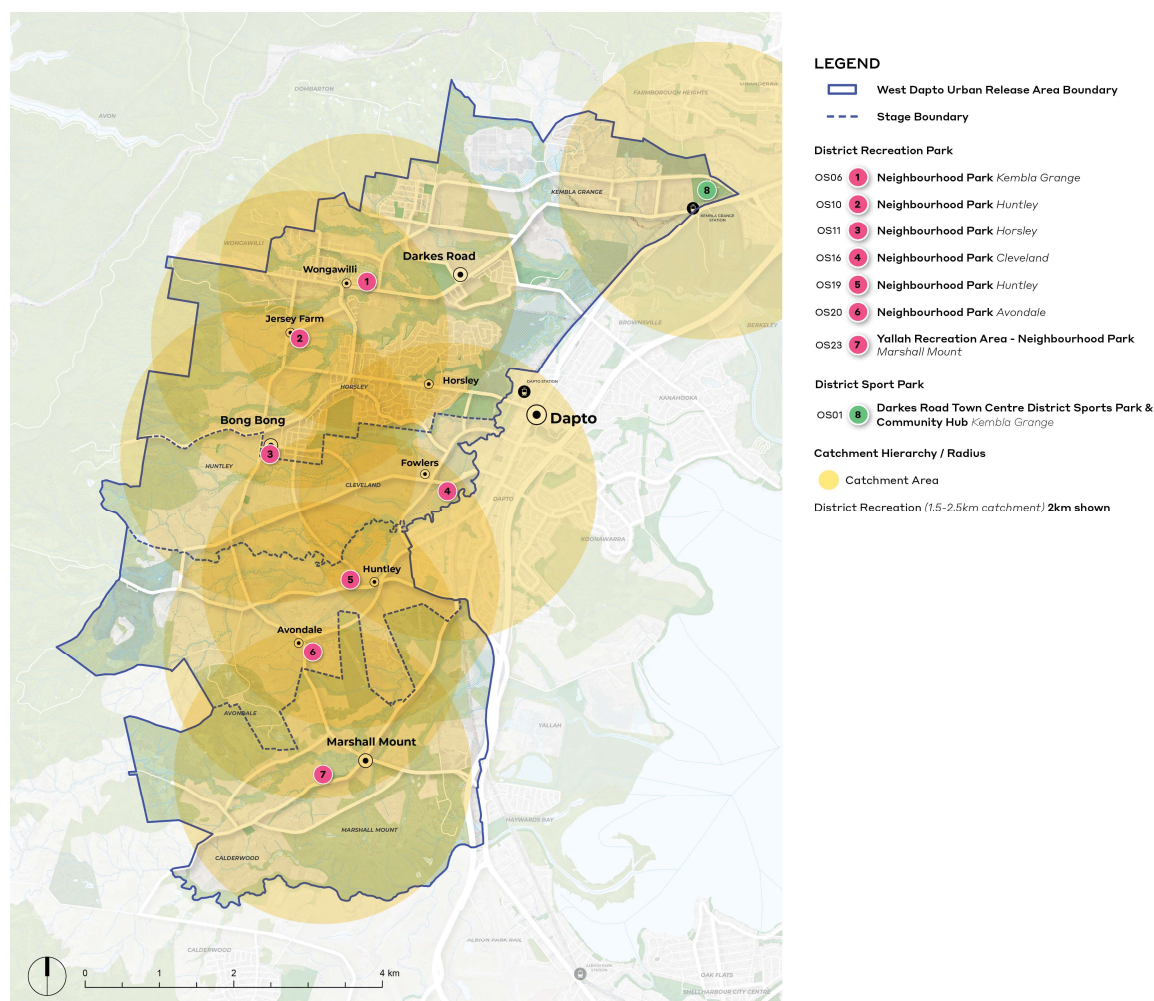


Figure 20 Classification of the Planned Open Space as per the new proposed framework

Source: West Dapto Contributions Plan 2020, Ethos Urban and Otium Planning Group

8.7.3 Summary of existing and planned functional public open space

A summary of the total existing and planned functional public open space by stage area is provided in the below table.

Table 13 Existing functional and all future planned public open space by stage

	STAGE 1/2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5	TOTAL
Total area of Public Open Space provided	44.54 Ha (Excludes 23.07ha of existing non-functional Public Open Space)	10.5 Ha	12 Ha	8 Ha	75.04 Ha

The total existing functional and future planned public open space for WDURA currently totals 75.04 hectares. An assessment of site functionality is recommended for all future planned public open spaces in WDURA to ensure compliance with performance criteria for public open space for sport and recreation.

9.0 Demand: population forecasts

9.1 Projected population of WDURA

The population projected for WDURA has been adopted from the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2020).

Between 2018 and 2028, population growth is projected at 20.2% per year or 1,660 residents per year, increasing the resident population from 3,120 persons to 19,680 persons. Notwithstanding the low population-base, this represents significant growth at 570 dwellings per year and will generate a proportional level of demand for community infrastructure.

Between 2028 and 2048, growth is expected to continue at 1,490 persons (or 4.7%) per year, adding 510 dwellings per year and growing the local population to 49,480 persons. As the area nears capacity, growth is forecast to decline over the next 10-years to 2058, averaging at 800 persons or 260 dwellings per year.

Development will initially be focused on Stages 1/2, with Stage 5 ramping up quickly to 2028, before focus shifts to Stages 3 and 4.

Table 14 WDURA Population Projections by Stage, 2018 to 2058

	2018	2028	2038	2048	2058	2018 - 2058
Population						
Stage 1/2	3,119	12,569	16,463	18,413	18,413	15,294
Stage 3	0	4,071	7,843	13,420	14,009	14,009
Stage 4	0	1,149	4,260	7,785	12,651	12,651
Stage 5	0	1,889	6,009	9,859	12,360	12,360
Total	3,119	19,678	34,575	49,477	57,433	54,314

Source: Wollongong City Council, West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020

It is noted that actual dwelling numbers are hard to predict due to market and other forces. The above estimates, particularly surrounding staging and timing are therefore subject to change.

9.2 Population forecasts – service age groups

To inform community infrastructure, planning projections sourced from the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2020) have been disaggregated into service age groups. Note these estimates have been prepared at a high-level and should be considered as indicative representations of the future West Dapto community.

It should be noted that with a significant increase in the overall population, the overall number of persons within certain service group cohorts will increase even though the proportion of persons in the cohort may have decreased. Further, estimates presented in this report are specifically for new residents, and as a result will vary from the existing community profile.

Underlying assumptions

As a new release area, the demographic characteristics of new residents of WDURA are expected to closely reflect other greenfield development areas. Key characteristics include:

- A high proportion of young families with children and about to start a family.
- Larger household sizes relative to inner-city areas.
- Lower levels of lone person and group households.
- A high proportion of owner occupiers.
- A low proportion of older residents.

These characteristics will gradually shift as the area evolves and begins to reflect more established suburbs. As families grow older the proportion of residents below the age of 11 will begin to decline and the overall median age of residents will increase. Household sizes will decrease as children move out of home and Stage 5 of the WDURA increases supply of medium density and in-centre development.

Analysis was undertaken of population size, population growth, and dwelling structure characteristics of greenfield development areas in Sydney's north-west and south-west. The analysis identified the Parklea – Kellyville Ridge SA2 (Parklea) area as a plausible outcome for the WDURA at 2058. The change in Parklea's age profile over time is also generally consistent with the expectations for the WDURA community, outlined in the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2020).

WDURA is projected to be developed over a period of 40 years, reflecting the size of the area and quantum of demand for housing in Wollongong's western growth area. Parklea on the other hand, as a smaller area located in Sydney's north-west growth area, was developed over a period of approximately 10-years.

To account for this variation in timeframes, service age forecasts for each stage of development of the WDURA have been prepared based on the service age group distribution in Parklea where the level of development in that stage corresponds to the equivalent level of development in Parklea.

The level of development in WDURA is defined as the cumulative share of capacity and for Parklea, the resident population in a given year relative to its 2016 population (when it is considered to have become an established area).

For example, Stage 1/2 reaches 89% capacity in 2038, this corresponds with the 2013 Parklea share of its 2016 population (93%); consequently, Parklea's 2013 service age group shares are applied to the Stage 1/2's 2038 population.

Forecast population growth

Based on the assumptions above, the following key observations are made:

- The number of residents aged 0-4 is expected to peak at 5,120 persons in 2048, before gradually declining to 4,000 persons by 2058.
- Similarly, residents aged 25 to 34 will also peak in 2048 at 9,160 persons before declining substantially to 7,270 persons by 2058.
- The balance of the population will see continued growth over the forecast period.

Service age group forecasts for the overall WDURA are outlined in the table below.

Table 15 WDURA population forecasts – service age groups, 2018 to 2058

Service Age Groups	2018	2028	2038	2048	2058
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	231	2,195	3,828	5,198	3,998
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	353	2,024	3,912	6,062	6,744
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	286	1,339	2,382	3,716	5,091
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	266	1,908	2,962	3,902	4,803
Young workforce (25 to 34)	433	4,524	7,536	9,160	7,267
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	656	4,666	8,761	13,261	15,624
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	379	1,570	2,779	4,209	6,208
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	271	877	1,541	2,559	4,150
Seniors (70 to 84)	212	522	788	1,273	3,119
Elderly aged (85 and over)	33	54	87	136	429
Total	3,119	19,678	34,575	49,477	57,433

Source ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016; Ethos Urban

NB. Demographic components of this assessment rely on 2016 census data, and are updated using other official data sources. Wollongong Council staff will monitor updated projections as they become available.

9.3 Horsley population data

The following information is sourced from the *West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2020)*. The Horsley release area was largely developed between 1993 and 2010. The area of Horsley is now generally established, with some remaining growth expected to occur as infill development. These **growth assumptions were included in the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan under Stage 1/2 population projections**.

The following outlines the existing demographic profile of Horsley, as at 2016 (based on SA1 level ABS 2016 census data).

Table 16 Horsley population – service age groups, 2016

Service Age Groups	2016
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	494
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	782
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	733
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	632
Young workforce (25 to 34)	724
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	1616
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	910
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	623
Seniors (70 to 84)	472
Elderly aged (85 and over)	63
Total	7,049

Source: ABS, *Census of Population and Housing, 2016; Ethos Urban*

Forecast population for the release areas in stage 1/2 directly to the west of Horsley are outlined below. These numbers have already been included in stage 1/2 forecasts within Council's West Dapto Contributions Plan 2020. The following forecast residents will not be counted in quantitative benchmarking, to ensure that they are not 'double counted'. Rather, understanding the level of growth surrounding the existing Horsley area will aid the qualitative understanding of open space and community infrastructure demand.

Analysis of dwelling yields for the Horsley area has revealed additional forecasts of 1600 residents in the greenfield area directly to the West of Horsley,⁸² and ~100 additional residents through infill within the existing suburb of Horsley.

⁸² It is noted that this area is subject to a naming change.

10.0 Community and stakeholder perspectives

10.1 Summary of consultation activities

Key stakeholders were identified and confirmed in collaboration with Council's Project Control Group. A mixture of workshops and interviews were conducted to discuss their insights into social infrastructure planning for the WDURA. Aims of the engagement process included:

- Seeking feedback about the gaps, needs and opportunities for social infrastructure in the WDURA,
- Understand stakeholder perspectives and any policies or plans their organisation may have that could impact social infrastructure provision in this area,
- Unpack key issues impacting delivery and opportunities for infrastructure in the WDURA.

10.2 Participants

The following key stakeholders were invited to participate in the interviews, with 10 participants able to attend across:

- Create NSW
- Shoalhaven Health District
- Aboriginal Land Council
- Careways
- Greater Cities Commission
- Department of Planning and Environment
- Office of Sports
- Parks and Leisure NSW
- Sport NSW
- Outdoor NSW

It is understood that where engagement is yet to occur at the time of writing, Council will engage with the identified stakeholder prior to finalising the needs assessment.

10.3 Key findings

A summary of the feedback raised during the two workshops is detailed in the table below.

Table 17 Engagement findings summary

Theme	Feedback
Integrated social infrastructure planning for vibrant neighbourhood centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create focal points within suburbs across West Dapto through the identification of walkable neighbourhoods with activated town centres that encourage community health and wellbeing, and community cohesion and capacity building. • Need to consider carefully what sort of businesses go in town centres, what services are available, the provision of healthy food offerings to encourage healthy eating, supporting small businesses, and ensure that food needs are available in local town centres that encourage local economic development. • First nations need to be consulted on outcomes for the whole of the release area, not just cultural spaces.
Planning for youth activities in West Dapto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally entertainment and recreation activities should be within their local neighbourhoods in the WDURA. At the moment, there is a drain of kids during the weekend and at night to the other side of the highway into Dapto town centre and the coast because all of the activities and services are perceived to be there. Parents would prefer that kids stay within their local area. • Cater for kids that are not 'sporty' with alternative activities and services, including through the arts. • Arts intervention programs have been shown to be highly effective in working with disadvantaged youth.

Theme	Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids need to be given a sense of ownership over spaces that specifically cater for their needs (including the co-location of youth services).
Supporting population health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community health hub models are emerging as a strategic preference for NSW Health. These district facilities are run by NSW Health and work in close connection with local GPs and other service providers (including Council). The existing health hub at Dapto town centre is likely to be sufficient for the West Dapto Urban Release Area. Encourage a mixture of local GP clinics and, for services where people are prepared to travel a bit further, health hubs.
Delivering a community arts centre to support creative infrastructure needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Kembla and outlying areas of West Dapto have an active and upcoming artists scene with significant clusters of creatives. Create NSW and Careways supported the concept of a community arts centre model for the WDURA. Wollongong City Gallery is considered a good district facility but doesn't have a strong community element. Consider Hazelhurst and Campbelltown arts centres as viable models for WDURA. Create a scaleable model that matches the level of growth in the precinct. Needs to be a space that is able to run workshops and act as a meeting place, including a commercial/café aspect. Other cultural infrastructure should also be considered, including providing studio spaces in community centres, adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, and incorporate performance spaces into open space.
Mitigating social tension between existing and emerging communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social tension between existing lower socio-economic community and new community moving into West Dapto, with development in the release area targeting young professionals. Social arts approaches are important to develop social cohesion, alongside other social engagement opportunities.
Illawarra Shoalhaven Sport Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of sport collaboration with Wollongong City Council. Office of Sport is in the early stages of developing the Illawarra Shoalhaven Sports Infrastructure plan. The plan will focus on regional scale facilities. Potential opportunity for Council's involvement to influence the timing of this plan.
Flood Resilience in building materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all built forms within flood-prone land, building materials should be resilient to sustain major inundation events.
Playing field infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting for drainage and irrigation: Include field irrigation and drainage as key infrastructure within the performance criteria for efficient management and maintenance of playing fields.
Staged delivery of parks and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring parks and open spaces are delivered before residents move to the new release areas (preferred) or at the same time. Early wins to ensure residents are not deprived of recreation facilities and/or travelling long distances to access parks.

Theme	Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify early win projects within each stage to deliver prior to the residents moving in.
Monitoring planning, delivery and on-going maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing systems to monitor. Change in demographic character. Timely planning, design and delivery of parks and open spaces. Ongoing maintenance . Asset management and renewal. Performance of the park (monitored through satisfaction surveys and on-site observations).
High quality urban design outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate open space design with high quality public domain design. Encourage open space provision through high quality public domain. Urban Forest Strategy to complement active transport corridors.

PART E: COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ANALYSIS

11.0 Quantitative Gap analysis

11.1 Introduction and approach

Planning for future provision of community facilities is essential to support a healthy and sustainable community in the WDURA. This report sets out the findings of a community needs analysis that has been methodically undertaken to help to understand the gaps in provision and informs the recommendations for future provision. Although this assessment has focused on Council owned and/ or managed assets, it is important to consider and appreciate the role of other facilities which play a supplementary role in the existing social infrastructure network.

This report outlines the methodology used to assess the existing provision of community facilities in West Dapto relative to current and forecast community needs, including:

- Outline of typology to be applied in this study (**Section 3.0**),
- Introduction of benchmarking guidelines – used to assess the quantum and distribution of existing community facilities based on geographic catchments and population sizes (below),
- Defining the assessment catchments – the geographical areas used to assess existing community facilities (**Section 2.5**),
- Quantitative assessment and applying the benchmark – application of the assessment methodology to identify gaps in provision and to determine strategic priorities and recommendations for future supply (below),
- Qualitative assessment – the strategic and best practice principles used to assess the qualitative aspects of existing facilities including usage, suitability, condition and location.

Developing benchmarks/what they mean

Benchmarks enable a quantitative assessment of community facilities provision based on a prescribed set of principles. The term 'benchmark' refers to the ratio of facility provision per population size, such as one library per 20,000-30,000 residents in a catchment.

Benchmarks provide guidance on best practice facilities provision across a specified typology, enabling an assessment of the quantum, size and distribution of facilities relative to a specified population size and geographic catchment. This assessment is used to inform the broader context and understanding of community needs across the LGA.

Benchmarks are not a one-size-fits all tool: they need to be applied with care as part of a broader strategic assessment and decision-making process. When undertaking the community needs analysis and applying the benchmarking standards through this study, relevant considerations are:

- Standards may not consider other community facilities that are not owned or managed by Council (e.g. privately owned and/ or operated),
- Standards do not take into account variations in population density and distribution of people with a geographic catchment, nor do they consider geographic barriers to access (e.g., major roads, distances between facilities), and
- Standards do not take into account the quality or level of utilisation of a facility, which are separately assessed.

Benchmarks applied to this study

Benchmarks applied in this analysis are set out in **Table 18** over page.

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Table 18 Benchmarks applied to this study

Infrastructure category	Typology		Benchmark	Source	Hierarchy (Wollongong SIPF)	Geographic catchment (adapted from Wollongong SIPF)
General community facilities	District multipurpose community centre		1 : 20,000 residents	EU adapted from ASR	Sub-district	3-4km
	Library space (standalone or combined)		1 : 20,000 residents	State library of NSW	Sub-district	3-4km
	Neighbourhood multipurpose community centre		1 : 10,000 residents	EU adapted from ASR & best practice	Neighbourhood	<1km
	Non-council bookable space		Not benchmarked	n/a	n/a	n/a
Specialised community facility	Youth	Youth-friendly space	1 : 8,000 residents	EU adapted from ASR & best practice	Local	1-3km
		Youth centre	1:30,000 residents	EU adapted from ASR & best practice	District	4-10km
	Seniors space		Not benchmarked	n/a	Sub-district	3-4km
	Community Sheds and Gardens		Not benchmarked	n/a	Local	1-3km
	Co-working / business incubator spaces		Not benchmarked	n/a	Local	1-3km
	Aboriginal community space		Not benchmarked	n/a	District	4-10km
	Places of worship		Not benchmarked	n/a	Local	1-3km
Education and Early Years	Child care places		1 place : 3.8 children aged 0-4 years	EU	Neighbourhood	<1km
	Government primary school		1 primary school : 500 5 – 11 year olds	Based on % of all students enrolled 2020 in NSW (Australian Curriculum, Assessment, and Reporting Authority)	Local	1-3km
	Government high school		1 high school : 1,200 secondary schoolers	Based on % of all students enrolled 2020 in NSW (Australian Curriculum, Assessment, and Reporting Authority)	Sub-district	3-4km

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Creative and cultural facilities	Practice (incl. studio/workshop space)	Local community practice space	1 <i>Community practice space</i> : 8,000 residents	EU adapted from ASR & best practice	Local	1-3km
		General qualitative assessment	Not benchmarked	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Presentation (incl. performance and exhibition spaces)	District presentation facilities	1 <i>community arts centre</i> : 40,000 residents 1 <i>performing arts facility</i> : 40,000 residents	EU adapted from ASR	Local	1-3km
		Local presentation spaces	Not benchmarked	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Participation (local cultural participation, incl. through public art and local heritage programs)		Not benchmarked	EU	Neighbourhood	<1km
Health & wellbeing	Health Hub		1 : 50,000 residents	EU adapted from ASR & best practice	District	4-10km
	Local Medical centre		1 : 25,000 residents	EU based on average rate of provision in higher amenity suburbs	Local	1-3km
	General Practitioner (GP)		1 : 1,000 residents	EU based on average rate of GPs per person NSW	Neighbourhood	<1km

11.2 Summary gaps – whole of release area

A benchmark-based gap analysis has been undertaken for all infrastructure outlined in the typology above. The raw outputs of this analysis are found in **Appendix C**.

Understanding the quantity and nature of existing supply, as well as gaps in meeting demand by 2058, is crucial to effective planning for community infrastructure to be accommodated by this project. Even longer term needs may require land to be earmarked now, making it important to look well ahead in this way.

The below findings of the benchmark-based gap analysis represent a preliminary assessment. These findings include infrastructure which may be provided through organisations other than Council, including through advocacy with state government agencies. It is noted that these gaps represent gaps to 2058. The timing of provision during this 36-year horizon will be examined further, through to establishing delivery priorities during this time period in the draft report.

The summary gaps to 2058 for the whole of the release area are as follows:

Sub-district – district

- 1 x sub-district integrated multipurpose community centre (additional to currently planned),
- 1 x library space (additional to currently planned),
- 2 x youth centres,
- 1 x community arts centre,
- 1 x co-located performing arts facility (e.g. public access to High School performing arts facility which would be subject to a joint user agreement).

Neighbourhood – local

- 7 x youth friendly spaces,
- 406 x childcare places,
- School Infrastructure NSW and the NSW Department of Education are the responsible authorities that will investigate the need for new school infrastructure within the West Dapto Urban Release Area. It would be through their investigations that any gaps would be identified and addressed.
- 31 x GPs,
- 1 x local medical centre,
- 7 x community creative practice spaces,
- Local cultural infrastructure, including places for local cultural participation and presentation.

Table 19 over page provides an overview of identified provision gaps across key infrastructure types. It is an extract from the more detailed **Benchmarking Analysis** at **Appendix C** which sets out the needs analysis undertaken across all infrastructure types – those with and without identified gaps.

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Table 19 Provision gaps across the release area to 2058

Infrastructure type <i>Infrastructure with an identified gap</i>	Benchmark (number/ size)	Gap by 2058 (quantum/ floorspace)	Year <i>Year in which gap arises based on population growth threshold</i>	Comments on identified gaps, delivery opportunities and considerations
Sub-district multipurpose community centre	1: 20-30,000 residents 2000sqm+	0.9 2000sqm+	2058	<p>The existing supply of integrated multipurpose facilities is limited to the Dapto town centre. While this facility provides some access, the addition of a district scale multipurpose facility in Bong Bong will support accessibility and capacity for the WDURA. The Bong Bong facility is assumed to be of a benchmarked size that corresponds to the Wollongong SIPP sub-district facility – and with the inclusion of a library, should be at least 3,600m² (inclusive of library floorspace).</p> <p>There is a spatial gap in access to an integrated multipurpose facility by 2058 for stages 4 and 5. The delivery of a multipurpose facility in Calderwood would alleviate the spatial and population-based gap – however, it is noted that the facility is expected to be approx. 1,120sqm falling short of the benchmarked size. Consider the delivery of library floorspace of at least 1500m² in Marshall Mount town centre, as part of a larger co-located facility. It is noted that this could be of a 'local scale', being between 1,500 and 2,400m².</p>
Library space (standalone or combined)	1:20-30,000 residents 1500sqm+	0.9	2058	As above, due to co-location.
Neighbourhood multipurpose community centre	600sqm+	0.7	n/a	<p>No identified gap in quantity to service the population across the WDURA.</p> <p>However, stage 4 has an identified gap for local community centres, noting no proposed supply. Consider delivery of a community centre in Avondale village centre, by 2048.</p>
Youth friendly spaces	120-600sqm	7.2	2028	Smaller, integrated youth friendly spaces have a significant gap by 2028 across the WDURA. Consider opportunities to provide spaces that cater towards the youth population as part of local and district community facilities.
Youth centre	600-2,400sqm	1.9	2038	Co-locate youth centre with district park. Refer to best practice examples, including Waterloo, on the co-location of open space and youth centres. Incorporate incubation, for example a park with close location with a town centre with commercial uses as well. Talk to community service providers about need, and ideally consider locations close to existing urban areas (noting higher than average youth disadvantage).

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Infrastructure type <i>Infrastructure with an identified gap</i>	Benchmark (number/ size)	Gap by 2058 (quantum/ floorspace)	Year <i>Year in which gap arises based on population growth threshold</i>	Comments on identified gaps, delivery opportunities and considerations
Childcare places		406.1	2038	Consider methods to facilitate supply through town centres, including through encouraging existing local providers. It is noted that Council is not usually the provider of childcare centres, and service provision is desired through external providers. Council therefore plays a facilitation role in the provision of childcare places.
Government primary school		TBC by School Infrastructure NSW	TBC by School Infrastructure NSW	<p>The West Dapto Urban Release Area is located within range of several existing government schools including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dapto High School • Dapto Public School • Mount Brown Public School • Lake Lands Public School <p>Council staff understand that to plan for schools School Infrastructure NSW and the Department of Education considers (amongst other things) long term trends in population growth, the likely uptake of new housing, by those with school aged children, the ratio of government and non-government school attendance and the size and location of existing schools.</p> <p>It is understand that the State would only establish new schools where there are no other options available and budget approval has been given. Where schools are required, the Department of Education will negotiate with housing developers and consult with local councils to place them near transport and town centres and encourage the use of shared amenities including sports fields and halls. Wollongong Council staff have been advised by School Infrastructure NSW that the proposed growth and projections for the wider West Dapto Urban Release Area, indicate that there will be a requirement for additional schools and support services infrastructure to service the proposed growth. The possible need for new school sites will also be subject to future population and housing forecasts issued by the Department of Planning and Environment within the NSW Common Planning Assumptions.</p> <p>School Infrastructure NSW will undertake ongoing consultation with Wollongong City Council staff and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment as detailed planning progresses for the release area and will monitor the situation.</p> <p>-</p>
Government high school		TBC by School Infrastructure NSW	TBC by School Infrastructure NSW	

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Infrastructure type <i>Infrastructure with an identified gap</i>	Benchmark (number/ size)	Gap by 2058 (quantum/ floorspace)	Year <i>Year in which gap arises based on population growth threshold</i>	Comments on identified gaps, delivery opportunities and considerations
GP		31.4	2038	Consider methods to facilitate supply through town centres, including through encouraging existing local providers.
Health hub		1.1	2048	Discuss delivery of a health hub with Health infrastructure NSW (as part of consultation) for the delivery of a co-located health services hub in Dapto (to service the entire WDURA).
Community practice space	120-600sqm	7.2	2028	Refer to stages.
Community arts centre	2,400-3,600sqm	1.4	2038	Consider co-location with significant heritage homestead.
Performing arts facility	2,400-3,600sqm	1.4	2038	District Performing Arts Facility provision opportunity within government schools should be explored, which would be subject to a Shared Use Agreement with the relevant government agency.

11.3 Summary gaps – stages

Neighbourhood and local scale infrastructure has been extracted and benchmarked separately per stage. The outcomes of this analysis have been integrated into the draft recommendations. It is noted that, based on existing and planned provision, gaps in essential infrastructure includes:

- 1 x gap in neighbourhood community centre in stage 4
- While it is understood that the proposed growth and projections for the wider West Dapto Urban Release Area, indicate that there will be a requirement for additional schools and support services infrastructure to service the proposed growth, any need for new government school infrastructure within West Dapto would be investigated by SINSW and NSW Department of Education.

11.4 Summary gaps – Horsley

11.4.1 Quantitative assessment

The following benchmark-based gap analysis audits community and cultural facilities for the identified existing population of Horsley (noting, again, that all future growth is considered qualitatively here, and quantitatively in stage 1/2 of the main report).

The key findings section below outlines the relationship between these gaps and the broader gaps identified for the WDURA.

Table 20 Benchmark Gap Analysis for Horsley

Service	Benchmark	Supply access within catchment, based on SIPP hierarchy	Demand from Horsley residents	Gap
Sub-district multipurpose community centre	1 : 20,000	2	0.4	-1.6
Library space (standalone or combined)	1 : 20,000	1	0.4	-0.6
Neighbourhood multipurpose community centre	1 : 10,000	1	0.7	-0.3
Youth friendly space	1 : 8,000	1	0.9	-0.1
Youth centre	1 : 30,000	0	0.2	0.2
Childcare places	1 : 4	239	130	-109
Government primary school	TBC by School Infrastructure NSW			
Government high school	TBC by School Infrastructure NSW			
GP	1 : 1,000	3	7	4
Local medical centre	1 : 25,000	1	0.3	-0.7
Health hub	1 : 50,000	1	0.1	-0.9
Cultural practice - community practice space	1 : 8,000	0	0.9	0.9
Community arts centre	1 : 40,000	0	0.2	0.2
Performing arts facility	1 : 40,000	0	0.2	0.2

Source: Ethos Urban

11.4.2 Engagement findings for Horsley

Careways, the current managers of Horsley Community Centre, were engaged as part of the broader WDURA social infrastructure consultation to discuss community infrastructure needs. Key findings from this discussion are as follows:

- Horsley community centre is a good facility and includes a sensory room through NDIS funding and youth drop-in services.
- However, the Horsley Community Centre is often understaffed by Careways, with only five Careways staff members across four facilities. This is because of limitations with funding for Careways as an organisation.
- Safety is important, particularly with the young people in Horsley. Consider safety in green spaces, and ensuring activation to keep the space invigorated with many different events and programs.
- Need to condense activity in Horsley to allow for activation and passive surveillance. The Horsley Community Centre would be an ideal location for increased activity.
- Young people in Horsley are struggling with things to do in the area
 - Ideally entertainment and recreation activities should be within their local neighbourhoods in the WDURA. At the moment, there is a drain of kids during the weekend and at night to the other side of the highway into Dapto town centre and the coast because all of the activities and services are perceived to be there. Parents would prefer that kids stay within their local area.
 - Cater for kids that are not 'sporty' with alternative activities and services, including through the arts.
 - Young people are currently using the 'Maccas' in Dapto as the main hangout point, and Dapto Town Centre is not considered to be a safe place by the community.
- More broadly, community led arts spaces and cultural activity will be very important going forward, but should be integrated in Horsley with the existing community centre to create a truly multipurpose space.

11.4.3 Qualitative assessment and key findings

Cultural

Consideration of cultural activities for Horsley is recommended. It is noted that a gap of ~1 community creative practice space is recommended for a population of this size, notwithstanding surrounding growth. Consider opportunities for a community work shed or community garden space in partnership with local services and organisations. Additionally, consider the functionality of the existing Horsley Community Centre and any opportunities to incorporate creative practice spaces within this facility. It is noted that the use of arts-based intervention is supported in stakeholder engagement.

Youth spaces

The Horsley Community Centre and Gerringulli park is considered an existing youth-friendly space. Consideration of upgrades to this space and the connection between the centre and the adjacent open space is recommended. As the primary civic node in Horsley, it is important that existing open space is safe for kids of all ages to gather. Safety, and the need to provide youth activities within Horsley, was strongly noted through stakeholder engagement.

GPs

It is noted that the existing local medical centre provides three GPs for Horsley residents. While this does not meet benchmarks for a population of this size – it is considered that residents have proximate access to the Dapto Town Centre, including sufficient quantum of GPs and medical centre services.

District infrastructure

The addition of Horsley residents to benchmarks for district scale infrastructure, including community arts and performing arts facilities, health hubs, high schools and large-scale community centres, will not change overall recommendations or rounded gap. However, the provision of these larger services will be made slightly more urgent in response to the higher population planned for. It is noted that much of this district infrastructure is and is planned to be provided in close proximity to Horsley, including in the Dapto Town Centre and Bong Bong Town Centre.

Economic development and activation

Social infrastructure, including the Horsley Community Centre, can be further activated through surrounding economic development. The existing access to services is weak, and there is a lack of a defined centre in Horsley. Opportunities to increase the presence of small business, and community passive 'bumping' spaces, would provide important community cohesion and connection opportunities – while supporting the economic prosperity of Horsley's residents.

Additionally, supporting creative enterprises and incubator programs within the existing community centre would both activate it through third party programming and provide increased economic and social opportunity for young people in Horsley.

11.5 Summary delivery priorities, challenges and opportunities

The table over page sets out key delivery priorities, challenges and opportunities to 2058.

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Community infrastructure need <i>Infrastructure hierarchy</i>	Identified gap by 2058	Gap threshold				Summary community need	Delivery challenges and opportunities
		2028 <i>Residents</i> 19,678	2038 <i>Residents</i> 34,575	2048 <i>Residents</i> 49,477	2058 <i>Residents</i> 57,433		
Sub-district Integrated multipurpose facilities <i>Sub-district</i>	1		Deliver Bong Bong facility by 2038		Raw gap arising	There is strong community demand in the short-medium term for Bong Bong community centre and library to be funded and delivered. Longer term need will also arise for an additional sub-district multipurpose facility.	Aim to secure funding in short-medium term (by ~2032) for land and fit out. Through master planning for the Bong Bong town centre, ensure a site is selected and contributions for land secured. There are opportunities for the Bong Bong multipurpose community centre and library to serve as a catalyst for the town centre. Consider opportunities to fund in liaison with developers in town centre through voluntary planning agreements.
Library space (co-located) <i>Sub-district</i>	1		Deliver Bong Bong facility by 2038		Raw gap arising	As above, noting library space is recommended to be incorporated into multipurpose community centres.	As above. Note particularly the importance of library space to community cohesion and capacity building, serving as important anchors (see research above).
Neighbourhood multipurpose community centre <i>Neighbourhood</i>	0					There is no overall gap for the WDURA, presuming that the existing quantity of local community facilities is delivered. Spatial gaps have been noted, and quantitative gaps arising, for a neighbourhood community centre in stage 4.	Neighbourhood community centres play a critical role in local community building. Ensuring accessibility to facilities within walking distance (800m-1km) is therefore vital to success. These smaller-scale facilities are conducive to voluntary planning agreements given their significant benefit to local communities, returning advantages to developer as well as the local community.
Non-council bookable space <i>Not classified</i>						Although not assessed in quantitative benchmarking, these spaces are an important consideration in future infrastructure planning.	Council plays an indirect role, and should seek to recognise and realised opportunities when they arise. This is best achieved through planning avenues – for example upon planning proposal or development application for sporting facilities, and in the master planning of town centres.

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Community infrastructure need	Identified gap by 2058	Gap threshold				Summary community need	Delivery challenges and opportunities
		2028 <i>Residents</i> 19,678	2038 <i>Residents</i> 34,575	2048 <i>Residents</i> 49,477	2058 <i>Residents</i> 57,433		
Infrastructure hierarchy							
						For example, incorporating within new recreation infrastructure and through sporting facilities are vital opportunities to provide adequate spaces for communities.	
Youth-friendly space <i>Local</i>	7	x2 between 2022- 2028	x2 between 2028- 2038	x2 between 2038- 2048	x1 between 2048- 2058	<p>Designing spaces for young people is an important consideration for the delivery of community facilities and open space and rec.</p> <p>It is noted that West Dapto is currently and is expected to have a younger demographic, with higher-than-average numbers of families and younger people. This generates particular community need for spaces for younger people.</p>	<p>Council should look to recognise and realise opportunities for young people to feel included and welcomed.</p> <p>Ideally, this should arise at the design stage of new community infrastructure and open space – informing a key component of design briefs for these facilities.</p> <p>Engaging with young people can help to further ensure that new facilities and master planned centres cater to their needs, as well as creating a sense of ownership and connection with these spaces</p>
Youth centre <i>District</i>	1		<i>Raw gap arising</i>			<p>Youth centres are a higher order facility that seeks to co-locate youth oriented services, and provide a central node and touch point for access to this demographic.</p> <p>There is community need arising by 2038 for a youth centre – a dedicated facility for youth to gather and access services peculiar to their needs.</p>	<p>The Waterloo Youth Centre is a recommended model of delivery, which integrates indoor space with surrounding open space to minimise cost and maximise opportunities to interact with natural elements.</p> <p>While it is important to have an adequate quantity of space in such a centre, successful designs have been achieved with as little as 200-400sqm of indoor space when integrated with substantial open space.</p> <p>Close liaison with youth service providers and younger people will be integral to success of this facility, to create a sense of belonging and ownership that is vital to younger peoples' health and wellbeing. Consider engagement in siting and design.</p>

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Community infrastructure need <i>Infrastructure hierarchy</i>	Identified gap by 2058	Gap threshold				Summary community need	Delivery challenges and opportunities
		2028 <i>Residents</i> 19,678	2038 <i>Residents</i> 34,575	2048 <i>Residents</i> 49,477	2058 <i>Residents</i> 57,433		
Seniors space <i>Not classified</i>						As above	Close engagement with service providers and aged care facilities to identify opportunities.
Community Sheds and Gardens <i>Not classified</i>						<p>Community gardens provide excellent outdoor meeting spaces, providing opportunities for connection with nature and casual social interaction, which leads to social capital building over time.</p> <p>They are important building blocks for local social cohesion and capital building – critical for a new release area.</p>	<p>There are opportunities within the current planned open space and community facilities to provide this infrastructure type, which does require some operational oversight or management, while being community run.</p> <p>They are a cost-effective model of providing community space, while being easily deliverable and with a substantial social return on investment.</p> <p>WDURA offers extensive opportunities when capitalised at the outset – including through open space and the potential use of challenging easements.</p>
Co-working/business incubator spaces <i>Not classified</i>						<p>New patterns of living and working arising in the post pandemic era are generating economic development opportunities for start-up enterprises.</p> <p>These bring social and economic capital benefits and cohesion – bringing together local enterprise creators.</p> <p>Tying together with training and development, there is community</p>	<p>These models will require market feasibility testing, separate to community need. A targeted assessment is recommended to best gauge opportunities.</p> <p>These spaces can be delivered through private developers.</p> <p>These spaces provide substantial opportunities for the activation of local town centres – making them important considerations for the economic and social layers of master planning for these future centres.</p>

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Community infrastructure need	Identified gap by 2058	Gap threshold				Summary community need	Delivery challenges and opportunities
		2028 <i>Residents</i> 19,678	2038 <i>Residents</i> 34,575	2048 <i>Residents</i> 49,477	2058 <i>Residents</i> 57,433		
Infrastructure hierarchy							
						need for economic development and youth-focused training and education.	
Aboriginal community space						To be determined in engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders and community members.	Delivering for and with Aboriginal community members to ensure culturally appropriate. Having cultural space is important to community identity and capacity building.
<i>District</i>							
Places of worship						Faith and spiritual practices are an important part of any community, supporting community cohesion and identity and serving as an anchor for local residents.	Engagement with faith organisations and their property development teams in the surrounding area will enable opportunities to be identified. These organisations should be involved in the master planning stage of town centres to identify opportunities for investment and third party delivery of social infrastructure.
<i>Local</i>						They are nodes of community services, with significant outreach and programs and often providing community services to all residents, regardless of their faith.	Faith based organisations have capital to be invested in new infrastructure – making them important strategic partners in the development of active and vibrant new communities. Multi-faith prayer rooms, and collaboration generally, can provide significant opportunities for new communities.
Childcare	406			Demand for childcare peaks around 2048 at 1,368 places		WDURA has a high childcare need identified through demographics. These facilities also support the appeal of the area for new families and homemakers – essential for catalysing investment and growth in the release area.	Private delivery typically. Gauge delivery through private developers as commercial propositions in VPAs and neighbourhood plans.
<i>Neighbourhood</i>							

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Community infrastructure need	Identified gap by 2058	Gap threshold				Summary community need	Delivery challenges and opportunities
		2028 <i>Residents</i> 19,678	2038 <i>Residents</i> 34,575	2048 <i>Residents</i> 49,477	2058 <i>Residents</i> 57,433		
Infrastructure hierarchy							
						Co-locating with schools and retail centres allows childcare to serve as a community anchor.	
Government primary school	TBC by School Infrastructure NSW					SINSW and the NSW Department of Education will investigate the need for new school infrastructure within West Dapto. Council staff understand that SINSW will undertake ongoing consultation with Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) as detailed planning progresses for the release area and will monitor the situation.	
<i>Local</i>							
Government secondary school							
<i>Sub-district</i>							
Creative infrastructure – Practice	8 x <i>Local community practice spaces</i>	x2 between 2022- 2028	x2 between 2028- 2038	x2 between 2038- 2048	x1 between 2048- 2058	The cultural life of a place is an important part of social life – it is therefore critical to incorporate cultural infrastructure into places.	Incorporate community practice spaces into all new community facilities. Engage with the local creative community to further assess demand.
<i>Various</i>							Explore opportunities in open space and private spaces to provide practice spaces, including potential makers spaces in industrial areas or co-located with community infrastructure.
Creative infrastructure – Presentation	1 x district community arts centre		Gap arising between 2038-48			Larger scale creative infrastructure, particularly in the presentation of cultural output, is vital to the creative success of communities.	Liaise with Create NSW for funding opportunities.
<i>Various</i>	1 x district performing arts facility					It is noted that higher order facilities support the activation and growth of town centres – and is supported by Wollongong City Council's strategic work (see earlier in report).	Funding can be a challenge – there are opportunities through state government arts agencies and other channels including third party private or not-for-profit providers. Actively explore opportunities for shared use of facilities.

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Community infrastructure need	Identified gap by 2058	Gap threshold				Summary community need	Delivery challenges and opportunities
		2028 <i>Residents</i> 19,678	2038 <i>Residents</i> 34,575	2048 <i>Residents</i> 49,477	2058 <i>Residents</i> 57,433		
Infrastructure hierarchy							
						These facilities can serve as a destination and a community focal point, creating significant economic development opportunities and increasing social dynamism by attracting people from outside the area.	Explore opportunities for private delivery in town centres, including through VPAs and in the adaptive re-use of heritage homesteads.
Creative infrastructure – Participation						Consider opportunities to encourage local participation in culture through the protection and enhancement of existing assets.	Voluntary planning agreements for all new stages should ensure that any heritage listed homestead is protected as public open space surrounding, and either community use OR as a commercial use with public facing opportunities (e.g. café, coworking hub, creative enterprise, local heritage and history museum, hospitality).
<i>Neighbourhood</i>						Strong argument for historical and organic planning significance, choosing locations that are ideally located for community purposes (i.e. co-located with hills, open space).	Consider funding avenues through Heritage NSW for the preservation of these homesteads – and cultural opportunities through Create NSW.
						Strong example of opportunity in Wongawilli with the existing Coral Vale homestead currently occupied by developer as an information and sales centre.	
						Social connector – creating connection with landscape and heritage and preserving these places for activation and/or community use.	

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Community infrastructure need <i>Infrastructure hierarchy</i>	Identified gap by 2058	Gap threshold				Summary community need	Delivery challenges and opportunities
		2028 <i>Residents</i> 19,678	2038 <i>Residents</i> 34,575	2048 <i>Residents</i> 49,477	2058 <i>Residents</i> 57,433		
Local medical centre <i>Local</i>	1			<i>Gap arising</i>		Local medical centres are an essential community service and focal point – ideally located within all town centres to provide accessible access to health services.	Commercially delivered. Council's role lies in flagging opportunities with developers and ensuring that medical centres are supported in land use plans. Economic development plans for these town centres, and the WDURA generally, will be vital to attracting private providers of health services to the release area from an early stage.
General practitioner (GP) <i>Neighbourhood</i>	31		Gap of 8 arising	Gap of 23 arising	Gap of 31 arising	As above	As above

PART F: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS ANALYSIS

12.0 Sport infrastructure planning – underpinning assumptions

In calculating the spatial requirement for sport in WDURA, two methodologies have been used.

12.1 Method 1 Demand Analysis Model

The 'Otium Analytics' Demand Analysis Model determines the estimated sport participants across all activities and uses a range of expert informed assumptions to determine the number of sport facilities required and the amount of space (measured in hectares) needed to accommodate not only the fields of play, but ancillary spaces such as car parking and amenities.

Demand for sporting facilities is modelled using a combination of the following data:

- Available sport activity participation data for the population.
- Modelling of the capacity of fields, courts or other facilities in terms of the number of users they can accommodate.
- Determination of the areas required to accommodate actual playing surface and ancillary space required for different facilities.
- Setting parameters for the modelled facilities around hours of operation, differences between training and competition use and average lengths of seasons relative to each sport.

Overall, the model provides:

- Total number of participants per activity and by facility type
- Number of facilities per activity and facility type
- Spatial demand by activity and facility type, including playing space and overall space.

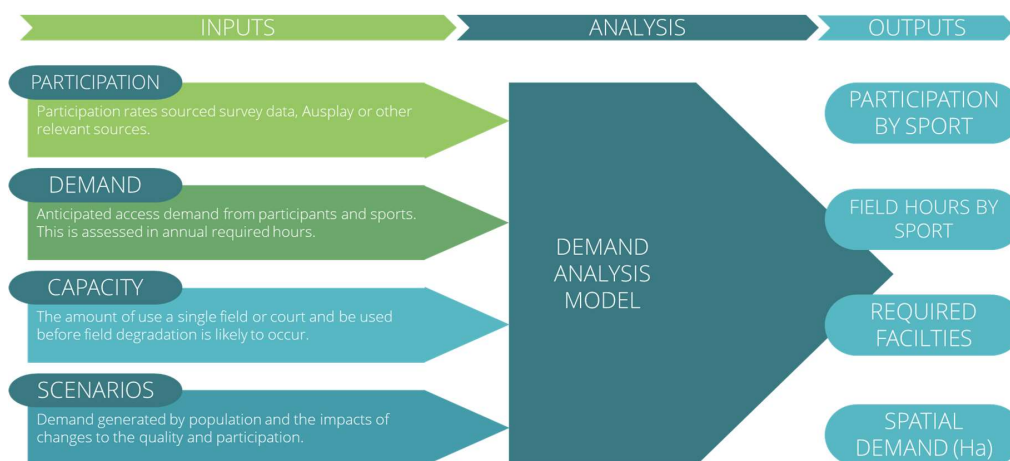


Figure 21 Otium's Demand Analysis Model

The Demand Analysis Model does not consider accessibility and travel time. Catchment mapping is to be undertaken separately to the demand modelling.

For outdoor sport, the 'Otium Analytics' Demand Analysis Model used NSW AusPlay Data to indicate the following requirements for forecast population of 57,433 by 2058.

Table 21 Demand Analysis Model Outputs for WDURA

Sport	Fields Required	Playing Area per Unit (Ha)	Ancillary Space per Unit (Ha)	Total Space Per Unit (Ha)	Total Space Required by 2058 (Ha)
AFL	5	2.47	1.73	4.20	20.995
Athletics	1	2.01	1.407	3.42	3.417
Baseball	1	1.81	1.267	3.08	3.077
Cricket	10	1.64	1.15	2.79	27.88
Football	14	0.90	0.63	1.53	21.42
Hockey (Grass)	1	0.9	0.63	1.53	1.53
League	1	1.07	0.749	1.82	1.819
Netball	8	0.1	0.05	0.15	1.2
Softball	1	0.6	0.42	1.02	1.02
Tennis	14	0.1	0.05	0.15	2.1
Touch	1	0.5	0.35	0.85	0.85
Union	1	1.26	0.882	2.14	2.142
TOTAL					87.45

Otium Planning Group has then applied assumptions to co-location of sporting codes to further refine the spatial requirements for sport infrastructure in WDURA. These assumptions include:

1. Providing additional space per rectangular field. This allows for effective co-location of rectangular and oval based sports. It also ensures warm up areas as well as mini and modified football fields that assist to cater for the strong demand for junior sport that occurs in new release areas such as WDURA.
2. That at least 8 cricket ovals can be co-located with rectangular fields or winter (AFL) ovals. This will allow for at least 2 cricket ovals to be used year-round and help respond to increased demand for annual participation in this sport.

Based on the above assumptions, the table below identifies the outdoor sport requirements for WDURA by 2058.

Table 22 Outdoor Sport Requirements for WDURA with consideration to dual-use

Field Type	Required Units	Playing Area per Unit (Ha)	Ancillary Space per Unit (Ha)	Total Space Per Unit (Ha)	Total Space Required by 2058 (Ha)
Winter Ovals	5	2.47	1.73	4.20	20.995
Rectangular Field	17	1.30	0.70	2.00	34
Athletics	1	2.01	1.407	3.42	3.417
Courts	22	0.1	0.05	0.15	3.3
Diamond Sports	2	1.205	1.267	2.47	4.944
Year Round Summer Oval	2	1.64	1.15	2.79	5.576
TOTAL					72.232

12.2 Method 2 Benchmarking

In the preparation of the yet to be published Greater Sydney Sport Infrastructure Plan, the Office of Sport collected sport facility data in 2018 across each of the five districts of Greater Sydney. The quantum of various categories of sport infrastructure were calculated against existing population to determine existing facility provision benchmarks.

The Western City District of Greater Sydney includes eight Local Government Areas, many of which provide for green field development similar to the West Dapto Urban Release Area. The data collected by the Office of Sport indicated the following provision rates across the Western City District:

- One full sized equivalent playing field for every 2,015 residents.
- One tennis court for every 4,612 residents
- One sealed netball court for every 3,849 residents

These provision rates have been used as the basis to undertake a secondary benchmarking exercise to determine the amount of public open space required for outdoor sport in the West Dapto Urban Release Areas. The benchmarks provided above were calculated against the forecast population and utilised key assumptions to determine the quantities of public open space required. Key spatial assumptions included:

- That a minimum of two full full-sized equivalent playing fields should be provided at each sporting site with a minimum of 5ha per site
- That 0.6ha is required to cater for a four-court facility which includes ancillary space for car parking and amenities.⁸³

Based on this benchmarking approach, **a total of 75.232ha of outdoor sport space** was calculated to service the forecast WDURA population of 57,433 by 2058.

The table below outlines the provision rate for the proposed Public Open Space framework in WDURA.

⁸³ Based on the Western City District data collected by the Office of Sport in 2018 for the 'Greater Sydney District Sport Infrastructure Plan'. Please NOTE, that this data is the property of the Office of Sport. Any further information required specific to the referenced benchmarks should be directed to the Office of Sport. The data is not publicly available, however, access to the data can be requested.

Recommended Quantity for Outdoor Sport Provision

The provision of 75.232ha of public open space for outdoor sport is recommended for WDURA based on:

1. The large number of young families expected to reside in WDURA and the associated demand on outdoor sport participation.
2. The diversity of the Australian sporting landscape and the need to consider a range of other outdoor sporting demands such as BMX, skate, basketball and other sporting codes.
3. The need to consider long term field renovation works that will see a number of playing fields not playable each year during upgrades that are required to ensure safety and quality is achieved.
4. The desire to have the capacity to respond to changing sport participation landscape and evolving demands.

12.3 Summary of Land needed for Sport

Table 23 provides a summary of the existing and planned provision for sport in WDURA.

Table 23 Existing and planned provision of District Sport in WDURA

Stage of WDURA	Contributions Plan 2020 Ref	Indicative Location / Address	Indicative Land Area (Ha)	Functional Area (Ha)	Comments
STAGE 1/2	NA	Ian McLennan Oval 50 Wyllie Rd, Kembla Grange	9.9	5.3	Non-functional area includes road reserve and land occupied by dense vegetation
STAGE 1/2	OS01	Adjacent to Darkes Town Centre and conservation land	9.4	9.4	Concept masterplan completed
STAGE 1/2	OS06	Adjacent to Wongawilli Village Centre – along West Dapto Road	4.5	2	Site is majorly constrained, leaving only 2Ha as Functional/ Fit-for-purpose area. Additional land cannot be acquired to meet land suitability for sport provision. It is recommended to reclassify OS06 from District Sport to District Recreation. In order to meet land suitability requirement for sport, it is recommended to increase the size of OS10 and OS11 as noted below.
STAGE 1/2	OS10	Adjacent to Jersey Farm Village Centre	4	4	Recommended increase in size from 4Ha to 5Ha to meet land suitability criteria for District Sport provision.
STAGE 1/2	OS11	Adjacent to Bong Bong Town Centre	3	3	Recommended increase in size from 3Ha to 10Ha to meet land suitability criteria for District Sport provision.
SUB TOTAL provision				23.70 Ha	
STAGE 3	OS16	Adjacent to Community Leisure & Recreation Centre	4	4	Recommended increase in size from 4Ha to 10Ha to meet land suitability criteria for District Sport provision. If no further land is available around OS16, a new park with an area of 10Ha will be required to meet sport provision in Stage 3.
SUB TOTAL provision				4 Ha	
STAGE 4	OS19	Adjacent to Huntley Village Centre and residential area	4	4	Recommended increase in size from 4Ha to 5Ha to meet land suitability criteria for District Sport provision.
STAGE 4	OS20	Adjacent to Avondale Village Centre and residential area	4	4	Recommended increase in size from 4Ha to 10Ha to meet land

Stage of WDURA	Contributions Plan 2020 Ref	Indicative Location / Address	Indicative Land Area (Ha)	Functional Area (Ha)	Comments
					suitability criteria for District Sport provision.
SUB TOTAL provision				8 Ha	
STAGE 5	OS23	North side along Marshall Mount Road & adjacent to Marshall Mount Town centre	4	3.5	Recommended increase in size from 3.5Ha to 5Ha to meet land suitability criteria for District Sport provision.
SUB TOTAL provision				3.5 Ha	
TOTAL				39.20 Ha	

The table below provides a summary of area required for sport based on the benchmarking developed in Section 12.1 and 12.2. A gap in sport provision is identified across all stages of WDURA. This gap needs to be catered through either increasing size of existing parks to meet land suitability criteria for sport or identifying new parks to accommodate required District Sport infrastructure.

Table 24 Area required for District Sport across WDURA stages

WDURA STAGE	POPULATION BY 2058	AREA REQUIRED FOR SPORT (Ha) @1.31Ha/1000 PERSONS	EXISTING AND PLANNED PROVISION FOR SPORT (Ha)	GAP IN SPORT PROVISION (Ha)
STAGE 1/2	18,413	24.12	23.70	0.42
STAGE 3	14,009	18.35	4.00	14.35
STAGE 4	12,651	16.57	8.00	8.57
STAGE 5	12,360	16.19	3.50	12.69
TOTAL	57,433	75.24	39.20	36.03

Findings of the gap analysis:

1. A shortfall of 36.03Ha is identified in the provision of sport across all five stages of WDURA.
2. The following is recommended to meet the identified shortfall:
 - a) Increase the area of existing parks identified for sport (i.e. OS10, OS11, OS16, OS19, OS20 and OS23) to recommended sizes. Section 13.1 outlines the recommended site-specific increase in land areas.
 - b) OS18 is identified as local park. However, to meet the required land for sport provision in STAGE 3, it is recommended to reclassify OS18 from Local Park to District Sport and increase the size from 2Ha to 5Ha.
 - c) Identify a new park with 10Ha area in STAGE 5 to meet the required need for sport provision.
 - d) In circumstances where further land acquisition is constrained around an existing park, provision of a new park with the recommended functional area for sport is required.

12.4 Indoor and aquatic needs

In 2019, Otium Planning Group prepared the 'West Dapto Community Leisure and Recreation Centre Needs Assessment'. This assessment provides Council with a strategic direction on the service needs, facility mix and preferred site locations for a district level Community Leisure and Recreation Centre.

Considering the study research, consultation and analysis, the following staged facility mix is recommended for the West Dapto Centre.

Table 25 Staged facility mix recommendations

	Short Term 0-15 Years	Medium Term 15-20 Years	Long Term 20+ Years	Subject to Future Confirmation of Demand
Facilities	Entry and Administration Aquatic Centre Health and Fitness Centre Wellness Centre Multi-purpose Community Rooms Other indoor areas		Tennis Centre	Outdoor Netball Centre Adventure Park Multi-purpose Indoor Courts

12.4.1 Site analysis

The following locations as potential sites for the development of a new community leisure and recreation centre in the West Dapto Release Area were assessed against a series of site selection criteria:

1. Reed Park, Bong Bong Road, Cleveland
2. North-east of Daisy Bank Drive, off Cleveland Road, Cleveland
3. Western side of Daisy Bank Drive, off Cleveland Road, Cleveland
4. Southern side of Cleveland Road, Cleveland
5. Darkes Road Town Centre, north of West Dapto Road, Darkes.

The analysis confirmed all potential sites are capable of supporting the proposed West Dapto Leisure Centre. However, Site 4 – Southern side of Cleveland Road, Cleveland was recommended based on:

1. Its suitability across most criteria; and
2. Its adjacency to a potential district sports park. The district sports park may have a focus on football. This would support the establishment of a major multi-purpose sports hub consistent with broader facility provision and design trends.

Table 26 Indicative West Dapto Community Leisure and Recreation Centre Areas

Centre Area	GFA (m2)
Entry and Administration	640
Aquatic Areas	3,628
Health and Fitness	1,730
Wellness Centre	132
Multi-purpose rooms	340
Multi-purpose indoor courts (3)	3,295
Other Indoor Areas	330
Indicative GFA	10,095

In addition to the above area i.e., 10,095 sqm (1 Ha) identified for the building footprint of the West Dapto Community Leisure and Recreation Centre, consideration should be accounted for ancillary area required for

parking, circulation, access, etc. Factoring in the ancillary area, the total area required for **indoor sport and recreation spaces for WDURA is approximately 2.5ha**. This excludes space for the proposed co-location of other activities such as netball, tennis/ multi-use courts, sportsgrounds, active transport links and youth focused outdoor recreation.

The study recommended provision of one district level indoor court facility for West Dapto. The indoor courts were required to be accommodated within the new community leisure and recreation centre in line with the latest trend of the facility developed as a precinct or community 'hub' to allow a broader range of sport and recreation opportunities and to maximise management efficiencies and financial sustainability.

13.0 Quantitative assessment by stage area and typology

A quantitative assessment of public open space requirements for the West Dapto Urban Release Area has been undertaken to understand the functional open space land requirements by stage area and typology over 10-year increments.

NOTE: the calculation of land needed for sport is explained in **Section 12.3**.

Table 27 Quantitative Assessment Public Open Space for the West Dapto Urban Release Area (Note figures are cumulative)

Year	Open Space Typology	Stage 1/2 (ha)	Stage 3 (ha)	Stage 4 (ha)	Stage 5 (ha)	Total (ha)
By 2018	Local	2.994				2.994
	District Recreation	0.951				0.951
	District Sport	4.086				4.086
	Urban Release Area Wide	0.811				0.811
	Total	8.842				8.842
By 2028	Local	12.066	3.908	1.103	1.813	18.891
	District Recreation	3.834	1.242	0.350	0.576	6.002
	District Sport	16.465	5.333	1.505	2.475	25.778
	Urban Release Area Wide	3.268	1.058	0.299	0.491	5.116
	Total	35.633	11.541	3.257	5.355	55.787
By 2038	Local	15.804	7.529	4.090	5.769	33.192
	District Recreation	5.021	2.392	1.299	1.833	10.545
	District Sport	21.567	10.274	5.581	7.872	45.293
	Urban Release Area Wide	4.280	2.039	1.108	1.562	8.990
	Total	46.673	22.235	12.077	17.036	98.020
By 2048	Local	17.676	12.883	7.474	9.465	47.498
	District Recreation	5.616	4.093	2.374	3.007	15.090
	District Sport	24.121	17.580	10.198	12.915	64.815
	Urban Release Area Wide	4.787	3.489	2.024	2.563	12.864
	Total	52.201	38.046	22.070	27.950	140.267
By 2058	Local	17.676	13.449	12.145	11.866	55.136
	District Recreation	5.616	4.273	3.859	3.770	17.517
	District Sport	24.121	18.352	16.573	16.192	75.237
	Urban Release Area Wide	4.787	3.642	3.289	3.214	14.933
	Total	52.201	39.716	35.866	35.041	162.823
2058 Gap Analysis	Existing and Planned Public Open Space*	44.54	10.50	12.00	8.00	75.04
	Required additional functional Public Open Space**	7.66	29.22	23.87	27.04	87.78

*Excludes non-functional existing open space.

** Does not consider functionality of all planned open space. This requires investigations as part of future works.

In addition to the existing and proposed public open space, an additional 87.78Ha of functional public open space will be required across all five stages by 2058. This includes:

- Stage 1-2: An additional 7.66Ha of functional public open space by 2058
- Stage 3: An additional 29.22Ha of functional public open space between 2028 to 2058.
- Stage 4: An additional 23.87Ha of functional public open space between 2048 to 2058
- Stage 5: An additional 27.04Ha of functional public open space between 2028 to 2058.

It is important to note that the quantum of additional public open space may increase following functionality (fit for purpose) assessment of proposed open space sites.

13.1 Site specific open space increases

A range of increases are recommended to proposed open space sites with a key focus on the classification of District Sport. Sport sites have very detailed and specific performance criteria that if not met, will result in the inability to provide for a range of sporting codes. In addition, these sites provide the best opportunity for co-location with a range of other recreation and community infrastructure.

This increase will also partially address the gap of at least an additional 87.78ha of public open space within the West Dapto Urban Release Area and ensure future sites are fit for their intended use as per the open space framework.

The table below recommends conversion of following parks to District Sport

Table 28 Recommended increase in area of Planned Open Spaces to meet District Sport land size

Stage of WDURA	CP 2020 Ref	Current classification	Proposed classification	Indicative timing	Indicative planned land area	Recommended area
STAGE 1/2	OS10	Neighbourhood Park	District Sport	2026/27 - 2028/29	4 Ha	5 Ha
	OS11	Neighbourhood Park	District Sport	2036/37 - 2040/41	3 Ha	10 Ha
STAGE 3	OS16	Neighbourhood Park	District Sport	2036/37 – 2040/41	4 Ha	10 Ha
	OS18	Local Park	District Sport	2046/47 – 2050/51	2 Ha	5 Ha
STAGE 4	OS19	Neighbourhood Park	District Sport	2045/46 – 2050/51	4 Ha	5 Ha
	OS20	Neighbourhood Park	District Sport	2045/46 – 2050/51	4 Ha	10 Ha
STAGE 5	OS23	Neighbourhood Park	District Sport	2031/32 - 2035/36	4 Ha	5 Ha

The above increases in sites will provide an additional 25.5ha of public open space, specifically increase in district sport provision. If the above recommended increases are implemented, the total additional functional public open space required by 2058 will be 62.28Ha.

13.2 Additional public open space sites

To address the remaining of 62.28Ha of functional public open space by 2058, the following additional provision is recommended.

Table 29 Additional Public Open Space Sites and Areas

Stage	No. of Local Parks At 1ha/park	No. of District Recreation At 3ha/park	No. of District Sport (5-10+ ha)	No. of City- Wide Parks	TOTAL no. of new parks by stage	Area of new parks
STAGE 1/2	1	0	0	0	1	1 Ha
STAGE 3	8	1	0	1	10	26 Ha
STAGE 4	11	1	0	0	12	14 Ha
STAGE 5	11	1	1	0	13	24 Ha
TOTAL AREA	31	9	10	15	-	65 Ha

14.0 Horsley open space assessment

14.1 Background

The purpose of this assessment is to consider the implication of the available public open space within the Horsley area, which is contained within the West Dapto Urban Release Area. The current planning for WDURA has not included the available supply within the established Horsley area and this memo considered how any surplus capacity available in the area can contribute to meeting the needs of future residents in WDURA.

The suburb of Horsley falls within the geographic boundary of Stage 1/2 of West Dapto Urban Release Area (WDURA). However, the existing Horsley release area was largely developed between 1993 and 2010 and has not been included in the population and supply calculations for Stage 1 and 2 of WDURA. The area defined as 'West Horsley' has been included in Stage 1 and 2 calculations for WDURA and consequently the following analysis does not include population and spatial needs calculations for that area.

For the purpose of this document, 'Horsley' refers to the established part of the Horsley suburb, whilst the part of Horsley located to the west of the old/established 'Horsley' refers to 'the release areas in stage 1/2 directly west of Horsley'

The IPART 2020 review referenced the following regarding the available area of existing open space for WDURA residents,

Another 50.35 Ha of existing open space in Horsley is available to the residents of the new release area' (Assessment of West Dapto Contributions Plan 2020 IPART, page 57).

It is assumed that the statement above refers to the existing provision of public open space (Public Open Space) within the suburb of Horsley. IPART 2020 assessment also referenced,

'The existing facilities in Horsley are within the geographical area of Stages 1-2. Of the 70.2 hectares, the council estimates 19.9 hectares will serve the existing population in Horsley, leaving 50.35 hectares for the WDURA. (Assessment of West Dapto Contributions Plan 2020 IPART, page 64).⁸⁴

14.2 Existing Public Open Space in Horsley

Horsley is currently served by 21 parks and other open spaces, accounting for 62.21 Ha of provision. Refer to the table below for the existing park typology in Horsley:

Table 30 Typology of existing parks in Horsley

Open Space typology	Number of parks
Local	10
District Recreation	1
District Sport	1
Linear Park/corridor	6
Urban Release Area Wide	0
Total	18

⁸⁴ Note - that the investigation in this report and discussions with council staff have been unable to verify the source of the estimate relied on by IPART and the assumed 70.2 ha of supply and subsequent 50.35 Ha surplus cannot be substantiated.

14.3 Functional assessment of existing Public Open Space in Horsley

The existing Public Open Space provision was assessed to understand the functional open space within the existing park and open space network. Functional area is defined as the net land area exclusive of constrained land such as powerline easements, steep slopes, dense and protected vegetation, waterways, etc. Based on this assessment,

- 26.24Ha (42.18%) of the land area is identified as functional open space; and
- Approx. 58% of the existing Public Open Space provision is identified as constrained land**

** Constrained lands are often not suitable for other land use purposes such as housing, retail etc. and can be proposed as public open space. Depending on the nature of constraints and the topography of the land, these spaces can be of poor quality, have limited functionality and effectively be unusable for public recreation. Examples of constrained land generally unsuitable for inclusion in the public open space (public parks) network include land that is under high-voltage powerline or easement, highly vegetated riparian corridors, unfavourable topography, land impacted by frequent flooding, etc.

The following table summarises the analysis of the current and planned supply within Horsley and the actual outcome in terms of functional (useable) land for recreation and sport. Areas are assessed for issues such as flooding, slope, size, shape and vegetation which can significantly impede community use. (Source: *West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2020*)

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Table 31 Existing parks and open spaces in Horsley

Stage of WDURA	Ref ID	Park/Reserve	Indicative land area (HA)	Functional Area (HA)	Non-Functional Area (HA)	Classification of Functional Area	Existing Infrastructure/ facilities	Comments
	1		0.057	0.000	0.057	NA	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park does not exist. Lots identified for residential.
	2	Along Horsley Drive	0.198	0.155	0.057	Linear Park/corridor	Pedestrian pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater drainage channel (leading to Mullet Creek) with vegetation on both sides. Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
	3		0.136	0.094	0.0425	Local	No infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO passive surveillance
	4		0.057	0.000	0.057	NA	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park does not exist. Lots identified for residential.
	5		0.056	0.000	0.056	NA	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park does not exist. Lots identified for residential.
	6	Robins Creek Lake	2.329	0.729	1.6	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian pathway (Horsley Dr to Ashwood Pl; and Horsley Dr to Glenwood Grove) 2 x Stormwater channel outlets Viewing deck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake with riparian vegetation. Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
	7	Mullet Creek Wetland (along Goodman Pl)	1.835	0.415	1.42	Linear Park/corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian pathway along the western side of the lot connecting Goodman Pl to Bong Bong Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mullet Creek tributary and wetland. Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

	8	Gerringulli Park	2.162	1.362	0.8	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball Court Children's playground along Bong Bong Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low passive surveillance (one main street frontage only), drainage channel running horizontally through the park dissecting the land in two; and on-site vegetation Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent, except the children's playground
	9	Along Horsley Drive	0.104	0.034	0.07	Linear Park/corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater drainage channel (leading to Mullet Creek) with vegetation on both sides. Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
	10	Between Jenail Pl and Homestead Dr	0.790	0.240	0.55	Linear Park/corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater drainage channel with vegetation on both sides, low passive surveillance.
	11	Dimond Brothers Reserve (Part 1)	5.610	3.380	2.23	District Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian pathways connecting (Bong Bong Rd to Goodman Pl, Horsley Dr and Parkdale Av) Skate Park Remnant on-site vegetation along the Stormwater channel leading to Mullet Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skate Park located on partially on site 10 and 17 Good passive surveillance Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
	12	Shade covered Park	0.194	0.164	0.03	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian pathway along Homestead Dr Children's playground along Bong Bong Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent passive surveillance

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

	13		1.434	0.157	1.277	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian pathway- Dumbarton PI to the viewing deck • Pedestrian pathway along the northern boundary (however outside the lot) of the park connecting Dombarton PI to Glenwood Grove • 2 x Stormwater channel outlets Viewing deck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake with riparian vegetation. • Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
	14		2.295	0.466	1.829	Linear Park/corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian pathway along Fairwater Dr edge of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major portion of the park is dense vegetation along waterways and identified for enhanced storage area. • Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
	15		2.322	0.522	1.8	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water storage/detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major portion identified for enhanced storage area with dense vegetation • Falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
	16	Reed Park	8.124	6.982	1.142	District Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenced Dog Park • 2 x Stormwater channel outlets • 2 x Cricket Ovals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerline easement running north-south dissecting the second oval on the south-eastern boundary
	17	Reed Park	10.783	8.718	2.065	District Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x Tennis Courts • 2 x practice nets • Amenities building • 2 x Cricket Ovals overlayed with 5 x Rugby League Fields • Car park (approx. 176 spaces + 5 x accessible space) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 80% of the park falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

	18	Dimond Brothers Reserve (Part 2)	1.492	1.308	0.184	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skate Park • Children's playground • Outdoor Fitness Gym • 2 x Stormwater channel outlets • Pedestrian pathway (along Bong Bong Rd and connecting site 10) • Car park (24 spaces + accessible space) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major portion of the park falls within 1% AEP Flood Extent
STAGE 1/2	19	Taywood Park	0.302	0.202	0.1	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's playground • Covered informal seating • Pedestrian pathway network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good passive surveillance
STAGE 1/2	20	Sunray Cres Reserve	0.168	0.110	0.0573	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's playground • Covered informal seating • Pedestrian pathway network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good passive surveillance
STAGE 1/2	21	Huxley Dr Reserve-Karrara Park	2.500	1.203	1.297	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's playground • Pedestrian pathway network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good passive surveillance
STAGE 1/2	22	Purrungully Woodland	19.259	NA	19.259	Linear Park/corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian pathway network 	
TOTAL			62.21	26.24	35.98	-		

14.4 Provision rate of Public Open Space in Horsley

In 2016, 7,095 residents were recorded residing in Horsley. The population in Horsley is estimated to remain stable with a marginal increase in population numbers through infill development. The table below refers to the open space rate of provision by typology.

Table 32 Provision by typology

Year	Population	Open Space typology	Area (HA)	Current rate of provision (Ha/1000 people)	Proposed rate of Public Open Space provision in WDURA (Ha/1000 people)	Required Public Open Space area as per new Public Open Space framework (HA)	Surplus
2016	7,095	Local	5.85	0.82	0.96	6.81	-0.96
		District Recreation	4.69	0.66	0.305	2.16	2.52
		District Sport	15.70	2.21	1.31	9.29	6.41
		Urban Release Area Wide	0.00	NA	NA	NA	
		Total	25.40	3.70	2.575	18.27	7.97

In reference to the table above, it is observed that:

- Provision rate of local parks is slightly lower than the proposed rate for WDURA;
- Provision rate of district recreation is higher than the proposed provision rate for WDURA; and
- Provision rate of district sport is higher than the proposed rate for WDURA.

In addition to the above, it should also be noted that whilst a surplus in district sport (i.e. Reed Park) is observed in Horsley, this sports precinct also caters for demand from Dapto residents (to the east of Horsley). The park is mostly developed, and council staff have not indicated there is any significant additional capacity to service growth.

The only district recreation site identified in Horsley is Dimond Brothers Park, which is located at the eastern end of the suburb boundary and approx. at a distance of 650m from the Dapto Train Station. This park will primarily meet the needs of Horsley residents along with Dapto residents.

In conclusion, there appears to be a surplus of 7.97 Ha public open space suitable for recreation use, mostly comprised of district sport and district recreation. However, with the marginal population increase in Horsley anticipated along with existing and future demand from Dapto residents, it is doubtful there is any significant excess capacity to meet the needs of future residents of WDURA.

PART G: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15.0 Summary recommendations

15.1 Community and cultural facilities

Based on the community and cultural infrastructure needs assessment undertaken, the following key recommendations are identified:

1. Update the Contributions Plan to include provision for:
 - a) 1 x neighbourhood multipurpose community centre in Stage 4, co-located with the Avondale town centre
 - b) Amend item CF05 of the Contributions Plan to a sub-district facility, including library space, and update corresponding costing
2. Council liaise direct with School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) and the NSW Department of Education as the authorities responsible for government school provision. It is understood that SINSW and Department of Education will investigate the need for new school infrastructure within the West Dapto Urban Release Area. SINSW will undertake ongoing consultation with Council and the Department of Planning and Environment as detailed planning progresses for the release area and will monitor the situation.
3. Deliver a dedicated youth centre co-located with a new district park and multipurpose community centre in Avondale
4. Identify opportunities through planning mechanisms and agreements and at the neighbourhood planning phase for private developers to deliver:
 - a) Local community spaces, including bookable space and community sheds and gardens
 - b) Coworking and business incubator spaces
 - c) Dedicated district-level community arts centre through VPA with larger developer, potentially leveraging heritage homestead locations.
 - d) Local traineeship and employment opportunities for young people
5. Masterplan each town centre identified in the West Dapto Vision, with a focus on engagement and early activation. Social infrastructure will play a key role in this master planning process, identifying significant co-located sites and taking a collaborative approach with stakeholders and the community. This stage will involve detailed site analysis.
 - a) As part of this process, develop a strategy to collaborate with faith-based organisations in relation to their property development plans to identify the potential for these organisations to deliver social infrastructure in strategic locations.
6. Ensure that design briefs at the earliest stage for new community centres consider some or all of:
 - a) Youth friendly spaces
 - b) Seniors friendly spaces
 - c) Local cultural practice spaces (e.g. music rehearsal rooms, artists' studios)
 - d) Aboriginal community space (where arising in consultation)
 - e) Extensive community consultation and potential co-design
7. Facilitate delivery of higher-order social infrastructure through liaison with relevant authorities or private providers, including for the provision of:
 - a) Consideration of an Aboriginal Culture and Community Centre if identified through extensive engagement
 - b) District performing arts facility should be explored subject to a Shared Use Agreement with the relevant government authority.
 - c) Creative infrastructure opportunities in liaison with Heritage NSW and Create NSW
 - d) Community Arts Centre in collaboration with Create NSW
8. Develop a comprehensive delivery and funding plan for identified community centres in the Contributions Plan.

15.2 Open space and recreation

Based on the public open space and recreation needs assessment undertaken, the following key recommendations are identified:

1. Adopt and implement the public open space framework for WDURA. This includes placing a focus on the performance criteria for public open space which aims to deliver high quality, well distributed public open space.
2. Planning and provision of public open space in WDURA to comply with performance criteria to ensure fit for purpose and 'functional' open space. that delivers an efficient, affordable and sustainable network of Public open space for sport and recreation.
3. Ensure 85-90% of residents in WDURA are within a 5-7 minute walk of high quality and functional open space.

Note: the masterplan prepared as a part of this report provides only indicative locations of the proposed Public Open Spaces. These locations should be tested and confirmed within the Green Network Masterplan. A 400m catchment is recommended for walkability to local parks. However, this can be extended to 600m where physical barriers like road network, Motorways, etc limit the walkability, provided the net quantum of required Public Open Space remains the same.

4. Convert following parks to District Sport and increase the size of identified sites below to cater for this change:

a) OS10 - From 4ha to 5ha	e) OS19- From 4ha to 5ha
b) OS11- From 3ha to 10ha	f) OS20 - From 4ha to 10ha
c) OS16 - From 4ha to 10ha	g) OS23 - From 4ha to 5ha
d) OS18- From 2ha to 5ha	
5. Develop a Green Network Masterplan for WDURA in consideration of the proposed performance criteria. As part of this process, review the required number of local parks based on the distribution and access to high quality functional public open space. The Green Network Masterplan to identify location for a destination public open site (preferably with 15+ ha area) that will service all residents of WDURA. The location is to be centrally located and potentially within the Stage 3 area.
6. Upgrade existing sports fields at Reed Park to meet the current need and future demand for sport in Horsley and Dapto
7. Upgrade Dimond Brothers Park (to a high-quality district recreation park) in line with guidelines of the West Dapto Open Space Design Manual and Performance Criteria developed as part of the WDURA Needs Assessment.
8. Prioritise provision of required additional Public Open Space in WDURA aligned with the new proposed Public Open Space framework, West Dapto Public Open Space Design Guide and the proposed performance criteria.
9. Commence quality and functionality assessment of existing Public Open Space along with the indicative locations of the proposed open space.
10. Subject to IPART assessment, update the West Dapto Development Contributions Plans according to the assessment undertaken as part of this study.
11. Implement the recommendations of the West Dapto Community Leisure and Recreation Centre Needs Assessment (2019).
12. Work with the Office of Sport in the development of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Sport Infrastructure Plan. NOTE: This Plan is currently in early stages.
13. Review of planned provision of Public Open Space every 5 years to respond to the most up to date demographic projections and trends
14. Developing forward funding strategy to acquire land and deliver Public Open Space infrastructure to maintain and sustain delivery responsive to the population growth
15. Monitoring residential density development to ensure dwelling targets are not exceeding threshold numbers
16. Initiating partnership and collaboration opportunities with State agencies for land acquisition and joint delivery of major recreation facilities

15.3 Horsley

1. Consider renewal of the Horsley Community Centre in close engagement with local residents, including provision of creative practice spaces (e.g. additional music rehearsal, art studio, or workshop space).
2. Explore opportunities, in partnership with community organisations, to utilise undevelopable land for community gardens and work shed style uses. This should be prefaced by community buy in, with community organisations as the key point of contact to gauge interest in the Horsley community.
3. Upgrade the urban amenity surrounding the existing Horsley Community Centre with a particular focus on providing safe, youth-friendly spaces.
4. Incorporate Horsley into economic development strategies and the process for master planning town centres for the broader WDURA.
5. Work with community organisations to ensure service provision and programming in the Horsley Community Centre is efficient and can evolve as the community changes.

Appendix A. Key Benchmark Sources

Key information sources referenced develop this typology include:

- Arden Macauley Community Infrastructure Needs Analysis (Ethos Urban, 2018)
- Central Precinct Urban Renewal Project Social Infrastructure Study (Ethos Urban for TfNSW, 2020-21)
- City of Bayside Social Infrastructure Plan (Ethos Urban for City of Bayside, Sydney, 2019)
- City of Sydney *City for All* Social Policy and Action Plan 2018-2028 and associated community infrastructure planning framework (2018)
- City of Sydney Community Asset Strategy, 2018
- City of Canterbury Bankstown Community Needs Analysis (Ethos Urban, 2018-19)
- City of Canterbury Bankstown Community Facilities Strategic Plan (Ethos Urban for City of Canterbury Bankstown, 2019)
- Canterbury Bankstown Town Centre Student and Worker Needs Study, Sydney (Ethos Urban for City of Canterbury Bankstown, Sydney)
- Fisherman's Bend Urban Renewal Area Community Infrastructure Plan (Ethos Urban, 2017)
- Greener Places Design Guide (Government Architect NSW, 2021)
- Green Square Urban Renewal Area Placemaking Framework and Action Plan (this document is underpinned by detailed community infrastructure planning (City of Sydney, 2017-18)
- Northern Beaches Social Infrastructure Study (Ethos Urban for Northern Beaches Council, 2020-21)
- Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas (Australian Social and Recreations Research, 2008)
- Redfern North Eveleigh Urban Renewal Project Social Infrastructure Study (Ethos Urban for TfNSW, 2021).

These studies draw on a range of other published sources, including NSW State Library Benchmarks, the NSW GAO Greener Places Design Guide, and NSW Department of Education schools metrics.

Appendix B. Open space site-land suitability and constrained land assessment

This section provides a brief desktop review of unusable space within existing parks and open spaces. This assessment does not consider the historical nature of a particular park/open space, however, provides examples to identify non-functional space within a park or open space.

Ian McLennan Oval

Space marked: Land constrained with unusable topography.



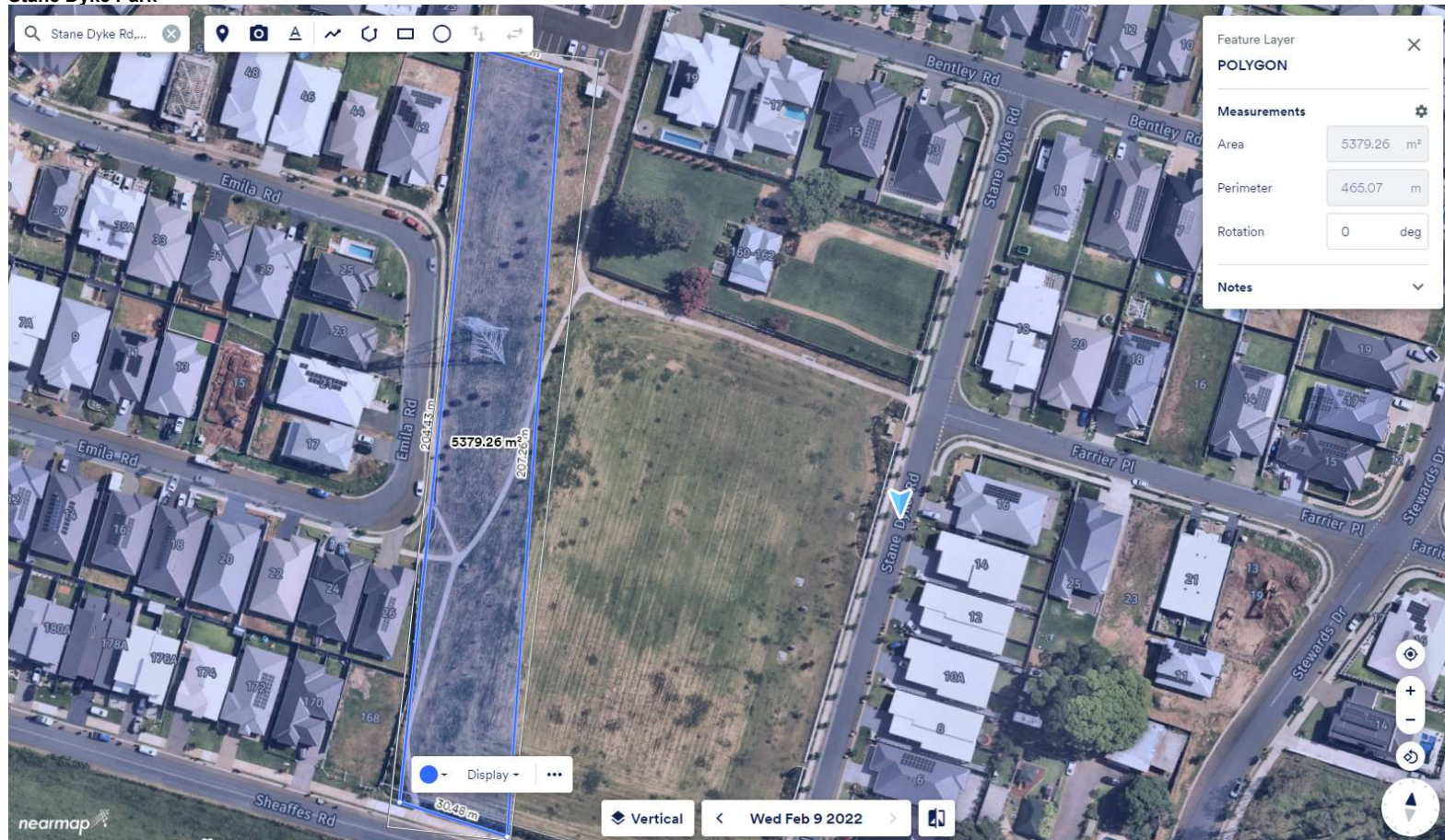
Integral Energy Park

Space marked: bushland area not usable for functional recreation activities like playground, sportsgrounds, etc.



West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Stane Dyke Park

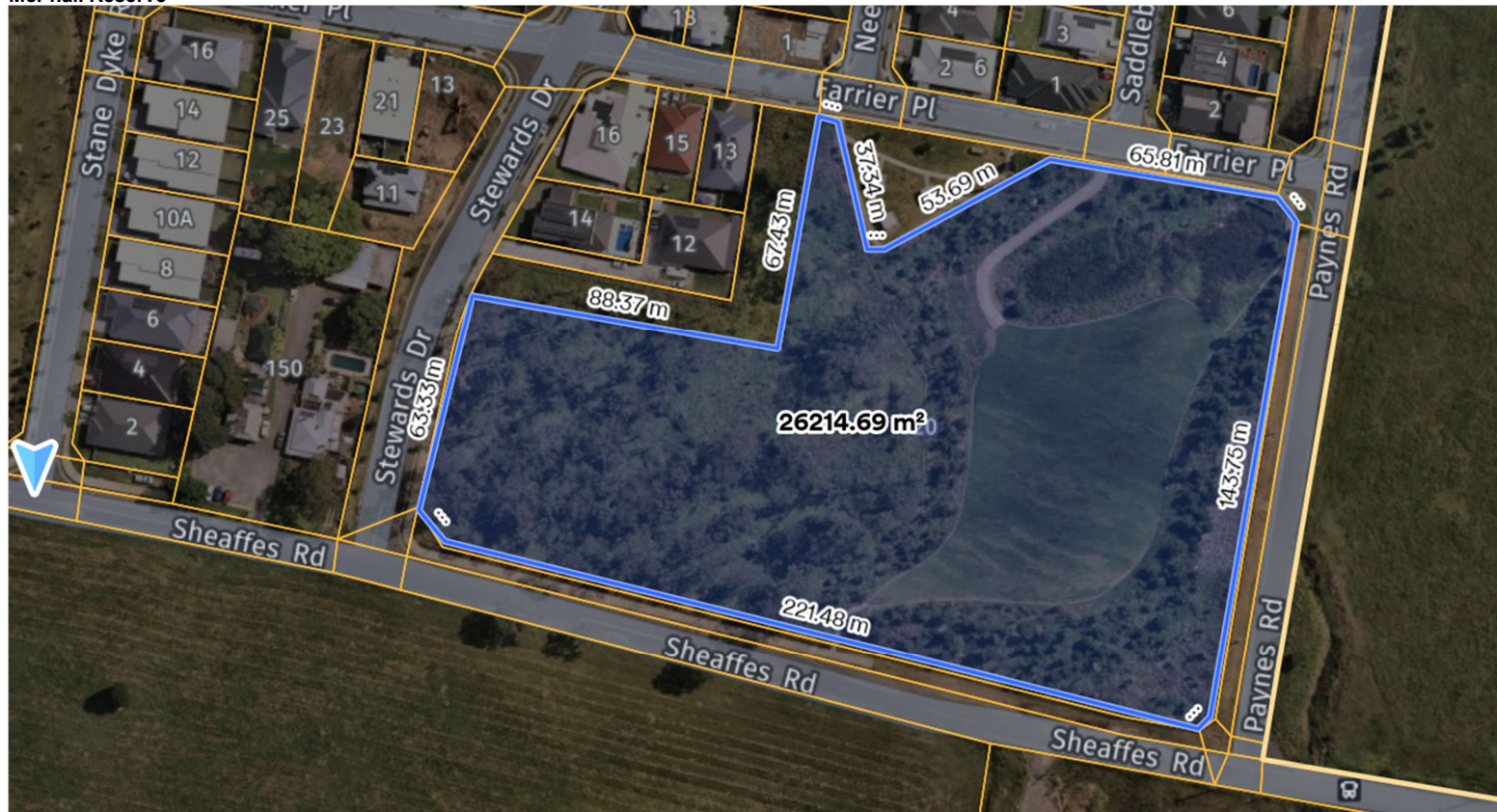


Mogomorra Park



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McPhail Reserve



Bankbook Park

Area marked: detention area used as kick-a-bout space when dry



West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Appendix C. Raw benchmarking output

Table 33 Raw output for the WDURA

Service	Benchmark		2022	2018		2028		2038		2048		2058	
Name	Ratio	Measure	Supply	Demand	Gap	Demand	Gap	Demand	Gap	Demand	Gap	Demand	Gap
Sub-district multipurpose community centre	1 : 20,000	Residents	2.0	0.2	-1.8	1.0	-1.0	1.7	-0.3	2.5	0.5	2.9	0.9
Library space (standalone or combined)	1 : 20,000	Residents	2.0	0.2	-1.8	1.0	-1.0	1.7	-0.3	2.5	0.5	2.9	0.9
Neighbourhood multipurpose community centre	1 : 10,000	Residents	5.0	0.3	-4.7	2.0	-3.0	3.5	-1.5	4.9	-0.1	5.7	0.7
Youth friendly space	1 : 8,000	Residents	0.0	0.4	0.4	2.5	2.5	4.3	4.3	6.2	6.2	7.2	7.2
Youth centre	1 : 30,000	Residents	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9
Childcare places	1 : 4	Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	646.0	60.9	-585.1	577.6	-68.4	1,007.3	361.3	1,367.9	721.9	1,052.1	406.1
Government primary school		Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	TBC by School Infrastructure NSW										
Government high school		Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)											
GP	1 : 1,000	Residents	26.0	3.1	-22.9	19.7	-6.3	34.6	8.6	49.5	23.5	57.4	31.4
Local medical centre	1 : 25,000	Residents	2.0	0.1	-0.9	0.8	-0.2	1.4	0.4	2.0	1.0	2.3	0.3
Health hub	1 : 50,000	Residents	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Cultural practice - community practice space	1 : 8,000	Residents	0.0	0.4	0.4	2.5	2.5	4.3	4.3	6.2	6.2	7.2	7.2
Community arts centre	1 : 40,000	Residents	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4
Performing arts facility	1 : 40,000	Residents	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis | Final Draft | September 2022

Table 34 Local/neighbourhood benchmarking output by stages

			Area 2			Area 3			Area 4			Area 5		
Service	Benchmark		Stage 1/2			Stage 3			Stage 4			Stage 5		
Name	Ratio 2	Measure	Suppl y	Deman d	Gap	Suppl y	Deman d	Gap	Suppl y	Deman d	Gap	Suppl y	Deman d	Gap
Neighbourhood multipurpose community centre	1 : 10,000	Residents	3.0	1.8	-1.2	1.0	1.4	0.4	0.0	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.2
Youth friendly space	1 : 8,000	Residents	0.0	2.3	2.3	0.0	1.8	1.8	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	1.5	1.5
Childcare places	1 : 4	Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	304.0	338.1	34.1	162.0	257.2	95.2	150.0	229.9	79.9	30.0	226.9	196.9
Government primary school		Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	TBC by School Infrastructure NSW											
GP	1 : 1,000	Residents	26.0	18.4	-7.6	0.0	14.0	14.0	0.0	12.7	12.7	0.0	12.4	12.4
Cultural practice - community practice space	1 : 8,000	Residents	0.0	2.3	2.3	0.0	1.8	1.8	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	1.5	1.5

ITEM 3

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION - SIX CITIES REGION DISCUSSION PAPER

The Greater Sydney Commission was established in 2015. It was charged with the strategic city planning for the Sydney metropolitan area. The Greater Sydney Commission developed a Region Plan referred to as A Metropolis of Three Cities in 2018. Three District Plans were subsequently released to align with the notational cities - Western Parkland City, Central River City and Eastern Harbour City.

In April 2022, legislation was passed in the NSW Government to establish the Greater Cities Commission and incorporate the Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra - Shoalhaven Regions to create six cities for detailed consideration and city planning.

In September 2022, the Greater Cities Commission released a Discussion Paper for the Six Cities Region. This report outlines the proposed Council submission in response to the Discussion Paper.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Discussion Paper for the Six Cities Region released by the Greater Cities Commission be noted.
- 2 The General Manager be authorised to finalise the draft submission (Attachment 1) and forward it to the Greater Cities Commission for their consideration.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Council Submission

BACKGROUND

The Greater Sydney Commission lead by the Chief Commissioner Lucy Turnbull, developed key strategic plans including A Metropolis of Three Cities in 2018 and three District Plans. Placing housing, jobs, infrastructure and services within a 30-minute reach of more people was central to the aim of the Three Cities Plan.

This work was undertaken to align with the Western Sydney City Deal announced in March 2018 which facilitated the planning and commenced construction of the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport. The Metropolis of Three Cities Plan also focussed on important innovation districts including Tech Central in the Eastern Harbour City and the Westmead health and education hub in the Central City.

The Greater Sydney Commission has been replaced with the Greater Cities Commission (GCC) with Mr Geoff Roberts appointed the Chief Commissioner. Under the GCC structure, a commissioner is appointed to each city. The City Commissioner for the Illawarra-Shoalhaven is Ms Jacki Johnson. A team for each city is being established within the GCC to support strategy development.

Commissioner Johnson has met with the Council Mayors of the Illawarra - Shoalhaven and recently appeared at industry functions held in Wollongong. She has described the Discussion Paper as a document which outlines the vision, scope and leadership proposed under the city planning model. Council's feedback on the Discussion Paper has been sought.

PROPOSAL

The GCC has been established to develop the Six Cities Region Plan incorporating the Illawarra – Shoalhaven. The six cities have three international airports, three deep-water seaports and a concentration of world class universities. In the next two decades the six cities population is expected to grow from six to eight million people.

The GCC has been charged with leading the vision to deliver global competitiveness and local liveability for the Six Cities Region.

The Discussion Paper aims to stimulate conversation about the best way to plan the Six Cities Region to collectively build the scale, scope, education and potential for a world-class region of better jobs, housing, education, and leisure that is productive, sustainable and liveable for everyone.

The new Six Cities Region Plan will build upon A Metropolis of Three Cities 2018 recognising the challenges facing our society including housing supply, housing affordability, climate vulnerability and matching infrastructure to growth. These challenges have framed the GCC's thinking and informed development of six Region Shapers to guide delivery of the new Six Cities Region Plan in 2023.

A draft submission to the Discussion Paper is attached to this report (Attachment 1). The following summary of Council's response to the six City Shapers is provided below:

An embedded First nations voice

Council is committed to the reconciliation and engagement with the Aboriginal community and has a productive relationship with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with our First Nations communities on strategic planning processes. We see a clear need to create practical processes and establish appropriate resources to support culturally sensitive planning outcomes.

A connected Six Cities Region

The Port of Port Kembla should be recognised as a nationally significant asset which requires infrastructure enhancement and planning certainty for flexible and adaptable land use in the short, medium and longer terms.

The Port and region needs to be supported by a resilient transport network for freight and passengers including increased investment in road and rail connections.

Housing supply, diversity and affordability

The potential for the West Dapto Urban Release Area to deliver significant housing supply needs to be recognised and priority given to infrastructure investment to support growth and emerging communities. In particular, the provisions of educational services for the Release Area requires certainty in terms of planning, funding and delivery. As does the provision of water and sewer.

Affordable housing and key worker housing are significant issues facing our region and we support a focus on identifying solutions, noting Council's limited role and policy levers.

Inclusive places connected to infrastructure

The Wollongong City Centre is a vibrant and productive metropolitan area that would benefit from greater investment by the State Government at key sites including the Railway Station, Wollongong Health precinct, Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Precinct and Wollongong Harbour.

Powering local jobs and economies

The Wollongong City Centre and surrounding health and education precincts are potential employment hubs capable of delivering more jobs for our people closer to where they live. An increase in good quality jobs within 30-minute of where workers live will have social, environmental and economic benefits. In terms of housing affordability, access to good and higher paying jobs is an important consideration for the region.

Optimising use of industrial lands for high density and high value jobs provides a unique employment opportunity in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven city and in particular for Wollongong.

Climate-resilient green cities

Council welcomes a regional scale focus upon climate-resilience. This scale of examination is considered appropriate and should highlight not only the challenges associated with climate change but also the enormous opportunities for the density populated area to drive down emissions and address the shocks and stresses of climate change.

Council notes that we are well progressed in our commitment and policies in relation to climate change mitigation and we look forward to supporting strategies that do not delay, undermine or duplicate existing initiatives.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Staff have consulted internally across Divisions to prepare the draft submission to the Discussion Paper. A Briefing to Councillors was provided on 14 November 2022.

Council staff will also be attending a series of workshops in November / December 2022 hosted by the GCC to inform development of the new Six Cities Region Plan. We will be provided with ongoing opportunities to work with the GCC on development of the region and city plans.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Goals outlined in Our Wollongong 2032 – Community Strategic Plan including -

- We value and protect our environment
- We have an innovative and sustainable economy
- Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
- We are a connected and engaged community
- We have a healthy community in a liveable city
- We have affordable and accessible transport

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Land Use Planning, Natural Areas Management, Economic Development, Community Facilities, Parks & Sport fields and Transport Services.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Climate-resilient cities is one of the six City Shapers set to inform development of the new Six Cities Region Plan. Council is well placed through its commitment to emission reduction to demonstrate leadership in this space. A regional scale focus upon climate-resilience is appropriate and will highlight the challenges and opportunities for the density populated area to address the shocks and stresses of climate change.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Discussion Paper has strong themes around economic development, aligning infrastructure delivery with growth, climate-resilience and the like. It also recognises the importance of celebrating and leveraging each city's unique character and strengths. It is important that Council engage with development of the new Six Cities Region Plan to ensure it reflects the vision for the area detailed in Our Wollongong 2032 – Community Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of Council's staff participation in the city planning framework is unknown at this stage. Costs are likely to be absorbed under the current resourcing budget.

CONCLUSION

The Greater Cities Commission has released a Discussion Paper detailing the current thinking and shapers to develop a Six Cities Region Plan. A draft response to the Discussion Paper has been prepared.

It is recommended that the submission be forwarded to the Greater Cities Commission for their consideration. Staff will continue to engage with the GCC team as the strategic plans progress.

Wollongong City Council Submission to The Six Cities Region - Discussion Paper (Sept 2022)

Wollongong City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the Discussion Paper for the Six Cities Region.

In terms of strategic direction and leadership, the six Region Shapers align well with the vision and aspirations outlined in several of Council's key guiding documents including the Our Wollongong 2032 - Community Strategic Plan. The current thinking on the challenges facing the region in terms of housing supply, housing affordability, climate vulnerability and matching infrastructure to growth, are also consistent with our communities lived experience.

Specific comments on the six Region Shapers are provided as follows -

First Nations

Wollongong is located on Dharawal country. It has significant Aboriginal heritage, with two Declared Aboriginal Places and a number of unresolved Aboriginal Land claims. Parts of Wollongong are known to contain Aboriginal burial sites which have been tested and dated to be 6,000 years old.

Council is committed to the reconciliation and engagement with the Aboriginal community and has a productive relationship with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council. Several culturally sensitive projects have been undertaken with the Land Council through a social procurement process.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with our First Nations communities on strategic planning processes. We see a clear need to create practical processes and establish appropriate resources to support culturally sensitive planning outcomes.

In terms of the new governance arrangements, care should be taken not to duplicate the Federal Government focus on Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

A connected Six Cities Region

The Port of Port Kembla should be recognised as a nationally significant asset which requires infrastructure enhancement and planning certainty so it can be flexible and adapt to land use requirements and opportunities in the short, medium, and longer terms.

It is critical that the Port and region is supported by a resilient transport network including increased investment in road and rail connections. Strategic investments should include consideration of -

- Direct rail connection to South-West Sydney - South-West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL) / Maldon Dombarton.
- Bridge clearance heights across the road freight network to accommodate movements of oversized and over mass products.
- Inland bulk goods receival facilities needs to be examined for optimisation of Port functions.
- Road infrastructure, including Picton Road upgrade / duplication and the Mt Ousley interchange, should be high delivery priority.

Within the region, the frequency of the passenger train service (local and commuter) also requires examination to support urban renewal around train stations and reduce travel times

particularly for those people commuting to Sydney. Digital connectivity along our train routes is currently poor and improvements are essential to increase productivity.

Housing supply, diversity and affordability

The potential for the West Dapto Urban Release Area to deliver significant housing supply needs to be recognised and priority given to infrastructure investment to support growth and emerging communities. This includes improved certainty in terms of planning, funding and delivery of -

- Schools that are designed and located to support safe walking/cycling routes to school and provide a focus for the development of cohesive local neighbourhoods (i.e move away from the current service delivery model of 1000+ place primary schools).
- Water and sewer.
- Flood reliable roads, including commitment towards the delivery of the West Dapto Spine Road.
- Public transport services.
- Ramps and interchanges to connect West Dapto to the State road network (M1).

Wollongong has over 6,700 social housing dwellings which represents 7.5% of our housing stock. Council seeks a commitment from the State Government to maintain or increase that percentage of social housing as our population and housing stock grow. The current self-funded business model for Land and Housing Corporation is not supported by Council because it requires significant urban renewal and increased densities to even maintain the current social housing stock.

Notwithstanding the above, Council supports the proposed target of up to 30% for the proportion of social and affordable housing in residential developments on New South Wales Government land, noting that Land and Housing Corporation should be funded to provide significantly higher proportion of social and affordable housing.

It is understood that the Six Cities Region Plan will set various targets for housing delivery. Whilst Council's existing planning controls and strategies have theoretical capacity to meet these targets, existing data and trends suggest that delivery of housing by industry is likely to fall short of the housing demand.

We would welcome a balanced and collaborative approach to setting and meeting targets which relate to different housing typologies and acknowledge the role of various stakeholders. We are interested in understanding how housing types (e.g. key worker housing) will be defined, monitored and delivered. We also note that affordable housing targets for rezonings in release areas that are mid-way through long term development roll-out, would create equity issues and may not be appropriate.

Failure to meet housing targets should not be punitive and productive measures such as a review of planning controls and policy settings, roll out of enabling infrastructure and engagement with industry peaks should be considered to facilitate delivery of housing.

Inclusive places connected to infrastructure

Council is committed to facilitating well-designed inclusive places through our planning controls (LEP and DCP), Planning Proposal and Neighbourhood Plan processes, and would welcome input to achieve best practice outcomes in this area.

Wollongong is identified on the map as a Metropolitan City which is a tier below Newcastle's proposed classification of Metropolitan Centre. Council would be interested in understanding the criteria for the centres hierarchy and likely implications for the equitable distribution of Government investments arising from our classification.

The Wollongong City Centre is a vibrant and productive metropolitan area that would benefit from greater investment by the State Government including its own assets -

- The Wollongong Railway Station precinct.
- Ongoing investment in the Wollongong Health precinct.
- Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Precinct.
- Wollongong Harbour.

Council is currently preparing a Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment for the West Dapto Urban Release Area. The work will inform the 2023 review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan. Council would be happy to share this information with the Commission.

Connecting communities should include both inter and intra regional transport services, recognising the high commuting rate from Wollongong to Sydney and the need to support active and public transport as viable alternatives for residents to access local employment and activity centres.

Powering local jobs and economies

The Wollongong City Centre and surrounding health and education precincts (including the University of Wollongong) are potential employment hubs capable of delivering more jobs for our people closer to where they live. An increase in good quality jobs within 30-minute of where workers live will have social, environmental and economic benefits.

With an estimated 20,000 residents travelling to Sydney each day (pre-Covid) and a world class University, Wollongong has a ready and skilled workforce to accommodate any jobs growth.

The Port and heavy industrial Port Kembla precinct provides a particular value proposition for the Illawarra Shoalhaven that should be fully leveraged for high density and high value employment opportunities.

The investment in TAFE services, coupled with a strong University sector, will be important to support the ongoing availability of a skilled and innovative workforce to drive business investment in the region.

In terms of housing affordability, access to good quality and higher paying jobs is an important consideration for the region. Increasingly, access to key worker housing is being identified as a constraint to business investment which requires particular attention in the Region Plan.

Climate-resilient green cities

Council is well placed through its commitment to emissions reduction to demonstrate leadership in this space. Council welcomes a regional scale focus on climate-resilience. This scale of examination is considered appropriate and should highlight not only the challenges

associated with climate change but also the enormous opportunities for the densely populated area to drive down emissions and address the shocks and stresses of climate change.

We are well progressed in our commitment and policies in relation to climate change mitigation and looks forward to supporting strategies that do not delay, undermine or duplicate existing actions.

Council would welcome any further information regarding roles and opportunity to implement 'circular economy' initiatives relevant to the strategic planning and development assessment processes.

Council has been through many strategic planning processes over the last two decades. We look forward to implementation being a pillar of the GCC's approach to regional planning.

ITEM 4 DRAFT WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

This report presents the Draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2021-2022. The report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (section 428) and the Local Government (General) Regulation (clause 217).

The Annual Report is required to be endorsed by Council within five months of the end of the financial year and due to the Office of Local Government by 30 November 2022.

Financial attachments have not been included and are being reported separately in the 'Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022' Council report.

RECOMMENDATION

The draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2021-2022 (and attachments) be endorsed.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2021-2022
- 2 Attachment D Additional Information Required Under the Local Government Act
- 3 Attachment E Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Lord Mayor and Councillors

BACKGROUND

Wollongong City Council's draft Annual Report 2021-2022 outlines our progress against the Delivery Program 2018-2022 and Operational Plan 2021-2022. It is a key document advising the Wollongong community of Council's performance during 2021-2022. This is the last Annual Report of the 2018-2022 Delivery Program.

The report is a legislative requirement and has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (section 428) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (clause 132, 217 and 224) with exception of section 428 of the Act that states: *"The report must contain the council's audited financial statements and notes and any information required by the Regulation or the Guidelines"*. Attachment A Financial Commentary, Attachment B General Purpose Financial Statements, Attachment C Special Purpose Financial Statements are all excluded from this Report.

A copy of Council's audited Financial Statements would typically be included as an attachment to the Annual Report, having been endorsed by Council at a prior meeting. The Annual Report and the audited Financial Statements are to be endorsed in separate reports both at the 28 November Council meeting. Following Council endorsement of the audited Financial Statements, the Annual Report will be updated to include them prior to publication on Council's website and notification to the Office of Local Government.

Some of the key highlights throughout 2021-2022 include:

- Opening of the landmark Cringila Hills Recreation Park including mountain bike trails, a new playground, bike skills playground, an asphalt pump track and more than 3.4 kilometres of shared-use walking trails.
- Three new bike pump tracks were built at Dapto, Fairy Meadow and Bulli.
- Refurbishments were completed at Kembla Heights Community Hall kitchen; Corrimal Preschool kitchen/laundry and roof replacement at Bulli Senior Citizens' Centre.
- More than 500 resident requests for trees on the verge fronting their property following last financial year's targeted Tree Planting Program in Dapto.

- 2:1 replacement/removal target was exceeded with 927 street trees planted and 384 removed.
- The first Tiny Forest was successfully completed at Harrigan Park, Tarrawanna.
- Continued to plan and build momentum towards the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW.
- Submitted nine Grant Applications totalling \$7.5M worth of funding to the NSW Government's Get Active Program seeking funding towards key footpath and cycle/shared path projects across the City.
- Hosted a 'Doing Business with Wollongong City Council' in October 2021 to assist the local business community with understanding Council's procurement activities and processes.
- Keep Australia Beautiful Award winners in Overall Sustainable communities award (Category E) and Communication and Engagement Award (Category E) - Operation Nappy winner Sustainable Communities Awards.
- FOGO program resulted in 38,707 tonnes of organic material diverted from landfill.
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan adopted in March 2022.
- The return of Comic Gong - held on 14 May 2022.
- Adopted the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
- Adopted the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).
- Continued implementation of OneCouncil, an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform.
- Recognised and celebrated the City's people through civic events.
- The Libraries' highest ever usage of online collections.
- Partnerships with Multicultural Health and community organisations to deliver key COVID-19 related health messages to the Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community.
- Completion of the draft Concept Plan for the construction of a Tier 2 Tennis facility at Beaton Park Gwynneville.
- Delivery of the Pop-up Cycle Pilot Program.

2021-2022 again required Council to respond to the continued challenge presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Council was able to assist the community through the provision of support measures such as a rates relief program, deferred payment arrangements, waiver of targeted fees and charges to targeted groups and locations, supporting service providers and facilities licensees, supporting the local economy via campaigns and enhanced marketing and activation.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Executive Management Committee

Senior Leadership Team

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report relates to the commitments of Council as contained within the Strategic Management Plans.

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 4 “We are a connected and engaged community”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program 2022-2026 Service
4.1 Provide our community with equitable access to information and opportunities to inform decision-making.	Corporate Strategy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Full financial details are included in the ‘Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022’ Council report.

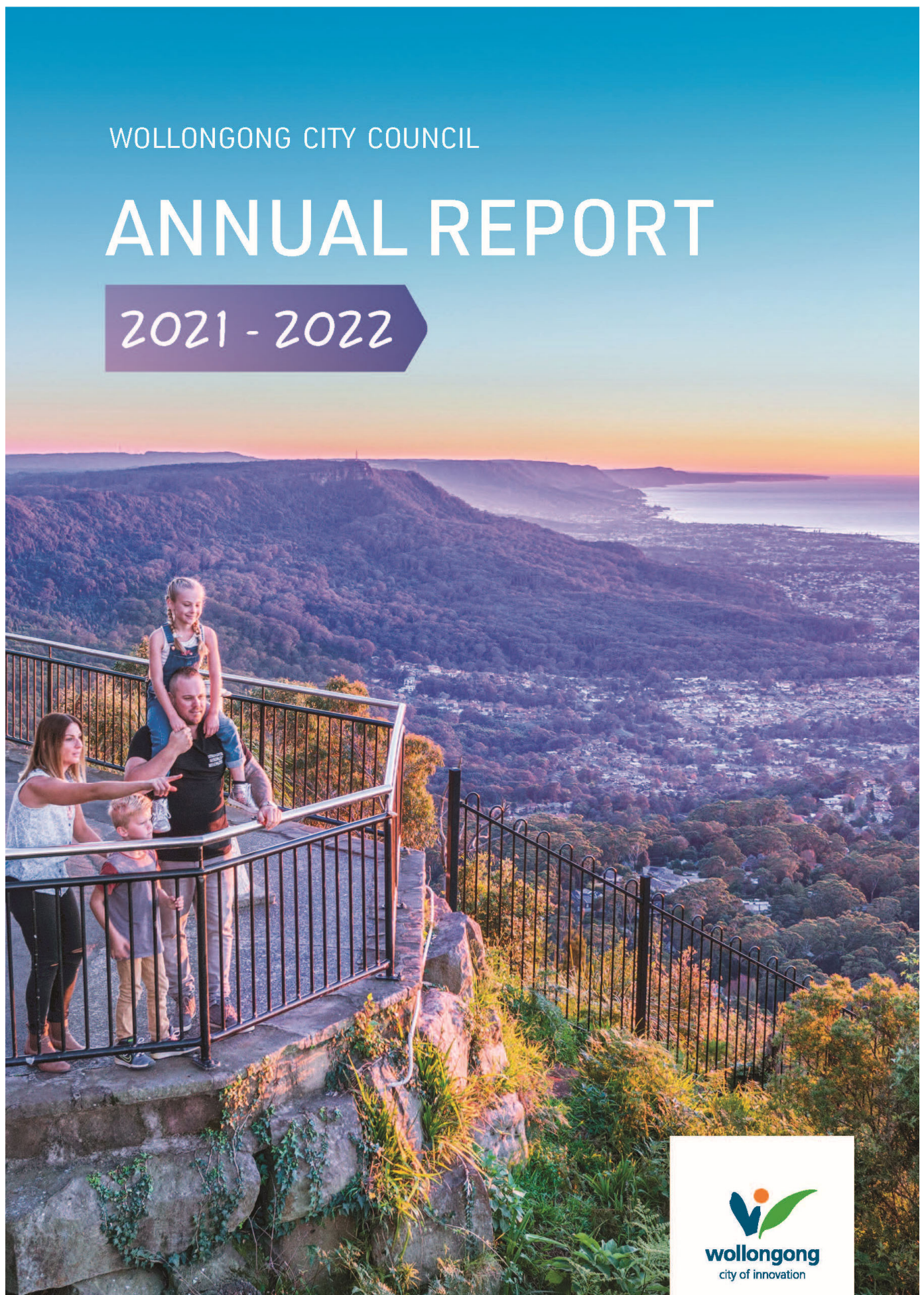
CONCLUSION

This draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2021-2022 (and attachments) has been prepared following input and assistance from all Divisions. It is submitted for consideration and endorsement by Council.

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



Welcome to Wollongong City Council's Annual Report 2021-2022

The Annual Report provides a summary of our performance over the 2021-2022 financial year against the actions in the Operational Plan 2021-2022 and the four year actions in the Delivery Program 2018-2022.

How to read this document

The Annual Report comprises five main sections. The first section provides an overview of our city, Council and financials. *Pages 4-24.*

The main body of the report contains two sections: Strategic Priorities and Strategic Goals. Both sections provide an overview of our performance during 2021-2022 towards achieving the five Strategic Priorities and Delivery Program Actions. *Pages 25-78.*

The fourth section of this report presents our detailed financial statements, including General Purpose Statements and Special Purpose Statements. *Attachments A-C.*

The last section of the report provides additional information on legislative requirements not covered in the main body of the report. *Attachments D-E.*

Intended Audience

This report provides information to a broad range of stakeholders including the Wollongong City Council community, government and non-government organisations, our partners and local businesses. It also provides our staff with information on how we have performed over the year and how their efforts are contributing to achieve our community's vision, *From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and we will be leaders in building an educated, creative and connected community.*

How to obtain a copy of this document

A copy of this Annual Report and various other Council publications are available on our website www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

Hard copies of this report are also available for viewing in Council's community centres and libraries.



Image: Bald Hill Lookout, Stanwell Park

Contents

Fast Facts - Wollongong Community Profile	4
Our Wellbeing	5
Our Wollongong 2028	6
Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework	7
Lord Mayor's Message	10
General Manager's Message	11
Our Councillors	12
Expenses and Provisions of Facilities to Councillors	13
Highlight of Services Provided	14
Major Capital Works Projects 2021-2022	15
Your Rates at Work	16
Financial Overview	17
Four Year Summary of Key Statistics	18
Our Organisation	19
Snapshot of the Wollongong Community	20
Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic	22
Our Workforce	23
Gender Pay Gap	24
Strategic Priorities	
Activating Our Suburbs	26
Urban Greening	28
West Dapto Urban Release	29
Active Transport and Connectivity	30
Business and Investment	31
Community Strategic Goals	
Goal 1: We value and protect our environment	33
Goal 2: We have an innovative and sustainable economy	42
Goal 3: Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city	48
Goal 4: We are a connected and engaged community	56
Goal 5: We have a healthy community in a liveable city	65
Goal 6: We have sustainable, accessible and affordable transport	75

Financial Reports

- Attachment A: Financial Commentary
- Attachment B: General Purpose Financial Statements
- Attachment C: Special Purpose Financial Statements

Local Government Requirements

- Attachment D: Additional Local Government Act Requirements
- Attachment E: Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Lord Mayor and Councillors

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our city is built, Dharawal Country. We recognise and appreciate their deep connection to this land, waters and the greater community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and those emerging and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who call this city home. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people to live in the area. We respect their living cultures and recognise the positive contribution their voices, traditions and histories make to the city.



City of Wollongong

Located 80 kilometres south of Sydney, Wollongong covers 714 square kilometres and occupies a narrow strip bordered by the Royal National Park to the north, Lake Illawarra to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Illawarra escarpment to the west.

The name Wollongong originated from the Aboriginal word *woolyungah* meaning five islands. Archaeological evidence indicates Aboriginal people have lived here for at least 30,000 years. The area we know today as Wollongong was originally inhabited by the Dharawal people (also spelled Tarawal or Thuruwal), who remain the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Dr Charles Throsby first established a settlement here in 1815, bringing down his cattle from the Southern Highlands to a lagoon of fresh water located near City Beach.

The earliest reference to Wollongong was in 1826, in a report written by John Oxley, about the local cedar industry. The area's first school was established in 1833, and just one year later the Surveyor-General arrived from Sydney to lay out the township of Wollongong on property owned by Charles Throsby-Smith.

Our local steel industry commenced in 1927 with Charles Hoskins entering into an agreement with the State Government to build a Steelworks at Port Kembla, thereby

commencing a long history of steel production that still continues to this day. Operations began in 1930 with one blast furnace of 800 tonnes capacity. In 1936, BHP acquired Australian Iron and Steel Limited and production at Port Kembla increased rapidly. The steel industry was a catalyst for growth for many decades, and laid the foundations for the city's economy, lifestyle and culture.

Wollongong is proud of its industry roots and is still known and acknowledged as one of Australia's leading industrial centres. While steel and other manufacturing industries remain an essential part of the local economy, the city has long recognised the need to diversify its economic base.

Construction of the spectacular Sea Cliff Bridge to the north has given more focus to the burgeoning tourism industry, and information technology, hospitality, health services and telecommunications continue to grow as key industries in the region.

Wollongong is a diverse community, with people from more than 30 different language groups and 20 different religious groups calling Wollongong home. A deep respect for others' traditions and regular celebrations of diverse customs add to the vibrant tapestry of community life and provide another dimension to our increasingly sophisticated city.

Our Wellbeing

Residents of Wollongong feel a greater sense of wellbeing than the average Australian



9/10 residents said:

- Wollongong is a good place to live
- Their neighbourhood is a good place to live
- It's a good thing for society to be made up of different cultures
- They feel safe at home by themselves, day and night and walking alone in local areas during the day



Residents also agreed:

- Cultural diversity and creativity is valued and celebrated in the city
- Trust those in the community

Source: 2021 Wollongong LGA Wellbeing Survey IRIS Research

Community Satisfaction

Residents rated their overall satisfaction with Council's performance the highest since 1997

65% of residents are satisfied with Council's overall performance



Our top 5 highest performing facilities and services were:

- Botanic Garden Facility
- Green Waste
- Patrolled beaches
- Domestic Waste Collection
- Libraries



Over the next four years residents would like Council to focus on:

- Footpaths and cycleways
- Development, planning and infrastructure
- Parking
- Parks, sporting fields and playgrounds

Source: 2021 Community Satisfaction Survey

Our Wollongong 2028

Our Wollongong 2028 is a whole of community plan, in which all levels of government, businesses, educational institutions, community groups and individuals have an important role.

The Community Strategic Plan outlines the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and includes strategies for how we will achieve them.

To support the achievement of our community vision, collaborative efforts will focus on six interconnected goals:

Our Wollongong 2028 Goals

We value and protect our environment

We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Wollongong is a creative, vibrant City

We are a connected and engaged community

We have a healthy community in a liveable City

We have affordable and accessible transport

Social Justice Principles

Our Wollongong 2028 is underpinned by the Social Justice Principles of equity, access, participation and rights. These four interrelated principles ensure that:

- There is fairness in decision making, prioritisation and allocating resources, particularly for those in need
- All people have fair access to services, resources, and opportunities to improve their quality of life
- Everyone has the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in decisions that affect their lives

Community Vision

From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and we will be leaders in building an educated, creative and connected community.

Our Purpose

We are committed to being a local government of excellence that enhances our City's quality of life and environment through effective leadership, community involvement and commitment to service.

- Equal rights are established and promoted, with opportunities provided for people from diverse linguistic, cultural, and religious backgrounds to participate in community life.

Sustainable Development Goals

Wollongong City Council has taken a proactive approach to aligning its strategies and plans with the global goals and relevant local indicators.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) were included as a focus in the Our Wollongong 2028 Community Strategic Plan – Council's 10-year planning document. This led to discussions with local partners including the University of Wollongong, Healthy Cities Illawarra, and Shellharbour City Council regarding opportunities to work together.

Council's Delivery Program is the vehicle used to deliver services and projects to the community. Council's Delivery Program 2018-2022 committed to 'develop a project and work with partners to further explore the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and how they align to the community's goals'.

Integrated Planning and Reporting

Our Community Strategic Plan, Our Wollongong 2028 includes the community's vision, goals, objectives, and strategies for the future. Council's Delivery Program outlines how those strategies for which it holds responsibility will be translated into actions, with detailed operational deliverables for each year of the program.

Reporting on our progress

The Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation (2005) requires us to report under the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. This includes regular reporting on our progress towards implementing the objectives and actions within our Delivery Program 2018-2022 and Operational Plan 2021-2022.

Quarterly Reports

The Quarterly Reports to Council provide an assessment of progress against the objectives and key performance indicators identified in the four-year Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan.

Annual Report

The Annual Report provides the community, Councillors, and staff with a summary of work completed by Council during the year.

End of Term Report

Achievements towards Our Wollongong 2028 Community Strategic Plan are reported in an End of Term Report. End of Term Reports are prepared at the end of a Council's term. The End of Term Report 2017-2021 was adopted by Council on 1 November 2021 and is available on Council's website.

Alignment to our Communities Priorities



Supporting Documents

Council refers to its adopted strategies and plans as Supporting Documents. These direction setting documents support the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan, Council's Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan. These documents include goals, strategies, and actions specific to a project or location. However, until the actions are enabled through resourcing and included in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, they remain aspirational.

The following supporting documents have been endorsed by Wollongong City Council as priority documents and for the actions within them to be considered for inclusion through the annual planning process:

Community Services and Facilities

Ageing Plan 2018-2022
 Beach and Foreshore Access Strategy 2019-2028
 Wollongong City Libraries Strategy 2017-2022
 Wollongong Community Safety Plan 2021-2025
 Creative Wollongong 2019-2024
 Cultural Tourism Strategy 2018
 Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025
 Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029
 Framing Our Future - Wollongong Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2020-2025
 Places for People - Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028
 Public Art Strategy 2016-2021
 Public Spaces Public Life 2016-2019
 Public Toilets Strategy 2019-2029

Corporate Governance and Internal Services

Information Management and Technology Strategy 2021-2024

Environment

Dune Management Strategy
 Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy
 Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022
 Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022
 Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy

Pest Animal Management Plan – Deer, Rabbit, Myna Bird 2017-2020

Urban Greening Strategy 2017-2037

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022

Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program 2020-2030

Coastal Zone Management Plan 2017

Stormwater Management Plans

Allans Creek Flood Study - December 2019

Allans Creek Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Addendum 1 September 2008, Brandy and Water Creeks – Investigation and Design of Creek Modification - May 2014, Upper Byarong Creek Flood Analysis and Option Investigation - July 2011 – Currently under review

Review of Brooks Creek Flood Study - April 2018

Collins Creek Flood Study - September 2019 (Combined Catchments of Whartons, Collins and Farrahars Creeks, Bellambi Gully and Bellambi Lake)

Combined Catchments of Whartons, Collins and Farrahars Creeks, Bellambi Gully and Bellambi Lake, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan - June 2014

Duck Creek Flood Study - May 2019

Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks Flood Study - June 2020

Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan - December 2010 - Currently under review

Hewitts Creek Flood Study - December 2019

Hewitts Creek, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan - December 2002 - Currently under review

Kully Bay Overland Flow Study - October 2019

Lake Illawarra, Floodplain Risk Management Study - January 2012

Macquarie Rivulet Flood Study - February 2017

Minnegang Creek Flood Study - October 2019 Minnegang Creek, Floodplain Risk Management Plan - January 2004

Mullet Creek Flood Model Update - April 2018

Mullet and Brooks Creek, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan - February 2010, Mullet Creek West Dapto Extension, Flood Model - January 2012 - Currently under review

Towradgi Creek Flood Study - December 2019 Towradgi Creek, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan - June 2003 - Currently under review

Wollongong City Flood Study - August 2019

Wollongong City, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan - November 2015

Planning and Engagement

Community Land Plan of Management for Council owned land (2021)

Community Participation Plan 2020

Corrimal Town Centre Plan 2015-2022

Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027

Figtree Town Centre Plan 2014-2020

Helensburgh Town Centre Plan 2020-2045

Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2023

Keiraville - Gwynneville Implementation Plan 2014-2016

Keiraville Gwynneville Access and Movement Strategy 2020

Mt Keira Summit Park, Plan of Management (2020)

Port Kembla Revitalisation Plan 2018-2043

Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach Plan of Management 2015

Stanwell Park Reserve and Bald Hill Plan of Management (2021)

Thirroul Village Centre

Unanderra Town Centre Master Plan 2014-2024

Warrawong Town Centre Plan 2013-2023

West Dapto Vision 2018

West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2020)

Wollongong Botanic Garden Plan of Management (2020)

Wollongong City Centre - A City for People (2016)

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021)

Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework (2020)

Wollongong Major Events Strategy 2016-2020

Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

Wongawilli Village Centre

Recreation and Open Space

Figtree Oval Recreational Master Plan 2016-2029

Sportsground and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2017-2021

The Future of Our Pools Strategy 2014-2024

Wollongong Play Strategy 2014-2024

Fairy Creek Corridor, Master Plan

Cringila Hills Recreation, Master Plan

Beaton Park Regional Precinct Master Plan 2018-2038

Beach and Foreshore Access Strategy 2019-2028

Beaton Park Plan of Management 2018

Hill 60 Landscape Master Plan

Memorial Gardens Master Plan

Kembla Grange Cemetery Master Plan

Tourist Parks Master Plan

Transport Services and Infrastructure

Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030

City of Wollongong Pedestrian Plan 2017-2021

Inner City Parking Strategy 2010-2026

Wollongong City Centre Access and Movement Strategy 2023

The following Supporting Documents have been endorsed by Council as draft or adopted by Council as final:



Lord Mayor's Message



What an exciting and challenging time it is for the community of Wollongong.

After the local government elections of December 2021, we have welcomed three new Councillors on to Council, and saw the return of nine Councillors, and myself as Lord Mayor, for a three-year term.

Not only do we have many experienced hands, we're also reinvigorated as a team. We took this energy into our planning for the next 12 months prioritising key services, initiatives and important projects, trying to meet the community's expectations while being financially responsible.

Looking back, it's easy to forget how challenging the period between January and June 2022 were for Council, and for our community. Time passes quickly but it's important to reflect that up until July this year, we had one of the greatest and most significant rainfall events in memory. It also followed a very difficult six months between July and December 2021 where COVID-19 had a significant impact upon our community.

The prolonged and intense rainfall this year posed real and significant challenges for our city. Roads were flooded, people cut off and community members impacted by these dangerous conditions.

Our city was fortunate, particularly when you look at the impact the weather had on the north coast of NSW. However, while we were more fortunate than some other cities, the outcome was also a direct result of the ongoing investment by Council in our city's stormwater infrastructure. Since the 1998 floods we've had – and will continue to have – a significant focus in this area.

The construction of stormwater infrastructure is important, as are our teams on the ground during weather events. I

thank those staff who were out and about in treacherous conditions to ensure the city continued to operate as smoothly as the conditions would allow.

It was an outstanding effort to maintain our facilities – including waterlogged parks, playgrounds and sporting fields despite the ongoing weather conditions. Plus, continue to deliver new and exciting spaces for our city like the Cringila Hills bike facilities. Keep in mind this was in a period where COVID-19 and severe flu was impacting our community including the availability of Council staff. Building and material costs as well as supply chain issues were also problematic.

Looking forward, things continue to be exciting for Wollongong. In September, we've the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW racing through our streets and suburbs between Helensburgh and Coniston across an event-filled nine days.

This event is a coup for the city and has allowed us to fast-track a program of road improvements along sections of our 1000km of roads that will allow for the safe delivery of the event and benefit our local community in the long term. It also means hardy swimmers will enjoy an extra week to the swim season with a number of our key beaches opening a week early.

Community is key to what we do and we prioritise delivering the services our community value and expect. We continue to care for our 42 sportgrounds, their amenities and lighting and we've a strong and concerted focus on improving our facilities so that they cater to all members of our community and a diverse range of sporting codes. These fields are often located in poorly drained locations, and sporting facilities and their upgrades will require more resources and detailed information.

Right across summer we'll have lifeguards on our 17 patrolled beaches and our eight supervised public pools this summer, and an enhanced cleaning program for our public amenities, and we've new and engaging programs being offered through our libraries, Wollongong Art Gallery and through our youth services.

I'm inspired by what the year ahead will deliver for our city. It's such an exciting time for Wollongong as we make our mark on the global map and continue our ongoing efforts to shape our city into the best place to live, work and enjoy life.

Wollongong City Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM

General Manager's Message



I am proud to present the Annual Report 2021-2022 for Wollongong City Council.

This important document provides a vital snapshot of all the work your Council has done over the past year to make Wollongong a stand-out place to live, work and play.

Our city has transformed in recent years and it's exciting that later in 2022, the world will get to see the best Wollongong has to offer when the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW comes to town.

We're privileged to have been selected as the Host City for such a significant global sporting event, and it provides the welcome opportunity for Wollongong to play a key role in the NSW Government's 10 World Cups in 10 Years initiative.

It has also provided us with an exciting opportunity to seek a range of State and Federal Government funding and investment in cycling-related infrastructure. Last November we officially opened the exciting Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Park.

I'm so very proud of this exciting project that was funded by the Commonwealth Government under the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program in association with Council. It delivers almost 12 kilometres of trails for mountain bikers – whether beginners through to advanced riders – as well as walking trails.

Possibly even more importantly, this project is seeing the purposeful and resourceful use of underutilised land in Cringila. We've big plans for this site and ultimately the site will be home to a brand new pump track, playground, and bike skills park.

Open spaces like this are so important to our community – and we've seen an increased desire for accessible, open and diverse outdoor spaces as a result of the global pandemic. They provide safer spaces for community gatherings, exercise and relaxation. I'm proud that we've been able to respond to our community's desire and expectations to have more options for active transport that provide health and environmental benefits and accelerate improvements to off-road cycling opportunities like that at Cringila Hills as well as on-road opportunities through the city's pop-up cycling routes.

Climate change continues to be a key focus for Council as we invest in ways to make our buildings and community facilities more sustainable, and advocate at a State and Federal Government level for changes that help mitigate risk, and adapt to, changes in our local environment.

At a grassroots level, we're seeing our community get behind initiatives like verge gardening and embracing FOGO or Food Organics Garden Organics. By using their weekly household green-lidded bin collection to keep food waste out of landfill, we're able to see the valuable compost created through FOGO used on our city's sportsfields.

It's an exciting time for our city and one that holds so much promise. We've a passionate team here at Wollongong City Council who are committed to continuing to deliver the best for the community that calls this place home.

Wollongong City Council General Manager Greg Doyle

Our Councillors

The Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) is divided into three wards with four Councillors elected to represent each Ward. The Lord Mayor is elected by all voters and represents the entire Wollongong LGA.

Councillors are not employees or officers of Council. Their role is to make decisions about the running of Wollongong City Council and ensure the General Manager and Council officers carry out decisions made at the Council meetings.

During the period under review, 13 Ordinary Council meetings and 1 Extraordinary Council meeting were held, and the agendas and minutes

are available on Council's website. In addition, 27 Councillor briefings were held.

Local Government Elections

Local government elections were held in the City of Wollongong on Saturday 4 December 2021. The ten councillors who stood for re-election were all returned to civic office, with three vacancies filled by incoming councillors Richard Martin, Linda Campbell and Elisha Aitken.

Council acknowledges the dedication of retiring councillors Leigh Colacino (2011-2021) and Jenelle Rimmer (2017-2021) and thanks them for their tireless service to our community.

Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM

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Expenses and Provisions of Facilities to Councillors

The Lord Mayor and Councillors are paid an annual fee that is within the limit set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. Council has adopted a policy on the payment of expenses and provision of facilities. The policy outlined in Attachment E depicts the services and facilities provided to the Lord Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their civic duties.

The total cost on payment of fees and expenses and on the provision of facilities to the Lord Mayor and Councillors (from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022) is **\$535,208** and consist of the following:

Fees	\$492,912
Expenses and facilities	\$42,295

Specific costs as required by Clause 217 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* are as follows:

i	Provision of facilities	\$8,216
ii	Telephone calls	\$0.00
iii	Conference and seminars	\$24,988
iv	Induction and other Professional Development	\$0.00
v	Other Training and skills development	\$200
vi	Interstate travel (non-conference related)	\$0.00
vii	Overseas travel	\$0.00
viii	Partner, spouse or accompanying person	\$0.00
ix	Care of child or immediate family member	\$0.00

Other expenditure relating to expenses and facilities included in the total (above) are:

a	Attendance at meetings, functions and events	\$4,005
b	Newspaper subscriptions and other Civic expenses including insignia of office and local government body membership fees	\$4,886

Our City

The Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) is located on Dharawal Country.

Wollongong Local Government Area Map

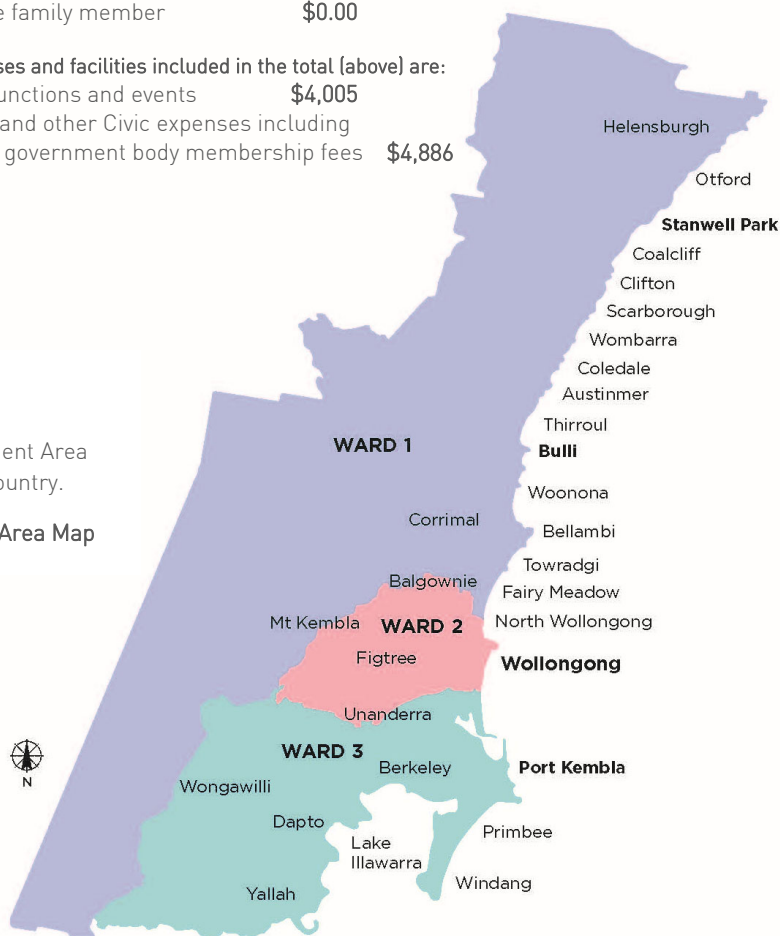




Image: Wollongong Council street sweeper

During 2021–2022 we provided, inspected and maintained:

- 95 environmental program events/ workshops
- Over 644 hectares of restoration at natural area sites

Recreation

- 146 playgrounds
- 430 park sites
- 220 sportsfields across 85 sports field locations
- 5 skate parks
- 8 outdoor exercise facilities
- 17 pools (rock pools and swimming pools)
- 60 newly arrived immigrants to the city participated in water safety education programs (Noting COVID-19 restrictions in Schools and the University of Wollongong)

Transport

- over 1,000km roads
- over 500km footpaths and cycle ways
- over 300 car parks
- over 600km stormwater pipes

Buildings

- over 800 community buildings
- 104 public toilets

Commercial Operations

- 2 leisure facilities
- 3 tourist parks
- 5 Operational Cemeteries
- 2 Historical Cemeteries
- 805 licensed off-street car spaces, 433 off-street casual pay and display spaces (metered) and 1,581 on-street metered spaces

Customer Service

- 114,448 telephone calls answered
- 6,720 face to face discussions
- 20,348 online requests
- 3,300 webchats

And....

- 7,580,621 domestic, recycling and green waste bins collections
- 516* inspections of food premises
- 44 different programs and projects for young people
- 21,513 Community transport passenger trips
- 13,513* hours of social support services
- 7 libraries with 947,207* visitors, loaning 1,032,535* items
- A Regional Art Gallery

* Impacted by COVID-19

Major Capital Works Projects

Wollongong City Council is the custodian of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets with a gross value of approximately \$5.8B, and a net carrying value of \$3.3B on behalf of the community. During 2021-2022, Council delivered a capital works program worth \$104.6M across 445 projects throughout the local government area. This includes \$43.8M on renewing and replacing existing ageing assets, and \$60.8M on upgrading or constructing and purchasing new assets.

In addition, Council received a further \$14.9M of contributed assets such as roads and drainage from new subdivisions constructed by developers.

The following is a summary of the 2021-2022 expenditure program, highlighting some of the major projects undertaken in the financial year:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Capital Works*	\$115.8M	\$89.8M	\$77.8M	\$89.7M

Major Capital Projects*

• North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC)	\$3.6M
• Wongawilli Rd/Culvert Upgrade	\$3.0M
• North Wollongong Beach Seawall Renewal	\$2.8M
• Fred Finch Park Netball Court Realignment	\$1.7M
• Cleveland Rd Upgrade	\$1.3M
• Helensburgh Village Centre Stage 2	\$1.2M
• Criterium Track	\$1.2M
• Cringila Hills Mountain Bike trails and walking tracks Phase 1	\$1.1M
• Thomas Dalton Park Sports Field Lighting	\$1.1M

Projects across multiple locations^

Footpaths and Cycle Ways	153 projects	\$16.8M
Parks, Gardens and Sports Fields	59 projects	\$10.2M
Roads, Bridges and Related Assets	186 projects	\$20.9M
Car Parks	22 projects	\$2.3M
Buildings	68 projects	\$12.1M
Floodplain and Stormwater Management	84 projects	\$5.2M
Beaches and Pools	13 projects	\$0.9M
West Dapto	12 projects	\$6.8M
Commercial Operations	14 projects	\$1.0M
Library Books	1 project	\$1.3M
Waste Facilities	11 projects	\$1.2M
Plant and Equipment	2 projects	\$3.5M
Public Art	1 project	\$0.1M
Information Technology	4 projects	\$0.7M
Fleet	1 project	\$0.9M
Land Acquisitions	5 projects	\$5.8M

* Expenditure quoted above refers to the actual expenditure for 2021 - 2022, not the total cost of the project

^ Number of projects quoted refers to the number of projects Council spent money on and not necessarily constructed in 2021-2022



Image: Playground Renewal Program



Image: Fred Finch Park, Berkeley

Your Rates at Work

Council's revenue for 2021-2022 was \$347.3M, with the majority of revenue coming from general rates and annual charges. This funding supported more than 33 services and programs, as well as new investment in operational and strategic priorities for the city. The following information provides an overview of Council's revenue and expenditure in 2021-2022.

Financial Snapshot

Where does the money come from?

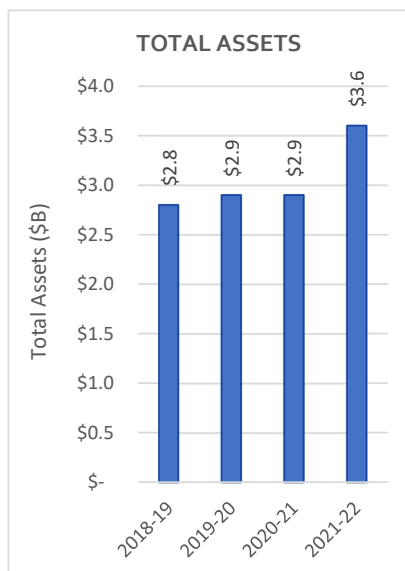
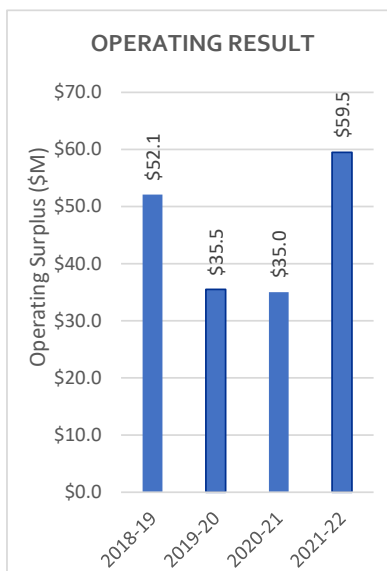
Total		\$347.3 M
Rates and Annual Charges	63%	\$216.9M
User Fees and Charges and Other Revenue	8%	\$29.2M
Grants and Contributions – Capital Purposes	13%	\$45.4M
Grants and Contributions – Operating Purposes	12%	\$41.9M
Other Income / Revenue	4%	\$13.9M

Expenditure by Service (\$M)

The following table provides the operating costs associated with the delivery of each of Council's services along with comparatives for the previous years.

SERVICE	2018-19 Actual \$M	2019-20 Actual \$M	2020-21 Actual \$M	2021-22 Actual \$M
Aged and Disability Services	4.03	4.08	3.25	3.20
Aquatic Services	13.48	16.34	16.53	16.42
Botanic Garden and Annexes	3.63	3.74	3.71	3.85
City Centre Management	3.06	2.81	3.74	3.73
Communications, Engagement, Events and Signage	2.87	3.06	3.32	4.21
Community Facilities	5.55	5.78	6.10	5.84
Community Programs	2.03	2.01	3.47	2.26
Corporate Strategy	2.71	3.26	2.38	1.13
Cemeteries	2.27	2.46	2.38	2.54
Cultural Services	7.24	6.83	7.07	7.34
Development Assessment and Certification	8.14	8.59	8.87	9.11
Economic Development	2.67	2.66	2.54	2.70
Emergency Management	5.06	5.75	6.11	5.68
Environmental Services	2.42	2.51	2.46	2.46
Financial Services	7.44	6.81	5.66	7.61
Governance and Administration	8.42	8.45	9.07	11.17
Human Resources	14.12	8.34	5.35	5.26
Information and Communications Technology	6.85	8.02	11.82	13.63
Infrastructure Planning and Support	13.47	11.89	9.86	6.77
Integrated Customer Service	4.56	4.62	2.59	2.43
Land Use Planning	3.20	2.97	2.88	3.30
Leisure Services	4.71	4.46	4.38	3.51
Libraries	11.35	11.76	11.51	11.09
Natural Area Management	3.94	4.43	4.61	5.31
Parks and Sports Fields	19.66	22.04	21.68	23.32
Property Services	4.45	6.34	4.39	4.52
Public Health	1.10	1.12	1.17	1.12
Regulatory Control	4.98	5.14	5.59	5.72
Stormwater Services	14.82	16.79	15.02	17.23
Tourist Parks	6.31	6.32	6.76	6.32
Transport Services	50.18	54.82	48.51	46.64
Waste Management	40.51	36.46	43.09	37.41
Youth Services	1.19	1.26	1.20	1.27

Financial Overview



INCOME STATEMENT

The income statement identifies income and expenses for 2021-2022. As at June 2022, Council's operating result was \$59.5M. The operating surplus of \$59.5M was \$36.6M higher than original budget, primarily due to early receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant partially offset by lower income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet identifies what Council owns as assets, what it owes as liabilities and its net worth position (equity). As at June 2022, Council managed \$3.56B worth of total assets.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

This statement provides a summary of Council's cash receipts (inflow) and cash payments (outflows) during the year. The closing cash balance as at 30 June 2022 was \$162M. This represents a \$8.9M decrease from the previous year, primarily due to a lower cash balance at the beginning of the financial year.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

In 2021-2022 Wollongong City Council received \$63.0M in Federal and State Government funding compared to \$37.7M received in 2020-2021.

The full amount of grants received is reported in Note B2-4 of the financial statements.

Four Year Summary of Key Statistics

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-2022
Total number of residents*	216,071	218,114	219,798	214,564 [^]
Total number of ratepayers	82,961	83,905	85,114	85,680
Rates levied (income)	\$164.7M	\$171.3M	\$174.9M	\$178.7M
Average general residential rate	\$1,477.69	\$1,512.55	\$1543.86	\$1,592.62
Increase in average residential rate	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%	3.06%
Specific purpose grants revenue (incl. capital and operating)	\$33.8M	\$16.3M	\$17.1M	\$29.3M
Available working funds balance	\$29.4M	\$25.4M	\$23.4M	\$32.0M
Operating performance ratio	-0.5%	-1.62%	0.95%	4.89%
Debt service ratio	3.3%	3.4%	2.1%	2.2%
Asset maintenance ratio	1.00	1.01	0.93	0.78
Capital Works Program	\$115.8M	\$89.9M	\$77.8M	\$89.7M
Number of positions (permanent FTE)	1,117.55	1,166.37 [†]	1,167.30 [†]	1,204.5
Population per employee (permanent FTE)	193.3	187.0	176.8	142.7
Governance + Admin expense per capita	\$198 [†]	\$183	\$166	\$244
Environmental expenditure per capita	\$300	\$287	\$306	\$275
Community services, education, housing, amenities expenditure per capita	\$163	\$175	\$169	\$213
Recreational + Culture expenditure per capita	\$282	\$300	\$303	\$222
Public order, safety + health expenditure per capita	\$69	\$77	\$81	\$76
Roads, bridges and footpath expenditure per capita	\$242	\$246	\$220	\$247
Material diverted from landfill (Domestic waste collection)	48.0%	44.9%	50.3%	54.5%
Development Applications assessed	1,430	1,409	1,496	1,306
Botanic Garden visitation	413,359	358,979	352,791	229,164 [▼]
Wollongong Art Gallery visitation	119,208	69,728 ²	49,045 ²	44,197 ^{2^}
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall visitation	144,500	95,293 ²	62,343 ²	68,446 ²
Library visitation	1,023,880	903,176 ²	989,537 ²	947,207 ^{2^}
Pools attendance	1,282,194	900,029 ²	507,447 ²	689,691 [~]

* Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – Information has been taken from the 2021 Census Data and .id Informed Decisions

[^]ABS Estimated Residential Population (ERP) 2021

[†] Note: The allocation of costs between the services has varied over the reporting period making direct comparison at this level inaccurate.

[†] Increase in costs allocated to Administration in 2018-19 relates primarily to a significant variation in the value of future employee leave entitlements due to the impact of decreased interest rates on the net present value calculation, the reassessment of prior year worker's compensation estimated values, and the upfront costs associated with the purchase and first stage implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning System. [†] A review of permanent positions has resulted in a slight change. ¹ 2019-20 FTE figure includes Grant funded positions (previously not included). ² Impacted by COVID-19 - facilities closed from March 2020 under the NSW Public Health Order. ^{2^} Change in mode of delivery to include online participants ~Impacted by COVID-19 [▼] Due to a change in gate counters however anecdotally, higher visitor numbers due to frequent visits for exercise during lockdown.

Our Organisation



Greg Doyle
General Manager



Renee Campbell
Director
Corporate Services



Linda Davis
Director
Planning and Environment



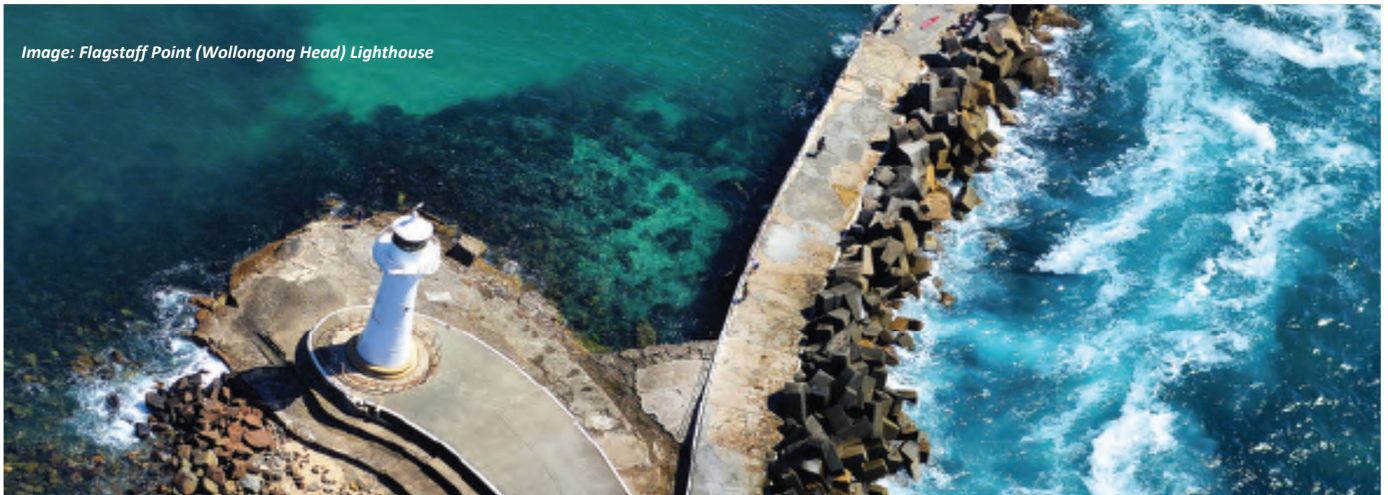
Joanne Page
Director
Infrastructure and Works



Kerry Hunt
Director
Community Services



Image: Flagstaff Point (Wollongong Head) Lighthouse



Snapshot of the Wollongong Community

Wollongong is said to originate from the Aboriginal word Woolyungah, meaning Five Islands. The fourth largest city in New South Wales and 11th largest city in Australia in terms of population (ABS* - significant urban areas).

The median age of the population of Wollongong was 39 years.



In 2021, 22.4% of households earned an income of \$3,000 or more per week and 23.7% were low-income households (\$0 to \$650 per week). The median weekly household income was \$1,335.



In 2021, a total of 74.9% of the population of Wollongong stated they were Australian born (4.1% not stated). Of the 21% born overseas the five main countries of birth were United Kingdom, North Macedonia, Italy, India and New Zealand.



Separate housing provided accommodation for 66.3% of the Wollongong LGA population, 20.5% occupied a medium density dwelling, while 12.3% were high density dwellings.



In 2021, the population of Wollongong was 214,564[^], living in 89,329 dwellings with an average household size of 2.5 people.



In 2021, 29.3% were couple families with children, compared to 30.2% in 2016.



Image: Children on Corrimal Beach



And 11.2% were one-parent households, compared with 11.5% in 2016



25.4% were lone person households compared with 24.3% in 2016.



In December 2021, the median house price in Wollongong was \$1,055,000 compared with \$610,750 for Regional NSW while the median unit price was \$685,000 compared with Wollongong LGA exceeded \$600 per week.



In June 2022, there were 7,666 JobSeeker and Youth Allowance recipients in Wollongong.



English was the only language spoken at home by 79.8% of the population. The four most common languages other than English spoken at home are Macedonian, Arabic, Italian and Mandarin. Of those, Arabic being the largest increase and Italian being the largest decrease since 2016.



Analysis of car ownership in 2021, indicates 53% of households had access to two or more motor vehicles with 1.8 average motor vehicles per dwelling.



In 2021, 6.7% of the population in Wollongong reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This was a similar percentage in 2016.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – Information has been taken from the 2021 Census Data and .id Informed Decisions
^ABS Estimated Residential Population (ERP) 2021

Supporting our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Significant challenges arising from the global health and economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have continued throughout the 2021-2022 year. This impacted on what Council has been able to deliver and the way we serve and support our community. The application of a community-orientated, risk-based approach to the delivery of our services as well as responding to advice from government authorities, has meant some services and key facilities were temporarily altered or ceased. As always, our focus is on protecting vulnerable members of our community and protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers, their families, and our community.

Council provided a COVID-19 Assistance Package in 2020-2021 to support our community and businesses. With the continued effect of the pandemic evident across our community, Council adopted additional, comprehensive range of assistance measures for impacted ratepayers, businesses, community organisations, our creative community, and tenants of Council owned properties, in 2021 – 2022.

Further details of assistance measures and Council's progress with delivery of this support throughout 2021-2022 is outlined below.

During 2021-2022, Council deployed:

Rates Relief - Deployment of Council's Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy

- Rates Relief Program: Freeze on interest charges and recovery action on overdue Rates and charges related to the current year Rates
- Requests for Deferred Payment Arrangements for all ratepayers experiencing financial difficulty due to COVID-19 impacts under its Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy for the 2021-2022 financial year
- Cease Legal Debt Recovery on 2021-2022 Rates otherwise required under Council's Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy until 30 November 2021

Fees and Charges Relief 2021-2022

- Waiver of Casual Off-Street Parking Fees at targeted Off Street Parking locations until 31 December 2021
- Supporting our Local Sporting Groups - Waiver of Training and Competition Fees
- Support for Fitness Trainers; Swim Schools and Surf Schools
- Supporting Hospitality Businesses:
 - Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees [existing]
 - Extension of Outdoor Dining Incentives to our Suburbs
- Supporting our Business Community - Food and Personal Grooming Inspection and Administration Fees Waiver

Supporting Community Service Providers and Facilities Licensees

- Supporting Local Not-For Profits: Emergency Food and Care Support for Residents
- Supporting Community Facilities: Financial Assistance for Essential Outgoings

Supporting Our Local Economy – Deployment of a Buy Local Campaign

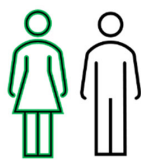
- Deployment of a 'Buy Local' campaign - to support economic recovery and stimulate local economic activity, Council will fund the development of a 'Buy Local' campaign
- Enhanced City Centre Marketing and Activation - To support economic recovery and stimulate local economic activity, Council will increase our investment in city centre activation and marketing activities to support economic recovery of both the region and our local community

Supporting Council's Tenants – Rent Waivers and Deferrals

- Provide support to Council's commercial Tenants by adhering to Regulations introduced on 14 July 2021 and, in addition, providing rental waivers and deferrals to eligible Tenants for the prescribed periods between 1 July 2021 to 13 March 2022
- **Supporting our Local Creative Industries**
 - A program of support to our local creative industries to provide meaningful employment and/or business development. Includes:
 - Quick response grants (\$60,000)
 - Events re-emergence (\$200,000)
 - Arts professional mentorship program (\$60,000)
 - Artist-in-residence (\$120,000)

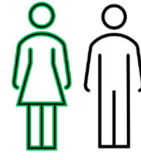
Our Workforce

(Includes all permanent, temporary and contract employees as at 30 June 2022)



41.9% 58.0%

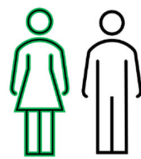
* 0.1% indeterminate/intersex/unspecified



21.7% 51.7%

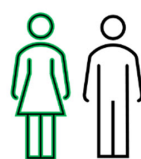
Full time permanent employees

* 0.1% indeterminate/intersex/unspecified



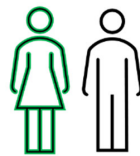
16.3% 2.6%

Part time permanent employees



4.0% 3.8%

Temporary (FT +PT) employees



Baby Boomers (and Earlier)(Up to 1966)	12.8%	15.0%
Gen X(1967 - 1980)	17.9%	22.0%
GenY & Younger(Post 1981 - 1994)	8.8%	15.6%
Gen Z And Beyond(Post 1994)	2.1%	5.0%
CEO	0.0%	100.0%
Director	100.0%	0.0%
Senior Manager	28.6%	71.4%
Middle Manager	35.3%	64.7%

Job Families are dominated by



70% Administration

70% Service Delivery



91% Trades and Labour

73% Engineering and Technical

Gender Pay Gap



Wollongong City Council's Full time Gender Pay Gap

3.56% (\$3,021.15) in favour of women

*At November 2021, women's average weekly ordinary full-time earnings across all industries and occupations was \$1,591.20 compared to men's average weekly ordinary full-time earnings of \$1,864.50 (WGEA).



Base Salary Package Per Job Family

\$3,128.89 (pay gap) in favour of women

A woman's full time base salary across job family categories on average is \$3,128.89 (3.6%) a year more than the average man's.



Overall Manager* Category

(Includes all senior staff contracted managers, middle managers, coordinators and supervisors/leading hands)

Women in management (leadership) roles are paid \$15,033.89 per annum MORE than men as a base salary package.

*Compared to WGEA 2021 gender pay gap ranging from \$30,914 to \$86,851 in favor of men across manager category.



Total Remuneration Gender Pay Gap

Senior Staff Contracted Managers Category

Women in senior staff contracted positions are paid \$37,633.88 per annum more than men as a total remuneration package.

Our Values and Purpose

Wollongong City Council is committed to being a local government of excellence that enhances our City's quality of life and environment through effective leadership, community involvement and commitment to service. As a purpose-led, values driven organisation our values are part of everything we do every day and provide the foundation of our organisational culture and guide how we deliver the strategies and actions outlined in the Delivery Program.

We live these values through:

Enabling daily work that encourages collaboration, innovation, interdependence, belonging and inclusion

Living the values in everyday work through behaviours and interactions

Supporting and enabling people to deliver on the promise of an Extraordinary Wollongong

OUR VALUES IN ACTION



SUSTAINABLE
use our community's resources responsibly



RESPECT
inclusive and considerate



COURAGE
challenge the norm to be better



INTEGRITY
honest and reliable



ONE TEAM
together we deliver excellent service



Image: Aerial of Wollongong Belmore Basin, Continental Pools

Strategic Priorities

Our Councillors have made a commitment to support our organisation and the community in making Wollongong a better place to live, work, visit and play. To focus Council's attention to achieve this, Councillors agreed to five strategic priorities which are outlined in the Delivery Program 2018-2022.



Activating our Suburbs



Urban Greening



West Dapto Urban Release



Active Transport and Connectivity



Business and Investment



Activating our Suburbs

We are committed to enhancing and activating spaces and places across our local government area through sound planning and focused programs.

Our Delivery Program includes an ambitious plan of action to establish our city, towns and villages as connected and liveable spaces offering a variety of attractions and opportunities for people to work, live, play, learn, visit and invest. Our program supports a variety of infrastructure spending to enhance recreation, sporting and cultural opportunities.

Project Sponsor:	Director Community Services
Project Manager:	Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development
Strategic Program Progress:	✓ On Track

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout 2021-2022 a range of activities and initiatives were delivered within our suburbs to support connected and liveable spaces for our community. The Connecting Neighbours Grant Program continued throughout the year and has enabled Council to support projects being delivered by community members in their local suburbs. The Grant Program funds ideas generated by the community to bring people together and make neighbourhoods a better place. Projects are currently underway or were delivered by community across the local government area.

The landmark Cringila Hills Recreation Park was opened during the year. The Recreation Park includes mountain bike trails, a new playground, bike skills playground, an asphalt pump track and more than 3.4 kilometres of shared-use walking trails. The Recreation Park has an exciting mix of approximately 12 kilometres of bike trails for riders from beginners to advanced with a mix of gradients, surfaces and obstacles.

Following the success of the *Carve a New Trail* pilot project, three new bike pump tracks were built at Dapto, Fairy Meadow and Bulli. Planning also continued for the Lindsay Maynes Criterium Track and Precinct Plan in Unanderra which will provide a dedicated space for bike riders of all abilities.

Other initiatives delivered include the Bellambi neighbourhood wayfinding signage sculpture; new murals in Fairy Meadow and Towradgi; installation of the Guest Park skate mural; finalisation of Unanderra Community Centre and Library mural and installation of *Eye on the Horizon* sculpture at Hill 60, Port Kembla (as part of the Ngaraba-aan Trail).

The Reflections public art work by Col Henry, was installed at Moranga Park, Clifton as part of the Grand Pacific Walk. These works are part of the Art in the Suburbs program, designed to provide local Artists a commissioned project, as a placemaking activity as well as promoting anti-graffiti outcomes.

Port Kembla Festival, presented by Holy Pavlova, was held in April 2022. The cultural development project featured a free live community performance *Standing on the Ceiling* to showcase local talent.

The free Festival took place across six venues in Port Kembla and was funded by Council. Social enterprise workshops were also provided in Port Kembla throughout the year.

Some of the initiatives undertaken to activate our suburbs, include:

- Birthday celebration for the *Paint the Gong REaD* mascot Bright Spark were held at Dapto Mall including a range of literacy and interactive activities;
- Sport and art workshops were held at three High Schools during School Holidays as part of the schools as Shared Spaces initiative;
- Programs for young people continued to be delivered in Dapto, Bundaleer and Bellambi, activating community and outdoor spaces, providing social connectedness and skill development opportunities;
- A community Film Festival was held at the Gala Cinema Warrawong;
- Two new projects, Artist Mentorship/Professional Development Bursary and Artist in Residence programs, supported through Council's COVID-19 Community Assistance Package were developed. These programs saw

Council engage with local creative businesses/Artists across the suburbs to develop their creative and business skills. ARTSELLERATE, provides business mentoring for local creatives and ARTWARD: Art in Unexpected Places, brings Artists working in diverse practices and disciplines to some of Council's facilities and unexpected spaces to develop new creative works.

Council's four-year Infrastructure Delivery Program includes a suite of programs and projects that directly respond to our strategies and priorities to activate and enhance our community centres, public domain and open spaces. Examples of refurbishments completed this year include Kembla Heights Community Hall kitchen, Corrimal Preschool kitchen/laundry and roof replacement at Bulli Senior Citizens Centre. In addition to the many footpaths, cycleways and open space upgrades, these initiatives include streetscape and public domain improvements in Warrawong, Corrimal, Dapto and Helensburgh town centres.





Urban Greening

Urban Greening forms a significant focus during this Council term. Our program includes the implementation of key priorities within Council's Urban Greening Strategy, in conjunction with projects and services that impact sustainability and the quality of our environment.

Project Sponsor: Director Infrastructure and Works
Project Manager: Manager Open Space and Environmental Services
Strategic Program Progress: ✓ On Track

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

2021-2022 saw more than 500 resident requests for trees on the verge fronting their property following last financial year's targeted Tree Planting Program in Dapto. The Urban Greening Program continued servicing street tree requests, the provision of shade along new footpath networks in coordination with civil construction projects, playground installations and installing transitional landscapes to reduce mowing. The Urban Greening Program continues to see targeted tree planting activities occurring in high need suburbs with our current program exceeding the tree planting versus removal ratio target of 2:1 with 927 street trees planted and 384 removed.

We continued to work with the community on promoting the Verge Garden Guidelines and providing support via the Connecting Neighbours Grants Program. We have commenced the 'Tiny Forests' project to be done in partnership with local Schools. Tiny Forests take up a small footprint, but due to the soil preparation and dense plantings can grow in a much shorter period than a normal forest and takes less time to become self-sustaining. Tiny Forest can provide habitat for animals, restore local biodiversity, create a buffer to reduce noise, absorb carbon dioxide to reduce the impact of global warming, provide shade and cool the air. The Tiny Forests project is aligned with our urban greening strategy, the Botanic Garden Greenplan Nursery and Council's climate change adaptation actions. The first 'Tiny Forest' has been successfully completed at Harrigan Park, Tarrawanna, with additional sites planned for later in 2022 at Dapto and the Botanic Garden.

Council's horticulture programs continued to focus on greening our streetscapes in the CBD and Town and Village precincts with planter box installs, and transitional landscape works focussed on restoring natural vegetation in place of areas traditionally mown areas, which is providing recreational and aesthetic benefits like those surrounding the mountain bike trails. Fourteen Town and Village precincts have been planted out with planter boxes as part of our approach to enhance our city's presentation.

Work progressed on a review of three Tree Management Policies to ensure our approach to public tree management, tree permits for private land, and our response to tree and vegetation vandalism are consistent and aimed at achieving tree canopy targets for our community. Council reached an agreement with Symbio Wildlife Park, Helensburgh to provide a space for a post bushfire recovery Koala Conservation plantation that will see 5,000 eucalypts planted. These trees will be used to harvest as a food source and enhance Council's commitment to urban greening.





West Dapto Urban Release

We will continue to work in collaboration with key agencies to provide the infrastructure needed to support growth and employment lands within the West Dapto Urban Release Area. This will include, but is not limited to, coordinated planning for access improvements including new roads and bridges which are needed to support the additional 19,500 future housing lots and 8,500 jobs required over the next 30 years.

Project Sponsor: Director Planning and Environment

Project Manager: Urban Release Manager

Strategic Program Progress: ✓ On Track

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2021-2022, Council continued planning, designing and constructing infrastructure for West Dapto with significant progress achieved on the Wongawilli Road upgrade project. The final application and supporting documentation toward Biodiversity Certification of the release area also made good progress this year with an expected lodgement with the Department of Planning and Environment and public exhibition during early 2022-2023.

During the year, progress has been made on a draft West Dapto Open Space, Recreation, Community and Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment and a Landscape Development Plan for Riparian Corridors, both of which will inform the next review of the West Dapto Contributions Plan. These are large projects that will be subject to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) assessment and is due for completion in December 2023. The review is likely to be influenced by the NSW Government's proposed contributions reform, should they progress in some form. Council continues to monitor the progress and effects of reforms on local contributions planning. Council continued to work closely with the NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) during the year to formally implement the 1 November 2021 Council Resolution to introduce a new suburb 'Stream Hill' to West Dapto. The GNB undertook their own exhibition of the proposed suburb between 27 April 2022 and 27 May 2022. Council is currently reviewing submissions received by GNB, with a Council final submission expected during the September 2022 quarter.

Council continued to assess Planning Proposals, Neighbourhood Plans and Subdivision Development Applications to facilitate urban development. To date, Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted within Stages 1, 2, and part Stages 3 and 4 which will facilitate land for over 5,202 lots. Neighbourhood Plans to support a further 7,313 lots are currently being assessed. Council has granted Development Consent for 2,542 new lots. In addition, Council commenced the Green Network (Landscape) Masterplan project for the release area.



Active Transport and Connectivity

We are planning for and progressively working towards an integrated and active transport network with improved connectivity across the local government area. This includes the continuation of the maintenance, renewal and new construction of pedestrian and cycling networks, and infrastructure for public transport.

Project Sponsor: Director Infrastructure and Works
Project Managers: Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning
Strategic Program Progress: ✓ On Track

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2021-2022 Council continued to invest in the delivery of key action items from Town Centre and Village Plans, Wollongong City Centre Access and Movement Strategy 2023, Wollongong Pedestrian Plan, Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 through the Infrastructure Delivery Program and Operational Plans. Council continues to plan and build momentum towards the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW to be held in September 2022 to stimulate cycling related tourism, community participation in cycling and invest in legacy infrastructure that improves pedestrian and cyclist access at key locations across the city. The location of this prestige event in Wollongong was influenced not only by the beauty of the city and its ability to provide a challenging course, being nestled between the mountains and the sea, but also by the comprehensive Cycling Strategy being delivered. Council will continue to seek Grant Funding through a range of NSW State and Commonwealth initiatives to support active transport and connectivity improvements. Council has engaged with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to advocate and encourage improved public transport services (bus and heavy rail service) to enhance amenity and reduce congestion. Council has also actively participated in the planning of three local interchanges to ensure the provision of connected infrastructure and enhanced accessibility and mobility. Some of the actions that were commenced or were completed to support the Wollongong Pedestrian Plan and Wollongong Cycling Strategy included:

- New footpaths – eight construction projects were completed, and five projects have commenced.
- Footpath renewals – two construction renewals were underway.
- New shared paths – eight construction projects were completed and seven were underway.
- Pop-up cycleways were constructed across the Wollongong Central Business District, Port Kembla, Thirroul and Towradgi.
- Consultation for the location of Bike Racks was completed, with locations to be included in future online mapping tools.
- Commenced participation in a research project with the University of Wollongong (UOW), Wollongong 2022 and government agencies to develop an interactive planning tool to optimise cycling infrastructure.
- An application was submitted to Round eight of the NSW Government's Resources for Regions Program seeking \$750,000 towards the construction of Lindsay Maynes Park Criterium Track Precinct, Unanderra.

During 2021-2022, Council committed \$3.7M for new footpaths and \$4M worth of new cycleways, which is reflective of increased Commonwealth and NSW State Grant funding and increased funding from Council.

Council continued to deliver the Safer Routes to Schools Program, which develops a vision for safe school frontage and access both to and from Schools. The Programs includes a review of the existing transport network and facilities in the vicinity of the schools and identifies short, medium and long-term actions to realise this vision, including infrastructure investments. This program includes representation from the School's Parent and Citizens Association (P&C) and School Principals. Council has submitted nine Grant Applications totalling \$7.5M worth of funding to the NSW Government's Get Active Program seeking funding towards key footpath and cycle/shared path projects across the city to support this Program.

Other active transport investments being constructed throughout the year includes the Helensburgh Town Centre (Stage 2) and Fairy Creek Shared Path; Gilmore to Vickery Streets (West Wollongong and Gwynneville).



Business and Investment

We will continue to grow the Wollongong economy through attracting business, investment, major events and tourism to the region. We will continue to promote our local advantages, including our proximity to Sydney, supportive business environment, innovative ecosystem, vibrant CBD and superb liveability to attract businesses and encourage local jobs growth. We will work with key stakeholders, including state and federal governments, to further promote our city and attract greater investment in infrastructure and other key assets.

Project Sponsor: Director Community Services

Project Manager: Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development

Strategic Program Progress: ✓ On Track

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2021-2022, business and investor enquiries remained strong with Council facilitating 81 enquiries throughout the year and 31 during the June 2022 quarter. Council continues to facilitate several longer-term ongoing projects, via Council's Major Project process. These projects in total have a combined estimated jobs impact of several thousand roles/positions.

Council has continued to work with government and the business community to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic through the continuation of the 'Buy Local' awareness campaign We Shop the Gong. The campaign aims to drive spending at local businesses and support the local economy. Over the past 12 months, online spending and spending outside the Local Government Area by Wollongong residents totalled \$2.5B. A 10% change in Wollongong residents spending habits would see an extra \$250M enter our local economy, supporting 3,200 new local jobs. The campaign included a range of advertising materials, including a new webpage, dedicated social media campaign and a range of merchandise and marketing to support local businesses and encourage residents to Shop the Gong.

A 'Doing Business with Wollongong City Council' event was hosted in October 2021 to assist the local business community with understanding Council's procurement activities and processes. The event also raised awareness of the opportunities presented within Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program for local businesses. Over 80 local business representatives attended this session.

As part of the ongoing recovery program, COVID-Safe outdoor dining continued with 30 businesses being approved for outdoor dining options in the last six months. Council also continued its coordination of the post-COVID-19 Peak Bodies Taskforce, working together to address both the economic opportunities and challenges the region has faced in a post pandemic economy.

Council undertook a range of existing and new initiatives to support and attract business, and therefore grow jobs, in Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). Support for businesses within the LGA has included the *Thrive and Primed* to *Thrive* programs delivered by *Investible*. The programs attracted 171 Applications with 95 attendees in total, 60% of participants indicated they are looking to employ more staff over the next 12 months.

The *Investible* and *We Shop the Gong* initiatives, among others, were supported by new economic datasets acquired by Council including Spendmapp and Monitor CRMS, which allows Council to engage with targeted sectors and business types within the LGA via aggregated Australian Business Register data. Latest data shows positive signs of economic rebound from COVID-19 restrictions.

The *Invest Wollongong* partnership continued its business attraction activities. Its integrated Marketing Strategy was anchored by digital advertising, positioning Wollongong as an alternative CBD location in a post-COVID-19 environment. Highlights of the completed digital campaign include over 330 downloads of the Wollongong Office Market Prospectus and over 53,000 clicks to the Invest Wollongong website.

Clean energy investment continues to maintain momentum with the Squadron Energy proposal on Port Kembla Power Station receiving Critical State Significant Infrastructure status by the NSW Government. Australian Industrial Power (AIP), part of Squadron Energy, are continuing to advance their proposal to develop a 635-megawatt (MW) capacity

power station at Port Kembla, planned to be operational by 2024-2025 (subject to approval and final investment decision). The power plant will be dual-fuel capable from its first day of operation (50% green hydrogen/50% natural gas) and aims to be 100% green hydrogen fuelled by 2030.

A submission was provided to the inquiry into the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021, welcoming the introduction of legislation and acknowledging the importance of offshore wind for Wollongong. Australian Industrial Energy announced in November 2021 the signing of a long-term Agreement with energy infrastructure and transport provider Höegh Galleon to supply the first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) to operate at the Port Kembla Energy Terminal. Under the agreement, the Höegh Galleon will serve the terminal which has commenced construction of its berth facilities at Port Kembla and is expected to be operational by mid-2023, making it the first project of its kind in Australia.

On 30 March, Invest Wollongong coordinated an event which saw over 80 Government and business leaders attend NSW Parliament House to hear about the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW, the revised Invest Wollongong Office Market Prospectus, and Destination Wollongong's UCI Bike City business program.



Image: Dapto Community Farm

GOAL 1

We value and protect our environment

As a community we value our heritage and protect our natural environment. We have enhanced our wildlife corridors and the city's unique natural beauty through a green network that connects the escarpment to the sea. We manage our resources effectively and work together to decrease our impact on the environment. Our beautiful city is well maintained and cared for and the urban environment is well planned and managed so that population growth and urban expansion are achieved in a sensitive and sustainable way. We have the capacity to deal with the many pressures facing our unique environment, such as sea level rises and other climate change related issues. We balance the need for development with the desire of the community to protect and preserve our city's natural environment.

Services provided under this goal:

- Development Assessment
- Environmental Services
- Natural Area Management
- Land Use Planning
- Parks and Sports Fields
- Public Health and Safety
- Regulatory Control
- Stormwater Services
- Waste Management

Key highlights:

- Keep Australia Beautiful Award winners in Overall Sustainable Communities award (Category E) and Communication and Engagement Award (Category E) - Operation Nappy winner Sustainable Communities Awards.
- Administration Building Solar Car Park reducing emissions footprint of the building by approximately 25%.
- FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) program resulted in 38,707 tonnes of organic material being diverted from landfill.

An overview of how we worked towards achieving the community's goal of valuing and protecting our environment through the four-year Delivery Program and Operational Plan actions are detailed in the following pages. Additional highlights relating to this goal are also included under the Strategic Priorities – **Activating Our Suburbs** (page 26), **Urban Greening** (page 28) and **West Dapto Urban Release** (page 28).

Grant funding for floodplain and stormwater management

Throughout the year Council was successful with the application of two grants under the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program for the 2021-2022 funding round. The program funds two thirds of the cost for successful projects including:

- Review of Brooks Creek - Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (\$156K);
- Review of Kully Bay and Minnegang Creek - Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (\$172K)

We received a funding agreement under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program for the construction of the Bellambi Gully - Flood Mitigation Scheme Stage One - (\$2.15M of funding), the construction is scheduled to start in 2023.

Throughout the year Council also applied for funding under the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program for the 2022-2023 round. The projects include:

- Review of Lake Illawarra - Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (in partnership with Shellharbour City Council)
- Registration for continuation of the Voluntary Purchase Scheme. As a result of the recent storm events, Council is applying under the Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Program for relevant projects to aid in restoration of Council's stormwater assets

Urban stormwater and floodplain management programs

The Macquarie Rivulet Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan commenced in conjunction with and being led by Shellharbour City Council. A grant application was submitted for the Lake Illawarra Floodplain Risk Management Study with Shellharbour City Council.

Implementation of the Floodplain Risk Management Plans is continuing with ongoing progress on the following key projects:

- Debris control structures - four sites for construction in 2022-2023 and ongoing design for two sites
- Ursula Road Flood Mitigation Scheme Design
- McMahon St Detention Basin Design
- Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation Scheme Design
- Uralba Street Channel Remediation Concept Design

Throughout the year, review of Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plans commenced for the following catchments:

- Allans Creek
- Collins Creek
- Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creeks
- Mullet Creek
- Wollongong City
- Towradgi Creek
- Hewitts Creek

The audit of all of Council's stormwater inlet structures was completed and 104 technical requisitions (TRs) for engineering advice were submitted for each higher risk headwall.

The 104 TRs have had assessments in line with draft Government guidelines which determined:

- 61 sites represented an acceptable or low level of risk and therefore no works were recommended.
- 43 sites required further investigation with the majority of sites requiring minor works such as handrails, fencing and signage.
- Nine of the 43 sites require detailed assessment and investigations due to complexities such as ownership, potential flood impact and other safety considerations

During 2021-2022, key priorities from the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan delivered:

- Construction of nine stormwater projects
- Five projects were under construction
- Seven stormwater designs were completed, and 25 designs were underway
- Five projects were deferred

Protecting and conserving our waterways

2021–2022 represented year one of implementing actions under the certified Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program (CMP). Of the 27 actions identified to be implemented in year one:

- 26 actions commenced
- One has been delayed (now included in year two)
- Two actions were brought forward and commenced in year one

There has been great success in obtaining grant funding for implementation of actions in the CMP with over \$1.2M being awarded to Council since the CMP was certified.

The Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee which was established to facilitate the development of the CMP met for the last time throughout the year. At respective Council meetings in early 2022, Wollongong and Shellharbour Council's endorsed a new governance structure the *Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group (CMP IG)*.

Throughout the year, the Lake Illawarra Catchment Water Quality Program sampled 21 sites throughout the catchment five times and captured a further four wet weather events. This program will continue next year and a summary report of data collected is underway.

Reducing our Emissions

The implementation of Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy has continued with highlights including increased participation in the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program, implementation of Charitable Organisations and Pensioner's Waste Reduction Strategy and continued efforts to maximise diversion and minimise environmental impacts from Wollongong's Waste and Resource Recovery Park.

Whytes Gully landfill gas management system continued to be implemented during 2021-2022 with the installation of wells in the current and previous cells. Over 2.1 M cubic metres of landfill gas was captured with a gradual increase in the monthly volumes recorded. The resulting reduction of methane released to the atmosphere equates to 2,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide saved over the year.

Food Organics Gardens Organics (FOGO)

Throughout the 2021-2022 Summer, Council engaged with 2,362 people about Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) and public place recycling as part of the Summer Cleansing program. FOGO has also been a major focus with 730 people engaged at stalls and 182 at FOGO and waste related workshops. The FOGO

program has continued throughout 2021-2022 and resulted in 38,707 tonnes of organic material diverted from landfill. This represents an increase of 26% from 2020-2021 and a 71% increase from 2019-2020. Whilst there have been seasonal variations to the contamination rates, these remain low with an average of 0.68%, which is well below the state average of 4% and demonstrates the community has a good understanding of the program.

Options for FOGO trials in multi-unit dwellings were planned and investigated during 2021-2022. The trials were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and have been postponed to early 2023.

Climate Change Adaption Plan and Mitigation Plan

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan was adopted in March 2022. The Plan is now being integrated into the delivery of a range of Council functions including community facilities planning and infrastructure delivery. Most recently, the use of a Climate Change Risk Assessment was included in planning for Helensburgh Community Centre and Library.

Completion of this work fulfils Council's initial commitments under Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) program, with Council now fully compliant with its current membership requirements. Preliminary work on the next Climate Change Mitigation Plan commenced and will be informed by the recalculation and update of the community emissions profile conducted throughout the year.

Implementation highlights from the endorsed Climate Change Mitigation Plan included:

- Focus on emissions accounting and reporting, particular focus on waste emissions and cross organisational monitoring and reporting on projects
- Climate emergency update released June 2022
- Community engagement via a Climate Friendly Planning Framework Discussion Paper was undertaken with 380 people engaged with the Discussion Paper.

The status of all actions in the endorsed Mitigation Plan is summarised as follows:

- 36 actions are either completed or ongoing
- Six in implementation phase
- 21 in planning phase
- 25 not started

Sustainable Wollongong Strategy

Under the Sustainable Wollongong Strategy, Council continued to work on the review and update of the Wollongong Development Control Plan and sought

community feedback about sustainable development opportunities. In other sustainable initiatives, the Community Garden Applications were received and processed and the Beachwatch Water Sampling Program continued in partnership with Sydney Water.

Urban Greening

The Urban Greening Program continued throughout the year servicing street tree requests, coordinated with civil construction projects, playground installations and by installing transitional landscapes to reduce mowing. The Urban Greening Program continues to see targeted tree planting activities occurring in high need suburbs with our current program exceeding the tree planting versus removal ratio target of 2:1 with 927 street trees planted and 384 removed. During 2021-2022 more than 500 additional resident requests for trees on the verge fronting their property was completed in Dapto.

The Crown Street Mall Tree Replacement Project was completed with the installation of protective grates and removal of the tree guards. The Japanese Elm trees are growing extremely well to support community activation in this important civic space.

Council reached an agreement with Symbio Wildlife Park, Helensburgh to provide a space for a post bushfire recovery Koala Conservation plantation that will see 5,000 eucalypts planted to be used to harvest as a food source, enhancing Council's commitment to urban greening.

Work with the community continued promoting the Verge Garden Guidelines and support via the Connecting Neighbours Grants Program. Other successful programs include the Transitional Landscape Program with the successful greening of Tom Thumb Reserve, Windang and significant tree planting activities commenced at Cringila Hills Recreation Park to support a restored native landscape surrounding the mountain bike trails. Fourteen Town and Village precincts have been planted out with planter boxes as part of our approach to enhance our city's presentation.

In 2021 -2022 a review of three Tree Management Policies commenced to ensure our approach to public tree management, tree permits for private land, and our response to tree and vegetation vandalism are consistent and aimed at achieving and sustaining tree canopy targets for our community.

Tiny Forest

Urban Greening will see three 'Tiny Forests' planted in high need suburbs in partnership with local schools

which will be used to promote urban greening, the Greenplan Nursery and climate change adaptation actions. 2021-2022 saw the completion of one 'Tiny Forest' at Harrigan Park, Tarrawanna. A second round of Connecting Neighbours Grants was undertaken which will see more verge gardens constructed across the city.

Community environmental programs

Many of Council's environmental activities were affected by COVID-19 restrictions including World Environment Day. Face to face activities recommenced in March 2022. The Garage Sale Trail and 31 environmental workshops were held online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Clean Up Australia Day was cancelled by heavy rainfall.

Council had a successful year with the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards:

- Overall Sustainable communities award (Category E) which recognises our achievements across a range of environmental outcomes including FOGO, Urban Greening and Rise and Shine
- Communication and Engagement Award (Category E) - Operation Nappy winner Sustainable Communities Awards

Waste minimisation programs in accordance with the Waste Strategy

An Environmental Education Strategy was developed throughout the year with a workshop held to develop an implementation plan.

Community Recycling Stations (CRS) were installed at four libraries which collect problem wastes such as X-rays, mobile phones and accessories, household batteries and smoke detectors. Face to face Waste education programs recommenced following the easing COVID-19 restrictions. The Summer Cleansing Program engaged with 2,362 people about FOGO and public place recycling. FOGO has also been a major focus with 730 people engaged at stalls and 182 at FOGO and waste related workshops.

Implement and review annual water and energy saving actions

Council continues to integrate water and energy saving actions into projects as a matter of business as usual. One of the most significant projects undertaken was the installation of Council's Administration Building Solar Car Park which has reduced the buildings emissions footprint by approximately 25%.

Council continued to provide technical support to lease and licence holders regarding sustainability

improvements including the installation of proposed photovoltaic system and value/performance, structural suitability/permisibility, life expectancy, electrical and mounting methodology.

Council's engagement with industry leaders such as the Green Building Council of Australia and research institutions such as the University of Wollongong (UOW) allows for cross organisational knowledge sharing and capacity building. Council is also working with UOW to support the delivery of the Integrated Design Studio subject.

Local Studies Libraries Project working towards heritage education

Work continued throughout the year on the significant project that contributes towards the preservation and continued relevance of local history and community stories.

Throughout 2021-2022:

- 1,508 new images were added to the Illawarra Mercury image project and catalogued to enable easy access and research. For the Illawarra Mercury negative project (the aim is to rescue images from the 1960's affected by vinegar syndrome), 2,259 negatives were digitised (preserved) and prepared for cataloguing during the year
- Digitising content – 161 DVDs and audio tapes were digitised over 2021-2022. 15 maps were digitised and attached to catalogue records
- Illawarra Stories – a total of 71 new, online stories were added to the Illawarra Stories website. 49 stories were transcribed and added to Illawarra Stories website

In addition, 432 new records (monograph, manuscripts, images, and indexed articles) were added to the collection during 2021-2022.

Additional Projects undertaken were:

- Weird, Wonderful, Wollongong online photographic exhibition for Australian Heritage Week 2022
- Country Women's Association (CWA) 100 years – launch of the Laneway project; plus, addition of CWA oral histories added to Illawarra Stories
- Williams Family donation – many assorted items, including glass plate negatives dating back to 1890's
- Council worked with the UCI team sourcing historical materials suitable for the UCI event
- Illawarra Images web page was updated; watermarking project has progressed so that

soon all 37,000 images in the collection will be watermarked to include ownership and unique image number e.g. Wollongong City Libraries - P04238

- 40 online puzzles are now available and proving to be popular, opening Local Studies resources to a new audience
- Over 5,000 new items added to the Local Studies collection

Implement funded actions of the Helensburgh Town Centre Study

In 2021-2022 stage two of the Helensburgh Town Centre project (which includes the construction of the Lilyvale/Walker St roundabout) commenced. Works are currently programmed to be completed in 2022-2023. Stage three works, which focus on the upgrade of the Walker St Western Plaza, are programmed to commence in the second half of 2022-2023.

Beach usage, incidents and preventative actions

Throughout the year attendance at our beaches was impacted by inclement weather associated with the La Nina weather pattern. The impacts of the severe storms compromised water quality which resulted in a series of beach closures and lower beach patronage compared with previous seasons. There has also been significant coastal erosion across the city with beach scarping and cliff erosion occurring at a number of locations.

A new methodology for counting beach patronage was implemented this season which involves two hourly counts instead of three per day.

Overall beach patronage for the year was 1,257,130 people which was higher than the 2020-2021 seasons 1,118,018 in attendance.

Incidents and preventative actions during the year:

- Rescues totalled 408
- Number of preventative actions totalled 52,635

Whilst the COVID-19 related closure of schools and campus education institutions significantly impacted our Lifeguard's ability to deliver on-site surf education programs, a Water Safety Education Animation video was made available to local government area schools, TAFE and University of Wollongong students during the year.

Managing development impacts on the environment

Throughout 2021-2022, 685 Development Applications were referred to Council for review, including environmental impact assessment.

Council maintained continuous engagement with all levels of government and industry for improved

development outcomes. Engagement has proven beneficial for all affected stakeholders and the community. Over the last quarter this has included meetings with NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on strategies for improved integration with the Planning Portal and measures for improved Development Assessment strategies and continued review of System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) relationships for process improvements.

Future Directions

Over the next 12 months, we will work towards achieving the following:

- A Climate Change Heat Study has been proposed for implementation as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Continue to work on the next Climate Change Mitigation Plan
- Continue to implement the Environmental Education Strategy

DELIVERY PROGRAM 2018-2022 STATUS

The effectiveness of the Delivery Program is assessed through a number of performance indicators.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Participation in environmental programs	72,142	46,409*	17,621 *^^	21,526*
Plants propagated by Wollongong Botanic Garden Nursery	62,948 [†]	59,674	70,735	69,545
Plants distributed via Greenplan, external sales, landscape sales, Bushcare, FiReady, Dunecare and Botanic Garden collection	53,641	62,421	55,927	46,772
Tonnes of rubbish collected from clean up activities [^]	36	40	35*	60
Total domestic material to landfill (tonnes)	44,795	46,925	45,600	43,566 [`]

^{*}Impacted by COVID-19

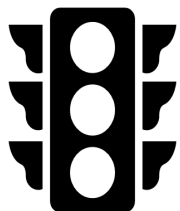
[†] Number of plants propagated increased due to the recommissioning of the new larger shade house and the benefit of additional resources allocated to nursery production. Distribution figures for the 2019-2020 are forecast to increase via Bushcare, Greenplan and landscape projects

[^] Measures the tonnage collected from Environment Strategy and Planning Community Service Program, Rise and Shine and Clean Up Australia Day.

^{^^} Number excludes 67,953 who attended Sunset Cinema and Sculpture in the Garden at the Wollongong Botanic Garden

[`]Referenced by NSW EPA as Mixed Waste – Domestic Kerbside Collection. Includes kerbside bin collection and bulky kerbside waste collection

Status of Delivery Program/Operational Plan Actions



On Track: 97.26%

Delayed: 1.37%

Deferred: 1.37%

4 Year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2021-2022
Implement programs and events which facilitate community participation to improve natural areas	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Projects and programs that achieve enhancement of the natural environment and escarpment are developed and implemented	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Protect and conserve the health and biodiversity of our waterways and coast	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
The impacts of the increasing number of visitors to the coast and Lake Illawarra is managed effectively	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Manage vegetation to reduce bush fire risk in asset protection zones on natural areas under Council care and control	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Establish effective urban stormwater and floodplain management programs	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Establish and maintain research programs to reduce environmental risks	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Develop and implement a range of programs that encourage community participation in reducing Wollongong's ecological footprint	Eight annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One delayed.

4 Year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2021-2022
	<p><i>Delayed due to COVID-19: Develop options for a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) trial for multi-unit dwellings</i></p> <p>Options for FOGO trials in multi-unit dwellings have been planned and investigated during 2021-2022. Delays have been experienced finding suitable trial sites which has been further complicated by COVID-19 constraints. Trials for FOGO options in multi dwellings are expected to commence in early 2023.</p>
Promote and enforce compliance with litter reduction	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Methods to reduce emissions are investigated and utilised	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Our community is proactively engaged in a range of initiatives that improve the sustainability of our environments	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Impacts from development on the environment are assessed, monitored and mitigated	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Develop planning controls, town centre and neighbourhood plans with regard to the economic, social and environmental impacts	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Carry out best practise assessment for urban development proposals and applications	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Mitigate the impact of development on the natural environment and visual amenity of our open spaces and urban areas	<p>One annual deliverable on track/ongoing. One deferred.</p> <p><i>Deferred: Prepare a new Local Strategic Planning Statement for the Local Government Area</i></p> <p>Under the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, the review of the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is required to be completed no later than 2027. However, LSPS's are able to be updated more regularly and Council had intended to review the Wollongong LSPS concurrently with and informed by the Community Strategic Plan. During the year, the State progressed a number of strategic reforms that have relevance for the review of our LSPS including in relation to Employment Zones, Design and Place and Planning Proposal processes. A range of new Regulations, State Environmental Planning Policies, Ministerial Directions and guidelines were also introduced during the year. In December 2021, the State announced the formation of the Greater Cities Commission to incorporate Illawarra Shoalhaven, Central Coast and Lower Hunter/Newcastle into the Commission. The new Greater Cities Commission came into effect in April 2022 and the Commission has commenced work on the new strategic settings for the expanded Greater Cities area with a discussion paper expended to be released early in 2022-2023.</p>

4 Year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2021-2022
	<p>This discussion paper will provide important context for the review of Wollongong LSPS. It was considered appropriate to defer the commencement of the review of the Wollongong LSPS to later in 2022-2023 to provide the opportunity to understand implications from the new planning context for our local planning framework.</p> <p>While the formal review of the Wollongong LSPS was not commenced last year, work progressed on important informing strategies such as the draft Housing Strategy, Retail and Business Centres Study, South Western Sydney Growth Impact Project and Industrial Lands Review.</p>
Work in partnership with others to promote a diverse range of heritage education and promotion programs	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Work with the local Aboriginal community in the management of Indigenous heritage	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Set an emissions reduction target and carry out actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Global Covenant of Mayors	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.





GOAL 2

We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Image: Keira Street, Wollongong

We are global leaders in innovative and sustainable research, development and new industries. We plan for the impacts of disruptive industries and work together to build a Smart City. Wollongong is established as the regional capital of the south, creating hubs of activity with a thriving and resilient local economy. The city is able to support the establishment of new industries, enterprises and businesses which attract and retain people to live, work and play. Wollongong is a student-friendly city and our residents are educated and employed. We have access to employment and education through a diverse industry base and world-class institutions.

Services provided under this goal:

- City Centre Management
- Communications, Engagement, Events and Signage
- Community Programs
- Cultural Services
- Economic Development
- Financial Services
- Infrastructure Planning and Support
- Wollongong City Libraries
- People and Culture
- Transport Services
- Waste Management

Key Highlights:

- Securing key tourism infrastructure funding \$750,000 from the NSW Government's Resources for Regions Program towards the Lindsay Maynes Multipurpose Criterium Track, \$250,000 from the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces program towards the Crown Street Outdoor Dining Trails project
- Post COVID-19 buy local campaign, increasing locals business growth
- Increases in engagement of social content connectivity

An overview of how we worked towards achieving the community's goal of establishing an innovative and sustainable economy through the four-year delivery program actions and operational plan actions are detailed in the following pages. Additional highlights relating to this goal are also included under the Strategic Priorities – Activating Our Suburbs (page 26), West Dapto Urban Release (page 29) and Business and Investment (page 31).

Focus on the Wollongong City Centre

Throughout 2021-2022 the amenity and safety of the Wollongong City Centre continued to be a focus. A solar-powered mobile device charging station was installed within the Crown Street Mall at the Church Street and Crown Streets intersection. This station will be operational in early 2022-2023.

Throughout the year, there has been an increase in both outdoor dining and general activations within Globe Lane that resulted in a review of vehicle movements. The outcome was vehicles are no longer able to access Globe Lane beyond the Globe Lane underpass.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, community health and well-being were a priority as part of the everyday operations of the Crown Street Mall. Risk Management plans were developed and implemented to ensure compliance with NSW Public Health Orders and minimise risk within the public domain. Businesses were provided assistance through the provision of Public Health Order signage for their premises. As COVID-19 restrictions eased, the amenity of the public domain focused on attracting visitors back into the Wollongong CBD.

Implement the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029

Council continued to work in alignment with the goals of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029. The Strategy sets a jobs target of 10,500 new jobs by 2028. Over the past year, the local government area has grown 1,115 jobs. However, we are 578 jobs below our baseline set in 2017-2018 indicating our local job market is continuing to recover but has not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. On that basis, accelerating job growth has been central to the activities to promote economic development across the city.

The total number of facilitated enquiries for 2021-2022 were 81 ranging from business support and information to facilitating larger projects through Invest Wollongong.

Other key economic development highlights throughout the year included:

- Facilitation of many longer-term ongoing projects via Council's Major Project process. These projects in total have a combined estimated jobs impact of several thousand
- A focus and growth in knowledge hub capabilities investing in innovative economic

software including new tools such as Spendmapp, which is used to analyse spending patterns in the LGA. The launch of Monitor customer relationship management system (CRMS) which enables Council to engage with over 8,000 business and provides information on 15,000 business in the Wollongong local government area

- "Buy Local" Campaign to support the local business community included "We Shop the Gong" launched in December 2021
- A 'Doing Business with Wollongong City Council' event was held in late October 2021 which raised understanding about the opportunities around Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program and 'how to do business' with Council. Over 80 local business representatives attended this session

To help ignite new job growth, Council began mapping the innovation ecosystem to understand the performance and process of commercialisation within the local government area. Mapping the ecosystem is a significant step in more robustly supporting the start-up community and tech sector within Wollongong.

Supporting Activities and Partnerships for growth

Throughout the year city centre marketing and activation activities focused on inviting visitors and our community to rediscover the CBD. Some of the key campaigns included Laneways Live, Wollongong Live, Christmas displays, exhibition projects, and the Showtime Carnival event.

Other key highlights included:

- Live Music - 60 x Live@Lunch concerts were held in Crown St Mall in partnership with Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and the Illawarra Folk Club, employing more than 50 local artists and contributing to a more vibrant and welcoming CBD. In addition, more than 20 local artists and music industry professionals were engaged for the Lovers Lane event and Laneway for Days DJ program across the year
- Council was successful in assisting with the activation of sites such as The Illawarra Hotel, and Globe and Crown Lanes in the CBD. The Crown Lane Road closure was piloted and has been extended until end September 2022 when further assessment will take place

- Precinct-based business communication groups were established for both laneways, facilitating improved communication and support for new ideas generation for the CBD. Creative Central Business District (CBD) dressing, and branding were used to create vibrancy in the CBD and create connectivity between the precincts. Following Laneways Live, the Wollongong Live Winter Campaign continued through until the end of June. This campaign showcased the increase in outdoor dining through Crown Lane and featured key businesses, new street art murals and the Crown Street Mall Markets

Work continued across all levels of Government and the business community in response to COVID-19. These included:

- Council rolled out its Business Support Program for local business, in partnership with Investible
- 'Primed to Thrive' and 'Thrive' programs focused on empowering small business owners
- Promotion of outdoor dining
- Launch of the post COVID-19 Peak Bodies Taskforce
- Launch of a new digital marketing campaign to grow awareness of and engagement in Wollongong local government area as a business location

Laneways Live

Laneways Live was held between 26–29 May 2022, the festival focussed on three key interlinked areas – Globe Lane, Crown Lane, and Upper Crown Street Mall Wollongong. The precinct-based approach, saw unique programming tailored to each area such as live performance (music, circus, roaming, dance), live art (murals, visual projections), lighting, and business engagement, with unique briefs for each of the precincts.

Investing in Wollongong

A range of activities were held throughout the year focusing on attracting investment.

On 17-18 May 2022, Invest Wollongong attended the Auscontact Association's National Conference in Brisbane, hosting an exhibition booth over the two days and giving a presentation to the 140 delegates. This opportunity generated a number of positive enquiries about Wollongong as a location for new contact centres. Supporting the start-up and scaleup sector focused on content sharing on our social media platforms.

A new start up video was finalised in April, along with three blogs featuring local companies Mogwai Labs,

ExSitu and RoboFit, and their respective journeys, whilst also highlighting the ongoing contribution of I-Accelerate.

Other activities included an Invest Wollongong display advertisement in the winter edition of Coal Coast magazine. On social platforms, there were 10 posts on Invest Wollongong's LinkedIn and four on Facebook. LinkedIn saw an 89.4% increase in followers, compared to last quarter.

On 30 March, Invest Wollongong coordinated an event at NSW Parliament House to promote the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW, the revised Invest Wollongong Office Market Prospectus, and Destination Wollongong's UCI Bike City business program. Over 80 government and business leaders attended, which featured presentations by City of Wollongong Lord Mayor, Gordon Bradbery AM, Chair of Wollongong 2022 Dean Dalla Valle, and the Hon. Rob Stokes, Minister for Cities.

Wollongong as a Smart City

Work continued on a number of initiatives throughout the year to ensure Wollongong continues to develop as a SMART city.

Work included the creation of a Smart Cities Project Roadmap to guide on the vision of 'utilising secure digital technologies to support, connect and enhance our communities' living standards and economies.'

Projects on the Roadmap include such things as smart bin sensors, whole of Council emissions monitoring, prescribed dam monitoring, urban heat islanding, road, footpath and signage condition monitoring, Blue Mile pedestrian/cyclist interactions and waterways monitoring spanning a timeframe over the next two years.

Other progress throughout the year included:

- Continued migration of the flood aware phase one work completed by University of Wollongong (UoW) onto our infrastructure
- Progressing the transition of the Smart Waterway modelling
- Continued delivery of the UoW SMART Project in partnership with Remondis on waste collection.

Tourism Infrastructure

In 2021-2022, Council was successful in securing funding for the following key tourism infrastructure projects:

- \$750,000 from the NSW Government's Resources for Regions Program towards the Lindsay Maynes Multipurpose Criterion Track, Unanderra
- \$250,000 from the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces program towards the Crown

St Outdoor Dining Trials Project. This Project will create additional opportunities for outdoor dining and street activation through lower Crown St and will be delivered in early September 2022 to support the significant visitation to Wollongong during the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW

Throughout the year, Council led a major piece of work to outline the opportunity for the Wollongong Entertainment Centre (WEC) precinct resulting in the 2022-2023 NSW Government budget of \$3.5M being allocated for the Masterplan of Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Precinct.

Programs to incorporate learning and development

A range of activities were held throughout the year to support literacy, learning and development.

Paint the Town REaD is a community early literacy program that encourages reading, talking and singing to children from birth. Council participates in the Paint the Town REaD Coordinators network and convenes the local Paint the Town REaD network.

The Annual Reading Day planned for August 2021 was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and replaced with a virtual reading day.

The birthday celebration for the program mascot Bright Spark, was held at Dapto Mall with 90 families and over 140 children attending. Bright Spark also attended Shellharbour Kidsfest to celebrate Paint Shellharbour REaD's mascots birthday.

The 250 Stories pilot project, which encourages families to engage in the development of early literacy and language skills through reading, singing, dancing, rhyming, yarning was delivered throughout the year.

During the year, the Libraries continued to expand and introduce new technology including:

- Creation of a suite of Widgets - shortcuts in Spydus to speed interaction with customer information for Library use
- Implementation of Click and Collect technology for Libraries' app
- Investigation of utilised Short Message Service (SMS) services for Library notices

Wollongong as a Learning Community

During the 2021-2022 year, all objectives set out in Phase one - Internal engagement, governance and commitment - were met through the Learning City Project Working Group and Project Control Group with 30 representatives from across Council:

- Mapped Council's broad range of community education offerings
- Developed a community education evaluation framework measures the impact of our work in a coordinated manner; the framework and related evaluation tools will be piloted by four business units in July -September 2022
- Extended learning opportunities for the community through local and global learning festivals
- Actively participated in local, national and international learning city and library networks
- Developed a community engagement plan that fosters a collective impact approach to the development of a learning city strategy/plan for Wollongong in phase two of the Learning City Project
- Developed an internal action plan to support the implementation of phase one outcomes and establish a more coordinated, collaborative approach to community education across business units
- Embedded learning city objectives into the future 2032 Community Strategic Plan and 2022-2026 Delivery Program

Future Directions

Over the next 12 months, we will work towards achieving the following:

- Continue to implement the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029
- Implement strategies from the SMART Regions Strategy
- Continue to promote Wollongong as a Destination

DELIVERY PROGRAM 2018-2022 STATUS

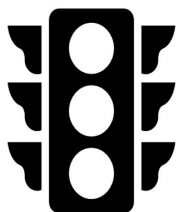
The effectiveness of the Delivery Program is assessed through a number of performance indicators.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Business investment enquiries	68 [#]	72	67*	81
Paid on street parking occupancy rate*	76%	72%	77%	69%*
Visitation to tourist information centre	53,399	42,370*	32,537*	23,045*
Tourist park occupancy of cabins	59%	53%*	62%*	68%*
Tourist park occupancy of powered sites	50%	41%*	42%*	39%*
Tourist park occupancy of unpowered sites	36%	21%*	29%*	18%*

* Impacted by COVID-19

[#] This change reflects a change in methodology, as it now only counts unique individual enquiries. Internal enquiries are no longer counted in these statistics.

Status of Delivery Program/Operational Plan Actions



On Track: 93.02%

Delayed: 0.00%

Deferred: 6.98%

4 Year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2020-2021
Build on partnerships which enable the retention of local talent	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Ensure that Wollongong is attractive for business expansion, establishment and relocation	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Progress implementation of the City for People and its accompanying implementation plan	Two annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One deferred. <i>Deferred: Undertake the City Centre Planning Review and Design Review arising from the Wollongong City Centre – Public Spaces Public Life Implementation Plan</i> In December 2020, Council deferred the draft City Centre Planning Strategy to enable a range of supporting studies to be completed. Those studies are still being undertaken. In particular, the LGA Retail and Business Centres Study is nearing completion and the integrated transport study is progressing.
Support regional activities and partnerships that promote business investment and jobs growth	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Develop and maintain partnerships with the business sector to fund and contribute to a broader range of community projects and activities	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
In collaboration with key agencies, facilitate the West	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.

Dapto Taskforce to deliver the first stages of the West Dapto Urban Release Area	
The development of renewable energy products and services is supported	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Partnership opportunities in research and development are expanded	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
In conjunction with partner organisations support the development of innovative industries	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Undertake major refurbishment works in the city centre	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Pursue initiatives that promote the region as a place to holiday to domestic and international markets	<p>Three annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One deferred.</p> <p>Deferred due to COVID-19: Provide funds to support Wollongong's ability to attract and retain a tourist ship visitor economy through on shore day visits</p> <p>Destination Wollongong have not requested support at this time. The cruise industry was severely impacted by COVID-19. No action was taken this year.</p>
Support projects that investigate opportunities for the provision of tourism infrastructure	<p>Three annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One deferred.</p> <p>Deferred due to COVID-19: Support relevant agencies, business and industry to advocate for the establishment of a cruise ship terminal in the port of Port Kembla</p> <p>The advent of COVID-19 has meant drastic repositioning within the cruise industry, with no clear date that the industry will be able to recommence operations. We will continue to monitor progress nationally and position Wollongong as opportunities arise.</p>
Market and promote events in the city centre	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Improve policies and systems to support the revitalisation of the city centre	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Continue to grow Wollongong's attractiveness to attract signature events and festivals	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Ensure Wollongong is attractive to research and development companies and organisations	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Implement a range of programs that incorporate learning and development	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Implement programs to ensure Wollongong becomes a Smart City	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.



GOAL 3

Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

Image: Wonderwall Mural - Globe Lane, Wollongong
Artist: Smug One

Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city where our rich cultural heritage is celebrated. We embrace new ideas and have thriving creative industries that reflect the diversity of our community with internationally and nationally recognised events and festivals. Our public spaces are activated, exciting and attractive at all times of the day. All of our communities work together in partnership to strengthen our connection and celebrate the diversity of our city.

Services provided under this goal:

- Communications, Engagement, Events and Signage
- Community Programs
- Wollongong City Libraries
- Parks and Sports Fields
- Youth Services

Key highlights:

- Port Kembla Festival – Viva Engine Room
- Unspurge, visual art event/exhibition
- Public Art Strategy (2022-2032)
- The return of the Comic Gong Festival
- National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC Week), Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day

An overview of how we worked towards achieving the community's goal of Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city through the four-year Delivery Program actions and Operational Plan actions are detailed in the following pages. Additional highlights relating to this goal are also included under the Strategic Priorities – Activating Our Suburbs (page 26) and Business and Investment (page 31).

Creative Wollongong

Throughout 2021-2022 cultural development projects relating to Creative Wollongong were delivered despite some projects affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

Cultural programs delivered from the Creative Wollongong Strategy have included a range of events and program activity such as Standing on the Ceiling in partnership with the Port Kembla Festival, an artist business mentoring program and professional development bursary.

Improved marketing and effort to reach new audiences is building evidenced through an increase in Applications and Expressions of Interest (EOI's) from first time individuals and organisations.

In 2021-2022, the following projects were progressed:

- Port Kembla Festival - Viva Engine Room delivered three major projects in 2021-2022.
- Unspurge - Two new projects supported through Council's COVID-19 Relief Package Quick Response Grants- Artist Mentorship/professional development bursary and Artist in Residence programs, have been implemented
- ARTWARD: Art in Unexpected Places. Two residencies have been awarded in each Ward. One as a direct artist creative site-specific response and one community arts engagement project
- Weave online network continued to build in partnership with Shellharbour, Kiama and Wingecarribee Council's including development of a survey
- Involved in the preliminary needs assessment for cultural opportunities in West Dapto
- Internal partnership work to upgrade facilities for dance and circus at two community halls

Support to existing and emerging artists

Throughout the year, Council continued to provide support to existing and emerging artists through the Wollongong Art Gallery's (WAG) Strategic Plan as well as through the Cultural Arts Program.

While COVID-19 restrictions continued to impact some areas of WAG operations, 2021-2022 delivered several key actions including:

- Wi-Fi upgraded throughout the WAG building providing better customer and staff access to online systems
- Delivery of multidisciplinary art project 'Deep Sounding' - an immersive Audio-Visual collage exploring our connection and environmental impact on the world's oceans
- Delivery of 'There's A Crack in Everything' - An exhibition where artists collaborate with people with lived experience of mental ill-health to provide more community awareness and help remove stigma in the community
- Coomaditchie 30th Anniversary Project commenced with visiting senior Aboriginal Curator Tess Allas and will be developed and presented in March-May 2023
- Here+Now III Reassess Progress was presented and supported one emerging local curator and five emerging local artists (all under 30 years)
- Built-in dehumidifiers were installed in three WAG art storage rooms to control humidity levels and minimise mould outbreaks within the art collection
- Specialised art storage racking, and shelving were installed in three art storerooms to maximise storage capacity and alleviate storage congestion

WAG increased collection holdings through both purchase and gift of artworks.

Purchased artworks include:

3 x Photographs by Stephen Dupont, 6 x Paintings by local artist Gavin Coote & Melissa Ritchie, 1 x Digital artwork by Gary Carsley & Renjie Teoh.

Gifted artworks include:

4 x Contemporary Aboriginal paintings by Amanda Bamber, 2 x Paintings by Michelle Hanlin gifted by Amanda Rowell, 4 x Contemporary ceramic objects gifted by artists Kirsten Coelho & Juz Kitson.

Cultural Grants Program

The Cultural Grants Program is an important part of Council's Financial Assistance Program for the creative and cultural community. This year, Council held two rounds of Cultural Grants. This included the annual Small Cultural Grants which opened in January and awarded in June 2022, for commencement in July 2022. A second round as part of Council's COVID-19 Relief Package Quick Response Grants was announced in November 2021 and provided up to \$3,000 of funding for applications for a creative project or for marketing support.

- Number of Small Cultural Grants 2021-2022 supported 12: \$40k
- Number of Quick Response Grants 2021-2022 supported: 25 total: \$81k
- Number of Small Cultural Grants supported for 2022-2023: 16 total: \$53k

Public Art Strategy

Throughout the year, the renewed Public Art Strategy (2022 - 2032) was drafted, providing an opportunity to strengthen Council's commitment to its current public art collection. The Strategy provides a framework to support Council's commitment to public art, articulating why and how Council engages with public art in our city.

Despite the program having to stall for COVID-19 restrictions, 2021-2022 saw a number of new public art works installed including:

- Eye on the Horizon at Hill 60, as part of the Ngaraba-aan Trail
- The Bellambi entry statement
- Painted shared cycleway in MacCabe Park;
- A photographic exhibition celebrating the Country Womens Association centenary
- Art panels being renewed at Port Kembla Pool

The public art maintenance program was stalled in the first five months of the year due to COVID-19 restrictions however; Council was able to deliver a broad range of public art maintenance and renewal projects including:

- Repair mosaics in Burelli Street, Belmore Basin and pavement art at Thirroul Library have been completed
- An assessment has been made on Green Box Park, Bellambi with regards to repair of totem poles and graffiti removal

- Cleaning and checking of artworks in Unanderra required a replacement art panel for the sports facility.

Graffiti removal and new murals as part of our Anti-Graffiti Program have been completed at sites in Wollongong, Fairy Meadow and Tarrawanna.

There were a number of programs and operations in the public art portfolio. These include a new heritage photographic exhibition celebrating the Country Womens Association centenary in the Bonacina Walkway, new panels installed at Port Kembla Pool, Col Henry's work 'Reflect', is ready for installation at Moranga Park and a new pilot project of a painted shared cycleway in MacCabe Park was completed.

The major renovation project scheduled for 2022-2023 is maintenance at Andrew Lysaght Park on the Windwalls artwork. De-scaling and cleaning of the artwork is scheduled for August 2022 as stage one of the programs. The renewed Public Art Strategy 2022-2032 is in draft and is being prepared for public exhibition.

Our Young People

Throughout the year a variety of capacity building opportunities and programs have been provided in art, performance, broadcasting and production for young people.

'On Air Play Out' continued to deliver a one-hour, weekly community radio program, by young people for young people. New presenters were trained and joined the program. 'Create' a weekly art program was facilitated, exploring a range of mediums and creative activities. 'Painting and Planting' a weekly art program with a focus on wellbeing and experimental painting was delivered.

'Youth in Fashion' a collaboration with local fashion designer Gina Barjeel, provided the opportunity for young people to create and design their own clothes. 'Acting Up' a weekly theatre and performance program provided young people the opportunity to gain skills and confidence in the performing arts in a fun environment. The group worked together to explore drama techniques and create a showcase performance. Through drama and performance young people are supported to build friendships, social wellbeing and confidence. Script writing, production and character development workshops facilitated by performance artists were delivered during the school holidays.

'Team Ignite' provided a platform for young people to inform live music, production activities and events at Wollongong Youth Centre. COVID-19 restrictions impacted the ability to deliver programs and live music events throughout the year.

Sound and Lighting 101 workshops were delivered to support young people to build technical skills in production. The workshops were facilitated by an industry professional, and participants have gone on to operate audio visual equipment at Wollongong Youth Centre events and activities. 'I love a bike city because...' exhibition was installed on the façade of Wollongong Youth Centre featuring an array of images taken by local young people to celebrate all things bike riding.

Artist in Residence, a 12-month opportunity for a young artist was launched, providing access to an arts studio, art supplies and equipment, mentoring opportunities and experience in delivering workshops.

'On Stage', a weekly performance space for young people was relaunched after a long hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Merrigong – Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) and Town Hall

Despite the 2021–2022 COVID-19 lockdown period that lasted several months, the results of which saw more than 20,000 tickets refunded, many positive initiatives were undertaken.

One such being the opportunity for Merrigong to support the local community in a unique partnership with local social enterprise, Green Connect, using our kitchen and chef to provide hundreds of meals to those in our community who were struggling to make ends meet. Merrigong was also able to continue its theatre development and independent artist programs through the lockdown period, ensuring that a range of theatre-makers were supported to keep working on creating exciting new theatre for future presentation to audiences.

The Performing Arts Industry as a whole was badly impacted by lockdowns, border closures and rising infections. Both State and Federal Government provided funding schemes to support the struggling sector and Merrigong was able to access this support and maintain staffing levels, reopening with confidence in its ability to face uncertainty in the wider economic and creative environment. Merrigong delivered numerous successful live events at IPAC and Wollongong Town Hall for a

cross-section of community and professional venue hirers. While there was a little hesitancy in audiences returning to the theatre, most shows were well-attended and received with enthusiasm.

September 2022 saw Merrigong overcoming further challenges presented by stormy weather, including the cancellation of a number of performances of The Sirens' Return at Port Kembla Pool and a stormy season for the long-awaited return of Spiegel tent Wollongong to The Arts Precinct. The community response to both events was overwhelmingly positive, and Merrigong's Season 2022 continued to delight audiences throughout this period.

Merrigong's development of a self-determined First Nations Performing Arts Program progressed with the recruitment of a First Nations Communications and Engagement Coordinator, and the establishment of a First Nations Advisory Group. Engagement with local First Nations communities has been successful.

Comic Gong Festival

A significant highlight during the 2021–2022 year was the return of Comic Gong. Held on 14 May, with a new, additional location for the exhibitors, in the lower part of Crown Street Mall. Local businesses welcomed the increased flow of foot traffic along the Mall, and new community members were introduced to the Festival by popping along to see what was happening. The familiar cosplay competitions, face painters, arcade alley and local Lego robotics group and Project Bucephalus were welcomed by Comic Gong regulars and a new legion of fans were entertained by the Spiderman Stunt show in the Arts Precinct.

Battle Cry LARP (Live Action Role Playing) gave people of all ages hands on play archery and mediaeval combat experiences and the Steampunk Vagabonds kept the vibe going at the after party with their pirate dancing. Large crowds were dispersed with the addition of the Mall location to the Town Hall, Wollongong Library Art Gallery and the Arts Precinct, while those seeking respite headed to the Quiet Space at the Town Hall. Over 12,000 people attended this year's Comic Gong.

Community Events

During the 2021–2022 period, while Council events were impacted by COVID-19 related restrictions, as well as the significant weather events from December to April, there were a number of community events delivered in various modes.

City of Wollongong Giving Tree was launched on 10 November with Council working closely with the committee in establishing new collection points which was focused on shopping centres including Dapto Mall, Lederer Corrimal, Warrawong Plaza, Wollongong Central, Crown Street Mall, and South Coast Floor Coverings.

Fireworks were coordinated for Australia Day and New Year's Eve, with the community heading to the many coastal vantage points to get a view of the display. Feedback received on the fireworks for both events was positive with community happy to see the fireworks return.

Wollongong hosted four major events from January to March 2022 targeting our priority sectors of Sport, Arts and Culture. In January we hosted the 22nd Australia Day Aquathon at Wollongong Harbour and in February the N.S.W. Beach Volleyball Tour was held at Woonona Beach. In March we also hosted the first Australia Robotics Competition at WIN Entertainment Centre, and the Spiegeltent returned to the IPAC.

2022 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW

Following on from the 2020-2021 recognition of Wollongong as a global city with the announcement of the awarding of the UCI Bike City Label, Council has worked with Wollongong 2022 to provide advice around the proposed 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW courses, to develop an infrastructure program which will ensure the course is ready for the event and provide legacy improvements for our community.

Details of the Host City Agreement were negotiated and finalised across the period of the year, as well as steps being taken in order to support the enactment of the Major Events Act to support the event.

This included provision of detail around barrier plans and proposed crossing points which has enabled detailed planning around city maintenance and cleansing, waste removal and other detailed operations to be escalated.

Council has supported Wollongong 2022 in the development of a Community Readiness Plan and roll out. This has involved a program of media and social media stories, an area wide letterbox drops and targeted meetings and conversations with key stakeholder groups.

Supporting and coordinating community events and celebrations

Throughout the year, a range of activities were held to support community events and celebrations.

A range of activities were held during National Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) 2022 including:

- Council's Reconciliation Action Plan launched on 3 June at an event featuring a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and traditional ceremonies
- A Reconciliation Festival held at Wollongong Youth Centre including basket weaving, poetry, Aboriginal performers and art
- An Aboriginal Elders morning tea with the Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM
- Aboriginal community workers "Thank you" luncheon. The event was a new initiative focused on acknowledging the contributions and work of Aboriginal people and what they bring to our city and community
- Information and resources about Reconciliation were available to access through Council's communication platforms, including social media and our webpage

Council's 2022 NAIDOC Week Grants were provided to community organisations to assist strengthening community wellbeing through participation in an event/activity that celebrates the achievements and culture of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders community.

A range of initiatives were also undertaken in 2021-2022 with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities including:

- The Joyful Project
- "The Journeys Through School and Beyond", a Question and Answers panel, as part of the online Illawarra Multicultural Youth Conference
- Facilitation of the CALD Cycling Group and delivered the "Come and Try - Biking and Triking"
- A "People and Technology" workshop was held on 7 June with seven organisations sharing ideas on how they can work with communities to lessen the digital divide
- Reconciliation Action Plan support was provided to the Illawarra Interfaith Women's Network to seek grant funding through the

Multicultural NSW Event and Festival Grant Program

- Targeted programs to support CALD young people were delivered by Youth Services including 'Girls Café'
- Council worked in partnership with TAFE NSW to deliver components of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program including resume writing and improving English skills for young people

Harmony Week (21-27 March 2022) was celebrated with an animated video campaign on social media. A series of short, engaging videos demonstrating how to count from one to 10 in different community languages including Dutch, Sinhalese, German, Japanese, Farsi, Auslan, English, French, Italian and Turkish were created. These videos were posted on Facebook throughout Harmony Week. Council staff were also encouraged to wear orange, the colour that represents Harmony Week.

Library programs recognising our cultural diversity

2021-2022 saw the delivery of library programs to recognise and reflect the cultural diversity of our community.

Throughout the year, the Library fulfilled 25 requests for items in 15 different community languages through the State Library of NSW Multicultural Bulk Loans Service.

Refugee Week (19-25 June 2022) was celebrated in multiple ways:

- A series of videos featuring interviews with former refugees were posted on social media and Council's website. This was a collaborative project with Council and SCARF Refugee Support who assisted with the recruitment of speakers
- An interactive Refugee Week web page on the Library's website featuring information, library resources and educational games. Links to this page were shared with CALD organisations and multicultural communities
- A speaker event featuring a facilitated discussion with three former refugees was held in Wollongong Library. This event was very popular with 42 people in attendance

who were actively and empathically engaged in the discussion. The event included a delicious afternoon tea sourced from caterers with a refugee background

Wollongong Library also featured a thought-provoking display posing the question 'If you had to leave your home in 15 minutes what would you take with you in your backpack?' The display featured actual lists of what some refugees took with them as they fled their homes.

The Tech Savvy Elders pilot program commenced with the first group training session at Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation (UAC).

Other initiatives included:

- Development and delivery of a calendar of events for Pride Month, June 2022
- SCARF'S Homework Help sessions
- Multicultural March celebrations with a speaker event 'Insights into the Refugee Experience'
- Participation in the Inaugural Aboriginal Art Trail

Future Directions:

Over the next 12 months we will work towards achieving the following:

- Host the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW
- Major renovation at Andrew Lysaght Park on the Windwalls artwork
- Develop the Public Art Strategy 2022 - 2032
- Hosting of the 2022 Regional National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Award Dinner

DELIVERY PROGRAM 2018-2022 STATUS

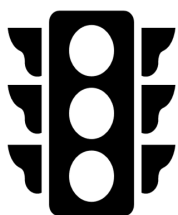
The effectiveness of the Delivery Program is assessed through a number of performance indicators.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Wollongong Art Gallery visitation	119,208	69,728*	49,045*	44,197 ^{^*}
IPAC and Town Hall visitation	144,500	95,293*	62,343*	68,446
Library visitation	1,048,701	903,176 ^{^*}	989,537 ^{^*}	947,207 ^{^*}
Library loans	1,298,671	1,080,597*	1,235,761 ^{^*}	744,327*
Library programs - number	2,360	1,689*	714 ^{^*}	758
Library programs - participation	68,996	105,947 ^{^*}	34,401 ^{^*}	16,529 ^{^*}

[^] Change in mode of delivery to include online participants.

* Impacted by COVID-19

Status of Delivery Program/Operational Plan Actions



On Track: 89.66%

Delayed: 3.45%

Deferred: 6.90%

4 Year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2020-2021
Promote Made in Wollongong to become a well-known brand	<p>One annual deliverable deferred.</p> <p>Deferred due to COVID-19: Implement the 'Made in Wollongong' concept</p> <p>The Made in Wollongong brand has not progressed or been marketed across the past two years due to COVID-19 impacts. Alternative options have been pursued. Most recently the LGA wide 'We shop the Gong' campaign has provided marketing and communications promotion across all areas of business and retail including for local creatives.</p> <p>Cultural Development continues to support artists and their businesses in a variety of ways. The Creative Dialogues program created two new podcasts, one helping young musicians navigate the music industry, and one on grant writing and applications in partnership with Create NSW.</p> <p>Additional funding from Council for COVID-19 support was utilised to develop arts mentoring, professional development bursary and artist in residence programs. These have provided exciting and empowering programs for the creative community and have included a business mentoring program in partnership with 'Arts + Business' and a professional development bursary scheme for artists to pursue a professional development opportunity - Artsellerate', as well as artist in residence programs at various facilities across the LGA delivered throughout the June 2022</p>

	quarter.
The visibility of our cultural diversity is increased	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Encourage the integration of urban design and public art	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Deliver sustainable and successful events and festivals through Council investment and delivery of the Events Strategy	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Encourage Sports Associations to conduct regional, state and national events in the city	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Provide opportunities for local artists and performers to exhibit, promote and perform at Council venues and events	<p>Four annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One annual deliverable deferred.</p> <p><i>Deferred due to COVID-19: Deliver the annual Viva La Gong Festival</i></p> <p>With the cancellation of Viva La Gong again this year due to COVID-19 impacts, Council redirected its focus to deliver a range of community cultural focused programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Standing on the Ceiling' - a participatory community cultural development project including dance, song and group collaboration across the year on both zoom and in person and the creation of the 'Gong Song'. This also included a live performance element showcased at the Council grant funded Port Kembla Festival, presented by Holy Pavlova, held on Saturday 23 April. The free festival took place across six venues in Port Kembla. • Several Viva community cultural performances were programmed into the Laneways Live festival in Wollongong CBD and were extremely well received. These included stage-based music and dance performances, circus and community focused interactive workshops. <p>Upsurge - Arts and Makers market planned and programmed, deferred until July, due to rain impacts.</p>
Provide support to existing and emerging artists and performers	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Seek funding for the promotion of heritage sites, museums and galleries to the community and visitors	<p>Two annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One annual deliverable delayed.</p> <p><i>Delayed due to COVID-19: Promote heritage sites and museums</i></p> <p>A draft museums report and sector audit was undertaken in the second half of 2021, with some delays due to COVID-19 impacts and the ongoing inability to meet with some of the volunteer workforce. The report indicates the museums sector continues to be at significant risk due to compounding issues such as an ageing volunteer workforce and lack of secure and appropriate storage and lack of appropriate and dedicated funding. While Council continues to meet with representatives of this sector, we are unable to provide the scale of financial and operational support required.</p>
Coordinate an integrated approach to infrastructure improvement and service delivery in the Arts Precinct	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Support the coordination of an externally funded calendar of activities delivered across the city	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Deliver and support a range of projects and programs which build harmony, understanding and cultural awareness	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.

GOAL 4

We are a connected and engaged community



Image: Patrons at Corrimal Library

We are an inclusive connected community, engaged in our neighbourhood and other social networks. We have opportunities to participate in the social, economic and political life of the city and are empowered to have our say. We have strong and effective local leadership. We respect and acknowledge the wisdom of age, the vitality and enthusiasm of our young people and the diversity of our community. Our Aboriginal community is recognised and valued. We have embraced new technology to ensure all residents have access to information, services and each other.

Services provided under this goal:

- Communications, Engagement, Events and Signage
- Community Facilities
- Community Programs
- Corporate Strategy
- Financial Services
- Governance and Administration
- Information Management and Technology
- Integrated Customer Service
- Infrastructure Planning and Support
- Libraries
- People and Culture
- Waste Management

Key Highlights:

- Adopted the 2032 Community Strategic Plan, 2022-2026 Delivery program and 2022-2023 Operational plan.
- Adopted the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- Increased visitations on engagement channels

An overview of how we worked towards achieving the community's goal of a connected and engaged community through the four-year Delivery Program actions and Operational Plan actions are detailed in the following pages. Additional highlights relating to this goal are also included under the Strategic Priorities – Active Transport and Connectivity (page 30) and Business and Investment (page 31).

Supporting good corporate governance

Throughout the year, Council ensured appropriate strategies and systems were in place to support good corporate governance.

A significant highlight of the year occurred on 27 June 2022 when Council adopted the 2032 Community Strategic Plan, 2022-2026 Delivery program and 2022-2023 Operational plan. The adoption of this suite of documents followed a 28 day public exhibition period (4 May to 31 May) where Council received 359 Submissions and heard from over 3,163 stakeholders during a three phase engagement approach which spanned from July 2021 through to the end of the exhibition period.

During 2021-2022, all Quarterly Review Statements were delivered and adopted within legislative timeframes.

2021-2022 also saw the implementation of the Fraud and Corruption Improvement Plan by the Professional Conduct Coordinator (PCC). The PCC continued to report quarterly to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) and continues to actively review and investigate reports of fraud and corruption which are received from members of the public or staff.

Other key initiatives undertaken include:

- Cyber Security Strategy was approved by the Executive Management Committee on the 23 December 2021
- Implementation of a new system for managing our records using OneCouncil – Enterprise Content Management (ECM) offered by Technology One
- The implementation of the IMT Strategy 2021-2024 continued to be overseen by the Business Solutions Steering Committee.
- Continued collaboration with Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) on a regular basis with feedback provided in the June quarter on the strategic planning documents to strengthen the collaboration through the Region.
- In collaboration with the Councils in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation the appointment of a Chief Information Security Officer which has enabled a significant lift in cyber security maturity and governance.

Building a strong workplace culture

A broad range of initiatives were undertaken to build a workplace culture that is safe, engaged, responsive and professional in order to deliver to the community we serve.

A new Performance Review Process (ROAD - Review of Objectives, Achievements, and Development) was implemented across the organisation during 2021-2022. The contemporary process enables a clearer line of sight to the achievement of the Community Strategic Plan and delivery of services to our community.

Other key initiatives included:

- A Staff Check-in Survey was held during 2021-2022
- Throughout the year, 48 individuals were nominated for their work through the Employee Recognition Program with 26 of these nominees receiving a Recognition Award. In addition to individual nominations, 13 team nominations were received.
- Endorsement on 27 June of the 2022-2026 Workforce Management Strategy as part of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Resourcing Strategy documents
- Implementation of the 'Our Safety Program' with a focus on our Wellbeing Plan
- Following on from Council's endorsement of the Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Policy, an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Action Plan has been developed

Of key importance throughout the year and during COVID-19 restrictions, the Internal Communications Strategy delivered a range of strategic internal communications campaigns and content.

These included:

- 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW
- OneCouncil Project
- Future of Work Project
- Community Strategic Plan
- Contribution to wellbeing initiatives

Significant internal communications contributed to the COVID-19 pandemic updates, including being part of the Pandemic Team to advise on staff communications strategy, tactics and engagement.

Implementing the OneCouncil system

During 2021 -2022 Council continued its implementation of OneCouncil, an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform. Our most recent release was the third stage in Wollongong City Councils' digital transformation journey. This release saw three new modules, Property & Rating, Enterprise Content Management and Spatial, added to the OneCouncil ecosystem as we continue to integrate our core functions digitally. OneCouncil is enabling better decision-making and adding value to our interactions with our customers, community, and staff.

Integrating Council's core functions into a single solution, OneCouncil has created a secure, single source of truth for its data and transactional processing. For Council moving to OneCouncil has allowed staff to access information via a single Software as a Solution (SaaS) solution anytime, from any location via connected mobile devices. This has meant that our workforces are now more flexible and more mobile than ever. Mapping capability has also provided staff with a new way of organising their work, so they can be more efficient.

For our customers, OneCouncil encourages and facilitates digital self-service from a single source. The system allows our customers to input directly to notify us of defects such as leaking taps and potholes and for us to immediately create workorders to start the process of remediation. We have moved over 60 application types into OneCouncil, allowing our customers to report, apply and pay through a single online customer portal on our website.

Community engagement opportunities

Throughout the year, Council ran a wide range of community engagement initiatives, sharing information with our community and listening to feedback, thoughts and ideas to inform decisions.

To review and revise the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), Council undertook a 12-month community engagement process across three phases. This three-phased approach was used to give the community a range of ways to share their ideas and ensure the final CSP reflected our community's vision, aspirations and goals. Through surveys, workshops, postcard responses and responses to previous relevant engagement activities, over 8,900 community voices contributed to the Plan, which was adopted by Council in June 2022.

The Stuart Park North Wollongong Masterplan engagement has been a collaborative process, as we work towards a draft plan to share for additional

community feedback. In the first phase of engagement, we heard from 860 people ranging in age from early education and care services through to those in their 90's, and several organisations. Work continues with local Aboriginal communities to explore and understand the cultural significance of the area. The draft Masterplan will be shared for comment during 2022-2023.

Council rolled out community engagement activities as part of the "Carve a New Trail" project in Bulli, Dapto and Fairy Meadow. We invited children, young people and families to share their feedback on the bike trail designs and sought community feedback on three locations in Bulli. Following community feedback, the trails were constructed, and ongoing improvements continue to be made across the sites to ensure the trails meet community needs.

A wide range of other engagement has been undertaken throughout the year, such as:

- Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy (Phase one)
- West Dapto Suburb Naming
- Mobile Food Vending Policy
- Pioneer Rest Park, Wollongong
- Warrawong Community Centre and Library
- Lindsay Maynes Park Criterium Track, Unanderra
- Beaton Park Gwynneville Tennis Court upgrades
- Retail and Business Centre Study (Phase one)

Council has been seeking feedback on the Climate-Friendly Planning Framework Discussion Paper, which presents Council's ideas for how to make development climate-friendly and sustainable. Feedback from the community will inform draft changes which may be incorporated into our draft Local Planning Assessment Framework.

Throughout the year, Council actively engaged with people with disability and carers as part of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025. People with disability participated in "Conversations About Inclusion" with managers from across Council as part of International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) sharing their stories and experience of living with disability.

Council continued to use a range of diverse methods of engagement to reach our diverse community. As the NSW Public Health Orders changed throughout the year and COVID-19 restrictions eased, Council was able to re-establish face-to-face methods of

engagement that we know are highly valued by the community.

Accessibility audits were run on Council's engagement website, Community Strategic Plan (CSP), and other key engagement documents. This has seen improvements in the accessibility of our public content over the year.

A new online engagement platform was introduced for young people. The site provides the opportunity for young people to share their ideas for events, programs and activities at any time as well as provide feedback about Council services.

Council also utilised Short Message Service (SMS) updates for engagement projects for the first time this year, in both the Stuart Park North Wollongong Masterplan and Emma McKeon recognition projects,

Civic activities - recognising and celebrate the city's people

During 2021–2022, Council delivered a number of civic events which recognise the contribution of our community. The Australia Day Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of people within our community.

This annual event highlights efforts in a range of categories including Citizen of the Year, Arts and Cultural, Sports, Innovation, Diversity and Inclusion. Due to a COVID-19 outbreak, the Award Ceremony was delivered as a hybrid online event.

The Australia Day Awards Ceremony was delivered with an MC and the Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery AM at the Music Lounge in Wollongong Town Hall and engaged a local television production company to film and live stream the ceremony and announcement of the awards. Council acknowledged the achievements of local swimmer Emma McKeon.

The hybrid event saw over 180 people in attendance online using streaming software. The attendees included the nominees, the Australia Day Committee, Council's Senior Management, Councillors, Members of Parliament and the Australia Day Ambassador.

The Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony is the largest Citizenship Ceremony on Wollongong's calendar, usually held at the Wollongong Town Hall, and includes the ceremony, presentation of certificates and gifts for our new citizens, entertainment, speeches and a special acknowledgement of the Wollongong Australia Day Award winners.

COVID-19 restrictions had Council deliver the Citizenship Ceremony online. The hybrid event saw 80 new citizens take their pledge and oath to Australia via the online ceremony which was attended by the Lord Mayor and other officials.

Council worked with Illawarra Academy of Sport in the delivery of the Illawarra Academy of Sport Scholarship Reception which was attended by 180 guests on 22 June 2022. After two years of hybrid events this reception was able to resume in a face to face format.

Partnering with the local Aboriginal Community

During the year Council supported a Reconciliation Week walk event, led by CareWays in Koonawarra which had approximately 500 participants including schools and community members.

Council has been working with the local Aboriginal community to inform programming for Spin Fest, a cultural program to be delivered alongside the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event. This event will include performances, ceremonies and children's activities run by various Aboriginal community members and organisations.

A key highlight for the year was the endorsement of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) by Reconciliation Australia and adopted by Council. The RAP Working Group meet to discuss, share information, and receive an update on Council's progress on implementing the RAP. The group includes representatives from Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council, Illawarra Medical Services, Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation, and Council's Aboriginal Reference Group.

Council worked with members of the Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation to develop artwork and the dreaming story for the book installation, ceramic coolamons and frog (concrete) at Cringila Hills Recreation Park Playground. These works were installed in December 2021 and include stories showing the connection between the frog and coolamons in an illustrative and sensory way.

The 'Aboriginal People, Places and Stories' video project is nearing completion. Videos are being developed to increase understanding, value and recognition of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and peoples through cultural learning. The local Aboriginal community have been involved in the development of the video content and some will feature in the videos. The videos will be used as a tool to build awareness and understanding with Council staff and be shown

during Spin Fest and 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event.

Other key engagement activities held with Aboriginal community members held throughout the year include:

- Design of the Aboriginal space at Kembla Grange Cemetery
- Draft landscape design including Aboriginal culturally relevant design concepts shared by Aboriginal community members through the engagement process. Engagement continues to refine these designs.

Supporting the community in response to COVID-19

Recognising the impacts of COVID-19 on our community, a diverse range of initiatives were implemented throughout the year.

COVID-19 Personal protective equipment (PPE) (masks, hands sanitiser, and wipes) were received from Resilience NSW.

The Emergency Food and Care Package Grants Program was delivered. The program provided financial assistance for local not-for-profit organisations to provide emergency food provisions and/or emergency care packages to residents experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19. In total the grant program provided 11 organisations with funding which delivered 1,689 food packages to the value of \$62,250 and 3641 care packages to the value of \$52,955.

Small grants were provided to High School Student Representative Councils during the COVID-19 restrictions. Grants of up to \$250 were available to support activities to make new connections, build resilience or improve young people's mental health.

Council worked in collaboration with the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS), Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and local multicultural service providers to film key messages regarding vaccines and COVID-19 lockdown information in Wollongong's two minority languages – Kinyamulenge and Karenni. These resources complement the existing state-wide collection of translated health resources.

An online community information session was coordinated with Karenni community leaders and (MCHS) on vaccines and lockdown and safety information was held for Karenni community members.

Volunteering Illawarra

Throughout parts of the year, Volunteering Illawarra (VI) operated within the constraints of the NSW Public Health Orders with lockdown significantly reducing the delivery of services to the community. The demand for the service was low, the number of referrals were relatively low throughout the year, reflecting both continuing community concern about COVID-19 cases within the community and the reduced enforcement by Centrelink of Job Seeker 'Mutual Obligation' requirements.

VI explored options to provide short training programs during Interagency meetings which are relevant to the sector to increase training participation rates. This was implemented in the last quarter of the year.

VI continued to support the sector by posting relevant information on the VI website to assist organisations during lockdown some examples are:

- Newly created Volunteering Resource Hub – Volunteering Australia
- Council's COVID-19 Support Services Directory
- NSW State of Volunteering Report
- NSW Regional Volunteer of the Year winners
- R U OK Day

The highlights of this year were the Volunteering Expo and the recognition of Council's volunteers as part of National Volunteering Week celebrations in May. VI in conjunction with other areas of Council, organised an afternoon tea at the Wollongong Art Gallery to recognise the valuable contribution volunteers make to our services (e.g.: community services, Bushcare, library, Botanic garden and Wollongong Art Gallery) – approximately 130 Volunteers attended the event; the largest attendance after two years of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Volunteering Expo, this year was very successful. It was held at the Wollongong Town Hall – 155 members of the public and 23 community stallholders, including the organisers of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong 2022, who had the opportunity to engage directly with potential volunteers. Feedback from the stallholders was very positive; walking away with a list of potential volunteers for them to engage with.

Unfortunately, ongoing funding uncertainty has continued for VI and as a result the service will close in 2022 – 2023.

Supporting participation in community activities

A diverse range of initiatives were delivered to foster and support community participation in community activities.

Initiatives included:

- Work with Friends of Wollongong City Libraries who met in January 2022 to plan post-COVID-19 events for the year, convening for the first time in over six months
- Increased participation of community volunteers in the delivery of Library Services highlighted by National Volunteers Week (16 – 22 May 2022) acknowledged by the Library's participation in a Council-wide Celebration of Volunteers afternoon tea at the Wollongong Art Gallery with over 50% of Library Volunteers attending this event
- The Library also attended the Volunteering Expo Wollongong in May 2022 where 19 people expressed an interest in volunteering with the Library on the day

A key ongoing initiative also delivered throughout the year is the Connecting Neighbours Grant Program.

The Connecting Neighbours Grant Program funds great ideas to bring people together and make neighbourhoods a better place. Connecting Neighbours Grants were made available in December 2021 and June 2022. The first round targeted initiatives that connected communities post COVID-19 lockdowns and the other targeted connecting neighbours in emerging communities in West Dapto. Across both rounds 61 applications were received. 22 grants were awarded in the \$250 category and 14 were awarded for the up to \$1,000 category.

Connecting Neighbours initiatives were delivered by community members across the Local Government Area and included community gardens, bicycle rides, community libraries (book boxes), street parties and Easter egg hunts.

Alternative Funding

In 2021-2022, Council applied for two significant grant applications to support the construction of the new Warrawong Community Centre and Library.

These included:

- A \$5M Application to the NSW Government's Create NSW Program (which was unsuccessful)

- A \$10M Application to the Commonwealth Government's Building Better Regions Fund (awaiting the outcome)

Also throughout the year, Council submitted grant applications to the following NSW and Commonwealth Government programs, including:

- Resources for Regions (Round eight)
- Coastal and Estuaries Program
- Boating Now
- Building Better Regions Fund
- Create NSW
- Community Building Partnerships

The March Commonwealth Budget announced an extension to Phase three of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program which will provide Council with access to an additional \$1.54M of funding for investment in infrastructure during 2023-2024.

Options to increase the environmental sustainability of charitable waste disposal practices was investigated and implemented during 2021-2022. The Waste Fees and Exemptions Policy was amended to remove free tipping for charities and encourage greater diversion of recyclable and reusable items from landfill. Council assisted charitable organisations with preparing Waste Management Plans to obtain the NSW Waste Levy Exemptions.

Utilising our Digital customer service and engagement channels

Council's digital communications channels continued to play a significant role to deliver timely and purposeful information to Council's audience.

2021-2022 has seen an increase in engagement with all our primary digital corporate communications channels, reflecting our aim of delivering fresh, accessible and engaging content to the community. It is also used to proactively showcase Council's initiatives, plans and goals as well as provide our community with relevant and up to date information on critical issues Council plays a role in managing or delivering.

Throughout the year, all Council's social media channels have increased in followers, and Council's website has increased in visitations.

- Facebook: Followers on the City of Wollongong Facebook page were 38,039 at the end of the 2021-2022, an increase of 7.6% from the previous year (35,347)
- LinkedIn: Followers on Council's LinkedIn company page grew 16.3% from 10,696 at the end of the previous quarter to 12,443

- Instagram: Council had 8,070 Instagram followers at the end of the 2021-2022 year, up 10.8% from 7,282 at the end of the previous year
- Twitter: Twitter followers increased by 4.9% from 6,731 to 7,060

Our community are accessing information about the services highly important to them. Council's online services and reporting portal received 620,000 views. Implementation of our digital Customer Request Management system has facilitated customers the ability to register and track issues from request to resolution.

Our other most-viewed pages (excluding homepages) were:

- View an Application (123,610)
- Libraries (98,233)
- COVID-19 Updates (72,162)
- Jobs at Council (72,127)
- Sportsgrounds (67,517)
- Leisure Centres Group Classes (53,945)
- Beaton Park Leisure Centre (49,830)
- Our Pools (46,460)
- 2021 Council Elections (45,716)
- Household Recycling and Waste (41,270)

Future Directions:

- Continue to deliver, evaluate and monitor the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025
- Continue community engagement activities
- Implement connecting neighbours grant program
- Continue to enhance councils digital customer service and engaging channels in line with strategic objectives

DELIVERY PROGRAM 2018-2022 STATUS

The effectiveness of the Delivery Program is assessed through a number of performance indicators.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Twitter followers	5,929	6,349	6,731	7,060
Facebook followers	26,078	35,955 [*]	35,347 [*]	38,039
Instagram followers	5,642	6,792	7,445	8,070
Telephone calls answered within 30 seconds [^]	86%	89%	92%	87%
In person enquiries attended to within 5 minutes	94%	95%	96%	90% [*]
Sick leave (days)	7.46	7.78	7.24	6.71
Workers compensation costs	1.5%	1.8%	1.8%	2.0%

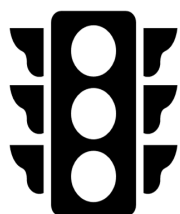
[^] The range in calls is from 143,820 pa to 185,046 pa during this five year period

^{*} Impacted by COVID-19

12 month rolling average number of sick days per employee. Sick leave calculation was revised in line with Wollongong City Council's Enterprise Agreement early in 2016-2017.

^{*} A change to previous reporting years

Status of Delivery Program/Operational Plan Actions



On Track: 88.89%, Ongoing/Complete: 9.26%

Delayed: 1.85%

Deferred: 0.00%

4 year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2020-2021
Ensure an effective community engagement framework that connects the community to Council decision making	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Improve community understanding and awareness of Council decisions	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Council continue to partner with our local Aboriginal community	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Increase opportunities for the community to connect with volunteering organisations	Two annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One deliverable complete. <i>Complete: Continue to review and adapt the Volunteering Illawarra program to support service quality and sustainability, in line with changes to funding and to the volunteering sector</i> Volunteering Illawarra (VI) reviewed its activities on a regular basis to support the sustainability of the service. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, VI was able to change its practices in line with Public Health Order restrictions, interviews with potential volunteers were

	<p>held over the phone. Information relevant to the sector on the website were updated regularly.</p> <p>In July, VI was successful in securing the twelve months transition funding from the Centre for Volunteering for the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) and has delivered the outcomes of the program outlined in the activity plan and met the performance milestones set by the funding body as part of the twelve months transition funding for the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA).</p> <p>In August, as part of the new Volunteer Management (VMA) Transition funding, VI submitted a copy of the activity plan outlining all the activities and tasks to undertake in the next six months, and based on successful performance of these tasks, the funding will be extended for further six months. This provided an opportunity for VI to review its practices and to focus on the transition model of service delivery. The main tasks included conducting a survey to identify gaps in volunteer management/ training and digital literacy, in the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama LGAs, as well as arranging focus groups with priorities groups, such as New Migrants/ Refugees, the First Nations volunteers Referral Centre and the Disability Mentoring Program, to identify their volunteer needs and barriers.</p> <p>In the last six months, VI focused on two projects, endorsed by the NSW Centre for Volunteering, until June 2022 when the funding will cease.</p>
Support community participation in community activities	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Build the capability of community-based organisations in managing, developing and sustaining their volunteers	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Continue to participate and contribute to an integrated community service network	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Support a range of projects and programs in the city	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Ensure appropriate strategies and systems are in place that support good corporate governance	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Build a workplace culture that is safe, engaged, responsive and professional	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Effective and transparent financial management systems are in place	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Continue to pursue alternative funding options to deliver financially sustainable services and facilities	<p>Five annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One delayed.</p> <p><i>Delayed: Commence the review of the rating structure to align to legislative change.</i></p> <p>While legislative changes have been made, the necessary Regulation changes to allow review of new categories and subcategories of rates is yet to be enacted. Progress for this task will require a clear understanding of the Regulations once approved to assess options and impacts.</p>
Deliver the Asset Management Strategy and Improvement Plan 2012-2017	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Coordinate a service review program with a focus on business development and improvement	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Working together, levels of service are established and service continuously improve and offer best value for money	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.



Our community is safe, healthy and happy. The city provides diverse and accessible recreation and lifestyle activities to foster community wellbeing for people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds and personal challenges. Our people thrive with a sense of self and a connection to place. We enjoy the relaxed pace, opportunities for being with family and friends, helping our neighbours and meeting new people. We encourage informal and lifelong learning and we share a common goal to make Wollongong a place where as a minimum, all residents basic needs are met and our quality of life improved.

Services provided under this goal:

- Aquatic Services
- Aged and Disability Services
- Botanic Garden and Annexes
- Communications, Engagement, Events and Signage
- Community Facilities
- Community Programs
- Emergency Management
- Environmental Services
- Governance and Administration
- Leisure Centres
- Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries
- Property Services
- Tourist Parks
- Infrastructure Planning and Support
- Land Use Planning
- Libraries
- Parks and Sports Fields
- Public Health and Safety
- Regulatory Control
- Youth Services
- Transport Services
- Waste Management

Key Highlights:

- Delivered a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, capacity building, inclusion, belonging, sector development and support.
- Implementing the delivery of Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030
- Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan
- Deliver sports grounds and sporting facilities strategy

An overview of how we worked towards achieving the community's goal of a healthy community in a liveable city through the four-year Delivery Program actions and Operational Plan actions are detailed in the following pages. Additional highlights relating to this goal are also included under the Strategic Priorities – **Activating Our Suburbs** (page 26) and **West Dapto Urban Release** (page 29).

Enhancing our community participation

A diverse range of projects were delivered throughout the year to foster and strengthen community participation across sectors.

In 2021-2022, the total of physical items loaned was 646,054, and the total for eLoans was 339,388 – providing an overall loans total for the year of 985,442.

Throughout the year, across the library sector the recovery of usage rates for physical library collections has continued, following the extended COVID-19 disruptions. The period April-June 2022 saw physical library loans have maintained to the highest levels since before the onset of the pandemic indicating the progressive return of community library attendance and borrowing.

A highlight of the year being the Libraries' highest ever usage of online collections. Usage of eAudiobook collections in particular has maintained a consistent increase across all genres. Online collections have continued to be prioritised and marketed to customers, with increased budget being allocated and additional content and extra copies of high-demand titles being purchased in e-formats.

Throughout the year, Council worked to balance customer demand, national and international issues with book distribution and supplier disruption. By prioritising these measures, we have continued to optimise the provision of Library material in direct response to customer demands.

Across the sporting sector, Council again supported the delivery of participant development opportunities through its Funding Agreement with the Illawarra Academy of Sport.

Council and representatives signed a further one year Funding Agreement that will see aspiring Wollongong LGA athletes continue to be provided the opportunity to receive a diverse range of athlete support and skill development opportunities during 2022. The Academy also continues to utilise Beaton Park Gwynneville and Lakeside Leisure Centre Kanahooka with a focus on athletes with disability and targeted opportunities for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes.

Disability Inclusion

2021-2022 was a challenging time to deliver social support services. During this time, the service provided only essential services to our carers in distress.

Against these challenges, Council was able to provide additional respite services provided for carers in distress in line with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025. Council arranged for clients to receive a gift voucher, which was very well received. As the restrictions eased, clients had the opportunity to go back to their activities and socialise with their peers.

Tailored library programs were delivered to facilitate access and participation of people with disability.

Highlights included:

- 'Create Features' was offered for members of the vision impaired/Deaf and hard of hearing community to come along and find out more about native animals. Touching the animals and holding them was a particular highlight. This was offered as an activity for partnership organisations – Deaf Connect and Guide Dogs NSW
- The 'Vision Impaired Yarners' met meeting monthly and are looking to organise other activities, tailored to their specific needs
- The Deaf community reached out following a 'Let's Try... Sip and Paint' session, to ask if a special session could be held for them during the quarter with an AUSLAN interpreter

During the year, both the Saturday Family movie sessions and the Monday Matinee movie sessions have attracted people with disability and their carers to spend some time watching a movie on a large screen. Advantageously, participants can catch up with each other and socialise. The regular Monday group live alone and enjoy the opportunity to spend some time together to socialise, at no cost.

The Library loaned 5,911 items to Home Library Service customers who cannot get to a library for various health reasons. There are 429 people currently registered for the Home Library Service.

Keeping our community safe

Our community was kept safe throughout 2021–2022 through a range of public health, amenity and safety regulatory programs and reviews.

Legionella Risk Management Plans (RMPs) and ongoing Audit Certificates for all Cooling Tower Systems in the City continue to be received and processed in accordance with NSW Health requirements.

Key statistics include:

- 146 Audit Certificates for cooling water systems were submitted and processed by Council, representing 100% of systems notified to Council. As such, no audit reports remained overdue at the end of the financial year
- 44 Risk Management Plans (RMP) were completed and lodged for the financial year period
- No RMPs remain overdue
- Five Cooling Water Systems were decommissioned during the financial year and two new Water Cooling Systems were notified to Council

Food handling awareness education for school canteens and sporting bodies continued through routine surveillance after COVID-19 restrictions eased.

The School Zone Parking Program operated throughout the 2021–2022 year, with a focus on education and awareness of safe and legal parking practices. As part of the program, Primary Schools across the Wollongong local government area were patrolled, during morning and afternoon peak pick up and drop off times.

2021–2022 coincided with the completion of the external audit of the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Program. The result of the audit was promising, and several opportunities have arisen for the Swimming Pool Barrier Program to be improved and more efficient. The use of innovation to better identify alleged unauthorised pools is being investigated with a Working Party established throughout the year to review and discuss mapping software and better utilisation of new software.

Our Refugee and Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community

Throughout the year, Council partnered with Multicultural Health and community organisations to deliver key COVID-19 related health messages to the Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community.

Illawarra Refugee Issues Forum (IRIF) convened by Council, met regularly and over the year provided a regular focal point to discuss key issues and seek support, including how to promote vaccination to refugee communities, housing advocacy and the re-starting of refugee migration in 2022. The Forum continues to welcome new staff members and organisations and offers a way to meet the sector and build a profile.

Council continues to be active in the NSW CALD Water Safety Committee. The Committee provides an important networking opportunity across NSW on beach and river safety and education.

Support was provided to the Illawarra Interfaith Women's Network to seek grant funding through the Multicultural NSW Event and Festival Grant program. The funding will be used to run a 'Celebrating Resilience in Diversity' event in November to re-launch the Network after the disruption and difficulties of the last two years.

As part of Refugee Week 2022 a celebration morning tea for 150 members of refugee background was held at the Music Lounge – Wollongong Town Hall in partnership with SCARF Illawarra and the Red Cross. The event included performances and Masters of Ceremony (MC's) from refugee background and was catered for by refugee-led food businesses. A Question & Answer (Q&A) was held in Wollongong Library with three former refugees sharing their settlement experiences. 35 people attended the event which included a shared afternoon tea. ABC Illawarra radio station also interviewed two former refugees on their experiences.

Active open spaces and facilities

A key highlight of 2021–2022 was completion of the draft Concept Plan for the construction of a Tier Two Regional Tennis Facility at Beaton Park Gwynneville. This will enable the staging of State and National Tennis events. Following consultation with key stakeholders and the general community, eight International Tennis Federation (ITF) standard hard courts, six community courts and three hot shot courts for juniors will be constructed on site with tender documents currently being prepared. Works are anticipated to commence in February 2023.

Throughout the year, Council continued to provide both diverse and engaging play spaces for the community. Playground renewals completed during the year include:

- Cringila Hills Recreation Park Playground
- Barina Park Primbee
- Wisemans Park Gwynneville
- Central Park Reserve Haywards Bay
- Rae Crescent Balgownie
- Bulli Beach Reserve
- Rube Hargrave Park Clifton
- Guest Park Fairy Meadow
- Wongawilli Playground

Other highlights of the year included:

- Consultants delivered 3 draft options for the Bulli Showground Masterplan stage two
- Finalised detailed design drawings for the two stages of the Stuart Park North Wollongong All Ages All Abilities (AAAA) Playground
- Cringila Hills Playground was officially opened to the public in August 2021 with shade and seating added during 2022
- King George V Oval Port Kembla Recreation Masterplan was formerly adopted by Council in July 2021
- The city's first Criterium Track at Lyndsay Maynes Park Unanderra progressed through the Precinct Plan stage and was publicly exhibited for comment
- Key elements of the Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan were implemented with the Mountain Bike trail officially opened in August 2021, the Pump Cycling Track in May 2022 and Bike Skills Track nearing completion

Over the 2021-2022 summer, Council again deployed the popular accessible beach matting at Thirroul and Austinmer beaches.

Following construction in September 2021, the adult lift and accessible change facilities at Port Kembla beach have been favourably received as one of the city's first 'Changing Places'. The design of access ramps at priority locations including Austinmer, Port Kembla and North Wollongong Beaches continues with the much-anticipated construction of the Port Kembla Beach. Works are currently underway and anticipated to be complete in October 2022.

Youth Services

Council's Youth Services deliver a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, capacity building, inclusion, belonging and support.

Throughout the year weekly programs and events at Wollongong Youth Centre included:

- 'Rainbow League' - a safe space for same sex attracted, gender diverse or questioning young people to make social connections and have access to information and support
- 'Acting Up' - a theatre and performance program providing young people the opportunity to gain skills and confidence in the performing arts in a fun environment. The group work together to explore drama techniques and create a performance to showcase their skills
- 'Team Ignite' - a youth led event organising group, supported music events for young people as part of the 'On Stage' program including, live music, open mic nights and ThursGAYS
- 'Painting and Planting' - creative opportunities to revamp spaces at Wollongong Youth Centre with artwork and plants
- 'The Circus Series' - held in the Youth Centre forecourt and provided opportunities to learn circus Skills
- 'Youth in Fashion' - allowed young people to design and create their own clothes
- 'Create' - using arts-based methods exploring a range of mediums and creative activities for social wellbeing and connection
- 'Hang Out' - a space for young people to meet, connect and socialise in a safe supervised environment
- 'Illawarra Multicultural Youth Conference' - delivered online in partnership with Department of Education and Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra (MCCI)

Weekly structured programs and events were also provided for young people across the Local Government Area including:

- 'Teen Connect' expanded to be delivered at both Warrawong and Corrimal Libraries. The program includes interactive and skills-based activities providing a safe place for young people to build relationships and connection.
- 'Bundaleer Connect' and '2518 Connect' were delivered in Bundaleer Estate and Bellambi providing a range of activities.
- 'Dapto Youth Connect' was launched to provide a safe place for young people in Dapto to hang out and participate in activities in 'The Lair', Dapto Ribbonwood Centre.

Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Strategy

In 2021-2022, the ongoing revitalisation of Port Kembla continued to be delivered through Council led and

funded initiatives, community-led initiatives, and projects funded through the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund.

The delivery of this Strategy is on-going and tracking well.

Key projects delivered throughout the year include:

- Installation of an artwork titled 'Eyes on the Horizon' on Hill 60
- Delivery of Pop-up Cycleways
- Completion of Port Kembla Pool accessible amenities.

Council has continued to deliver against the Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Strategy. Pop-up Cycleways on Military Road with footpath and kerb ramps are connecting the Harbour, Train Station, town centre and foreshore, creating safe and active transport connections for all.

The construction of the Fisherman's Beach Access Ramp has commenced. Council is working with local businesses to extend Outdoor Dining areas on Wentworth Street to improve activation as well as investigating options for traffic slowing and safety improvements.

Our Towns and Villages

Throughout the year, Council progressed a range of actions in our adopted Town and Village Plans including delivery of several implementation actions under the Helensburgh Town Centre Plan 2020-2045. These implementation actions include streetscape improvements and commencement of the Lilyvale / Walker Street roundabout project.

In Unanderra, Council completed the initial phase of the Unanderra Town Centre Masterplan, delivering streetscape, pedestrian amenity, car parking and traffic signal upgrade projects over recent years. In 2021-2022 the following was delivered:

- A significant car park upgrade was delivered in the Tannery St car park
- A new shared path connection was built on west side of Tallegalla Street (Victoria St to Charcoal Creek)

In Corrimal, Council has delivered streetscape improvements and a signalised pedestrian crossing consistent with the Corrimal Town Centre Plan 2015-2025. Also during the year, Council engaged Consultants to prepare a draft Wilga Street Corrimal Urban Design Review.

In Warrawong, the proposed Community Centre and Library project is progressing, with a Development Application for the building currently under assessment.

In addition to the implementation of actions under our various Town and Village Plans, Council has advanced recreational planning at a number of key open spaces.

The Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan aims to develop short and long term precinct plans for the section of coastline from Bellambi boat ramp in the south to the end of Beach Drive Woonona.

Highlights throughout 2021 – 2022 included:

- Development of the Precinct Plan commenced with investigation into the impacts and significance of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for this part of the coast
- Three preliminary options for access have been developed. Temporary works have been implemented in the area to improve parking during busy periods

The delivery of the Figtree Oval Masterplan continued with several key elements programmed for delivery in the next four years.

These include:

- Replacement of the existing Figtree Oval Playground
- Upgrade of the Figtree Oval car park
- Upgrades of both the Figtree Oval Amenities Building and Figtree Community Hall

A grant application seeking funding towards the construction of the Figtree Oval Playground was submitted to the NSW Government's Community Building Partnerships program in April 2022.

Ageing Plan 2018-2022

Throughout 2021 – 2022, Council worked with the community to create a program of 50 activities for the Seniors Festival. Council also participated in the Prevention of Abuse of Older People Network and have been part of a partnership project to develop a social media campaign in community languages. The translations and audio recordings are underway. The 'Old Boys Social Club', an older men's social connection project was co-designed with male colleagues from Council. Four events were held to understand barriers and enablers for older male participation.

The events were:

- Thirroul Pool and Classic Flick
- Old Blokes and Spokes

- Bushwacking and BBQing
- Fish N Chips and Fishing Day Out

28 older men participated, with several men attending three or four events. An outcome of this program was the establishment of a new weekly 'Classic Games Morning' for older men at Wollongong Library.

'ACTIVATE to Connect' project, funded through the NSW Government Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors Grant program, was held. The initiative focuses on providing programs of outdoor fitness and connection activities to reduce social isolation. 11 older women attended the eight-week program where a fitness instructor guided them in how to use the outdoor fitness equipment and they participated in other health and wellbeing activities. Another three eight-week programs will be delivered prior to the end of December 2022.

Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030

In accordance with the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030, several initiatives continued to be deployed throughout 2021-2022.

Key elements of the Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan have been implemented with the Mountain Bike trail officially opened in August 2021, the Pump Cycling Track in May 2022 and Bike Skills Track nearing completion.

The Illawarra Criterium Track at Lyndsay Maynes Park Unanderra scheduled for completion in August 2022.

The year also saw several new bike tracks popping up across the city near existing illegal trails in partnership with young riders and companies like Dirt Art and Iconic Trails.

The tracks in Bulli, Fairy Meadow, West Wollongong and Horsley are designed to suit riders of different levels, with information on the track skill requirements available on Council's website.

The Cringila Hills Recreation Park Mountain Bike trails, Pump Track and local trails and tracks are a key part of Wollongong's cycling focus as a UCI Bike City.

Child-friendly and age-friendly principles for our community

2021-2022 saw children engaged in a range of projects including the Stuart Park Masterplan, the 2032 Community Strategic Plan (CSP), the Towradgi Healing Mural, Carve a New Trail and the Tiny Forests Art Competition. Across the year children from Coniston,

Wollongong, Towradgi, Corrimal East, Woonona East, Bellambi, Warrawong, Koonawarra, Helensburgh and Cringila Public Schools, Kids Uni and the Illawarra Mobile Pre-school participated in engagement activities.

Play Streets Wollongong planning is underway. Play Streets encourages neighbours to come together and close their street for a period of time to bring children out into their community to play and give residents the opportunity to get to know each other.

Council demonstrated it's committed to becoming a Child Safe Organisation, by embedding the NSW Child Safe Standards across our organisation's culture and practices. The draft Professional Conduct Investigation Policy, draft Child Safety Recruitment and Onboard and Training Procedure, Child Safe Training Program, draft Social Media Policy and guidelines for engaging with children and young people online were developed throughout the year. Council continues to participate in the Local Government Child Safe Working Group.

Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan

During the year, the implementation of key projects identified in the Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan progressed to delivery.

Key projects include:

- Opening of the Accessible Playground - August 2021
- Mountain Bike track and Walking trails opened - October 2021
- Pump Cycle track completed - May 2022
- Mountain Bike Skills park is nearing completion
- A Vegetation Management Plan deployed
- Design works on amenities for baseball and to service the precinct incorporating storage, canteen, accessible and gender equitable amenities are complete and scheduled for construction in 2022-2023

There are future priorities onsite for the provision of additional car parking, perimeter controls and expanding the trail network to encompass land currently under private ownership.

A major highlight throughout the year was the completion of the Cringila Hills Mountain bike trail. In October, the Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Trail opened. This was a major milestone in the implementation of the Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan located within Cringila Community Park and is Council's first Mountain Bike Park. The Mountain Bike Park has an exciting mix of almost 12 kilometres of trails for riders to explore,

catering to beginner and intermediate riders. The tracks have a mix of gradients, surfaces and obstacles.

15 June 2022 saw the formal opening of the Cringila Hills Pump Track by NSW Minister for Planning and Homes Hon. Anthony Roberts MP and Wollongong Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM. The asphalt track is suitable for bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller skates and blades and provides an opportunity to build skills and confidence. The approximately 225m-long looped track features rollers, doubles, dragon backs and berms that can be enjoyed by riders of all skill levels and is a welcome addition to the riding attractions at Cringila Hills. The new pump track will be joined shortly by a bike skills park, which remains under construction.

Future Directions:

- Delivery of a bike skills park, complimenting the new pump track at Cringila Hills
- Continue to implement Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Strategy in accordance with the strategy implementation plan
- Continue to deliver the funded actions of the aging plan 2018-2022
- Implement disability inclusion action plan 2020-2025

DELIVERY PROGRAM 2018-2022 STATUS

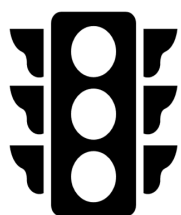
The effectiveness of the Delivery Program is assessed through a number of performance indicators.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Direct Run District Community Facilities – Visitation [^]	286,880	162,708*	90,992*	124,753
Direct Run District Community Facilities – Utilisation (hours) [^]	37,862	28,247*	21,029*	22,332*
Dapto Heated Pool - Visitation	76,045	65,867*	56,206*	47,924*
Corrimal Heated Pool - Visitation	116,666	115,919*	110,236*	101,299*

* Impacted by COVID-19

[^] Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on Council elections

Status of Delivery Program/Operational Plan Actions



On Track: 91.23%, Ongoing/Complete: 0.88%

Delayed: 4.39%

Deferred: 1.75%

4 Year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2020-2021
Partner with community-based organisations in the provision of services	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Continue to undertake social, land use and environmental planning activities that assists in service planning	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Partner with agencies and health authorities to support improvements to the region's medical services	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Deliver a diverse suite of projects to the community that foster and enhance community strengths and participation	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Carry out commercial business management of Council's operational lands	Three annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One delayed. <i>Delayed: Reinstate Waterfall (Garrawarra) Cemetery</i> Land surrounding Waterfall General Cemetery (Garrawarra) was formally transferred to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service this year with our current Licence over the land also being transferred. This Licence allows for access to the cemetery which is landlocked. A Development Application was required for the site due to the Heritage nature of the cemetery. Following a Pre-Lodgement meeting, further works were identified as being required prior to Development Application submission. These works have yet to progress due to discussions being held with Crown Lands regarding transferring the site to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Crown Land has advised an outcome will be provided once resolution of current Aboriginal Land Claims is decided. This is anticipated in the second quarter next year.

Provide an appropriate and sustainable range of quality passive and active open spaces and facilities	Fifteen annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One delayed. <i>Delayed: Develop a concept plan for the Beaton Park Regional Precinct</i> The concept plan for Beaton Park Regional Precinct is currently 80% complete after being placed on hold to prioritise work on the Regional Tennis Facility. The finalisation of the Precinct Plan will recommence once works on the tennis facility commence.
Review planning controls for priority locations	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Policies and plans are developed, reviewed and implemented to encourage physical activity	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Develop and implement public health, amenity and safety regulatory programs and reviews that assist in improving compliance with legislative requirements	Five annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Increase opportunities to enhance library multimedia and online services	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Renew community facilities and consider rationalisation, replacement or refurbishment to achieve facilities that are strategically located, good quality and meet identified community needs	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Investigate provision of Leisure Services in the greater Dapto area, taking into account expansion of West Dapto, and determine Council's role in the market	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Investigate the future provision of Aquatic Services across the local government area and implement improvements	Three annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One delayed. <i>Delayed: Undertake programmed renewal works at Council's rock pools in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Program</i> Council has an ongoing program of works to maintain our rock pools which are located in extremely aggressive environments. Construction opportunities are limited due to the impact of sea tides and swells. The replacement of the intake pipeline and raising of the abutment at the eastern end of the Austinmer Pool were not completed during the reporting period due to unprecedented extreme weather events and unsuitable tides and swells. These works are now scheduled to commence in August subject to conditions permitting.
Use data to assess the current community infrastructure available, community demand and develop a strategic framework and policies to either rationalise, enhance, or expand to meet community needs	Nine annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One deliverable complete. <i>Complete: Deliver library infrastructure projects identified in Wollongong City Libraries Supporting Document 2017-2022</i> This project was completed in February 2022. Concept designs for revision of library spaces at Dapto and Wollongong libraries have been developed to provide for more contemporary library services. The concept designs have informed budget estimates to support development of Business Proposals to enable funding to be allocated for the refurbishment of Dapto and Wollongong libraries in future years. Refurbishment of Dapto Library in conjunction with major infrastructure works at the Ribbonwood Centre.
Develop a Regional Botanic Garden of Excellence	Three annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One delayed. One deferred. <i>Delayed: Finalise the review of the Botanic Garden Plan of Management and Masterplan</i> The Masterplan is complete and awaiting Heritage NSW approval of the conservation management plan for Glennie Brae. Council will undertake consultation on the Masterplan amendments with

	<p>identified major stakeholders prior to going back to Council</p> <p><i>Delayed due to COVID-19: Design and construct the Longyan Friendship Garden</i></p> <p>This project was deferred during the year due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>
Provide statutory services to appropriately manage and maintain our public spaces	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Implement Council's Planning, People, Places Strategy	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Deliver a range of programs and recreational pursuits for older people	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Prepare a Housing Study and Strategy incorporating Affordable Housing Issues	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
In partnership with relevant agencies and networks lobby and advocate for improved service levels and quality enhanced access to services	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Provide lifeguarding services at beaches (in partnership with Surf Life Saving Illawarra) and Council pools	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Facilitate a range of partnerships and networks to develop community safety initiatives	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Delivery projects and programs to reduce crime in the Wollongong LGA	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Well maintained assets are provided that meet the needs of the current and future communities	<p>Ten annual deliverables on track/ongoing. One delayed. One deferred.</p> <p><i>Delayed: Implement and design the North Wollongong Beach Seawall Renewal</i></p> <p>The North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) is located within the Coastal Erosion Impact Zone and will be protected from coastal wave erosion when the North Wollongong Beach Seawall project is complete. The design includes a series of bleachers to allow users to sit and overview the beach while also providing a boat ramp at the northern end. Stage one (immediately in front of the SLSC) has commenced while design is underway for the southern link to the existing seawall in front of the Bathers Pavilion. The construction of the North Beach Seawall has been delayed due to the need to carry out some additional piling works to meet specified requirements on this site. Further delays have also occurred due to supply chain disruptions, COVID-19 impacts, and unprecedented extreme weather events. These additional works are now underway.</p> <p><i>Deferred: Design and construct a boat storage shed for North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club</i></p> <p>Project deferred to allow site investigations to continue. Council are in ongoing discussions with North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club to further refine specifications and progress options moving forward. Interim arrangements for temporary storage solutions, pending finalisation of longer range, plans are in progress.</p>
Manage and maintain community infrastructure portfolio with a focus on asset renewal	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Coordinate an access improvement program through pre-planning and renewal activities	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.

GOAL 6

We have affordable and accessible transport



Image: Cyclists over Sea Cliff Bridge

Our links and connection with Sydney, both physical and economic will be strengthened. We will have an integrated transport system that focuses on reducing our private car dependency by increasing the use of public transport, cycling and walking. Our pedestrian accessibility is improved and maintained to enhance our residents' and visitors' usage of our foreshore and access throughout the city. We will be at the forefront of emerging transport technology including planning for innovative transport initiatives such as car and bicycle share schemes and planning for driverless vehicles.

Services provided under this goal:

- Aged and Disability Services
- Environmental Services
- Land Use Planning
- Transport Services

Key Highlights:

- Implementation of Artificial Intelligence initiatives
- Renewal of assets for active transport
- Pop-up cycling pilot program

An overview of how we worked toward achieving the community's goal of affordable and accessible transport through the four-year Delivery Program actions and Operational Plan actions are detailed in the following pages. Additional highlights relating to this goal are also included under the Strategic Priorities – **West Dapto Urban Release** (page 29) and **Active Transport and Connectivity** (page 30).

Sustainable Transport

A range of initiatives were undertaken in 2021–2022 to encourage sustainable transport and included best-practice active transport data collection to support future planning.

A trial for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven video survey commenced across the Blue Mile at the tramway cutting. Three Smart Variable Message Sign (VMS) trailers have been recently purchased and will support the rollout of our tube count data collection program and driver behaviour programs. Council are also exploring the use of Mobile data technology to inform transport planning.

In addition to the counter installed on the pilot Pop up Cycleway (Smith and Kembla Streets), another three permanent counters were installed at key locations on the Coastline Cycleway. The data collected from the counters will help us to understand usage, achieve key priorities as outlined in the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 and uphold our prestigious label of UCI Bike City. They will support the measure of our performance against the targets set in the Strategy.

Construction performance for our asset renewals has been impacted by lengthy periods of inclement weather and commitments required to deliver the UCI enabling works.

A summary of performance throughout the year is provided below:

Footpaths and shared paths

- Designs Completed = seven
- Projects Constructed = ten

Cycleways

- Designs Completed = three
- Projects Constructed = three

Road resurfacing and reconstruction, Footpaths and Cycleways

Council was able to accelerate the design and delivery of ten projects in addition to the original program.

Performance for the 2021–2022 year is detailed below:

- Projects to be Designed = 49 (39 Scheduled and 10 Accelerated)
- Designs Completed = 48 (38 Scheduled and ten Accelerated)

- Projects to be Constructed = 69 (59 Scheduled and 10 Accelerated)
- Projects Constructed = 59 (49 Scheduled and ten Accelerated)
- Projects in progress on 30 June = six

During the financial year the footpath and cycleway improvement program delivered:

- 18 new footpaths were constructed
- Two additional footpaths designs completed
- Five designs progressed
- Nine new cycleways constructed
- 14 designs for cycleways progressed
- Two designs completed

Community Transport

Throughout 2021–2022, Community Transport Wollongong – Shellharbour (CTWS) continued to provide a range of services to support frail older people and those who are transport disadvantaged to continue living independent, active members of the community and to access essential services.

Throughout the year, Transport for NSW developed a marketing campaign to promote this service to the community on social media, as well as developing and distributing a range of printed materials for service providers to use. The aim of the campaign was to increase community awareness about the program and to rebuild customers confidence post COVID-19. This was utilised by Council to promote the local service to the community and Community Transport continued to explore options to identify ways to promote access to services. These included ideas such as paid advertisements, targeting Doctors surgeries in both Wollongong and Shellharbour areas; and in direct contact with other agencies. As COVID-19 restrictions eased, customer confidence in utilising the services increased slightly. The services received 871 new referrals, with only 457 eligible for the services, 52% of the total referrals.

As the Federal Government is progressing with the Aged Care reforms and implementing the recommendations from The Royal Commission Report on Aged Care. It has announced the extension of the current contract until June 2023, Council accepted the extension of the funding for the transition until 30 June 2023.

Cycling Strategy and Infrastructure

Council has adopted and continues to roll-out the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030. Council is working with key interest groups such as Schools and Council's Cycling Technical Advisory Group, to develop targeted active transport initiatives to support our most vulnerable users (school children, people with disability and the frail/aged). The cycling infrastructure priority tool was upgraded to reflect new standards and guidelines to promote infrastructure that encourages a higher mode shift.

Throughout the year, Council partnered with Ride Nation to deliver cycling related education programs and events. With the support of the NSW Government, Council has seen a significant increased investment for 2021-2022. Work will also commence on a review of the Share the Path user behaviour campaign, in collaboration with riding partners and Illawarra and Shoalhaven Councils. Council was successful in gaining Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) legacy grant funding for the wayfinding signage project.

Another way in which Council worked to promote cycling throughout the year was by partnering with the University of NSW (UNSW) City Futures - ARC Bikeability project. This project will involve testing and simulations of bike infrastructure.

In 2021-2022 Council worked with Shellharbour City Council and others to plan the extension of the Lake Illawarra Cycleway. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Principal Bicycle Network (PBN) across Shellharbour and Wollongong has begun and will additionally assist this project. Council is collaborating with TfNSW with the PBN to complement the Lake Illawarra Shared Use Path Masterplan.

Pop-up Cycling Pilot Program

Throughout 2021-2022 Council continued to be an active partner with the NSW State Government in the delivery of the Pop-up Cycle Pilot Program.

This Program has delivered and is testing non-standard infrastructure and is actively seeking community input and collaboration. In addition to the counter installed on the pilot Pop up Cycleway (Smith and Kembla Streets), another three permanent counters have been installed at key locations on the Coastline Cycleway. The data collected from the counters will help us achieve key priorities as outlined in the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 and uphold our prestigious label of UCI Bike City.

They will support the measure of our performance against the targets set in the Strategy.

Grand Pacific Walk

Stage Two Investigations are continuing to review possible treatments for the missing links of the Grand Pacific Walk (GPW).

In 2021-2022 Council has:

- Completed the construction of Coledale Beach Car Park and Shared User Path Upgrade
- Completed the Concept design of the Austinmer segment, Mountain Road to Headlands Avenue
- Progressed the detailed design of the externally funded GPW Clifton project with construction anticipated to start early 2023

A scope of works for GPW Headlands Avenue to Coledale Avenue is nearing completion. This project will be designed along with the separate upgrade of Sharkies Beach Coledale Car Park.

A review of the GPW Masterplan is programmed to ensure the Masterplan aligns with current community expectations.

Council have commenced early works on future stages of the GPW projects with links to the proposed National Parks Wildlife Service Great Southern Walk.

Future Directions:

- Continue to review and monitor Council policy directions affecting Community Transport
- Implement Cycling Strategy 2030

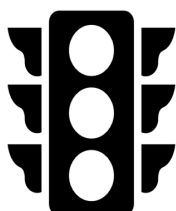
DELIVERY PROGRAM 2018-2022 STATUS

The effectiveness of the Delivery Program is assessed through a number of performance indicators.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Community transport^	126,008	87,082*	25,352*	21,513*
Capital works program	\$115.8M	\$89.8M	\$77.8M*	\$89.7M

* Impacted by COVID-19

Status of Delivery Program/Operational Plan Actions



On Track: 100%

Delayed: 0.00%

Deferred: 0.00%

4 Year Action	Status of Annual Deliverables 2020-2021
Support the delivery of the Gong Shuttle Bus as an affordable transport option	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Implement a variety of projects and programs to encourage sustainable transport throughout the LGA	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Plan and implement an integrated and sustainable transport network	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Facilitate the integration of public amenities and transport with local communities	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Work with partners to reduce travel time between Sydney and Western Sydney with Wollongong	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Plan and implement projects to improve connectivity	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Deliver sustainable transport programs and projects	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Investigate the option for disruptive transport technologies and the impact on the future transport network	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Work with key agencies and partners to continue and improve late night transport options	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.
Develop an alternative service delivery, governance model and auspice for Community Transport in response to the Federal Government's Aged Care reform legislation	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing.

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

ATTACHMENT D

Additional Local Government Act
Requirements



Requirements as per Act (section 428)

Wollongong City Council 2021-22 Annual Report was produced to comply with the Local Government Act 1993 (section 428) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (clauses 132, 217 and 224). The following information is a requirement under the Act to include in Council's Annual Report.

Special Variation of Rating Income	3
Senior Staff Remuneration	5
Cyber Security Annual Attestation Statement	5
Contracts Awarded	6
Controlled Entities	9
Partnerships, Cooperatives or Joint Ventures.....	9
Financial Assistance to Persons for Council Functions	9
National Competition Policy	10
Rates and Charges Written Off.....	10
Companion Animal Management	11
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.....	12
Swimming Pool Inspections	13
Environmental Upgrade Agreements	13
Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans.....	13
Coastal Protection Services	13
Stormwater Management Services.....	14
Condition of Public Works	17
Work Carried Out on Private Land	17
Public Interest Disclosures	18
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009	19
Summary of Legal Proceedings	19
External Bodies that Exercise Functions Delegated By Council	20
Details of Overseas Visits by Councillors and Council Staff	22
Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan	23
Human Service Agency	25
Councillors Attendance at Meetings	26
Councillor Induction, Training and Ongoing Professional Development	27
Report of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	28
Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation	32
Sponsorship of Wollongong City Council Events	33
Unsolicited Proposals	33
Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020 – 2025.....	34
Labour Statistics	36

Special Variation of Rating Income

Local Government (General) Regulation s508(2) s508(a)

The tables below outline how the total amount of the rating increase has been allocated and expended during the 2021-2022 financial year, in accordance with Council's Financial Sustainability Program.

Capital Program Related to Special Rate Variation (SRV)					
30 June 2022					
SRV Renewal Program	Base Revenue	Allocation of SRV Revenue	Base + SRV	Total Renewal + Maintenance Actuals Expenditure of Revenue Funding	Difference of Expenditure to Base + SRV
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Public Transport - Bus Shelters	220,000	106,000	326,000	229,354	(96,646)
Roadworks - resurfacing	1,050,000	2,135,000	3,185,000	0	(3,185,000)
Roadworks - road reconstruction	4,160,000	4,921,000	9,081,000	12,662,220	3,581,220
Bridges, boardwalks and jetties	987,000	534,000	1,521,000	568,349	(952,651)
Footpaths	2,591,000	3,794,370	6,385,370	7,265,922	880,552
Cycle/shared paths	875,000	961,000	1,836,000	442,955	(1,393,045)
Car parks	1,000,000	267,000	1,267,000	1,506,199	239,199
Community buildings	9,813,000	6,084,000	15,897,000	9,879,804	(6,017,196)
Public Facilities (Shelters, Toilets etc.)	312,000	342,000	654,000	501,695	(152,305)
Crematoriums/Cemetery Facilities	187,000	53,000	240,000	91,833	(148,167)
Play Facilities	812,000	576,000	1,388,000	1,077,386	(310,614)
Recreation Facilities	458,000	512,000	970,000	391,019	(578,981)
Sporting Facilities	100,000	374,000	474,000	1,404,520	930,520
Aquatic Facilities (pools, etc.)	2,575,000	747,000	3,322,000	849,099	(2,472,901)
TOTAL	25,140,000	21,406,370	46,546,370	36,870,355	(9,676,015)

- Council has invested \$6.52M in infrastructure renewals above the approved special rate variation over the last seven years.
- Council has also invested an additional \$12.1M of revenue in stormwater infrastructure asset renewals above projected 2014-2015 figures. While these were not included in the original SRV submission, Council's CCTV inspection program has identified more assets than were originally forecast as being in need of renewal.

The following table provides a comparison of forecast operating result contained in the submission for the Special Rate Variation (SRV) approved by Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in June 2014 with the actual result for the year ending 30 June 2022.

Operating Statement Comparison of Special Rate Variation Forecast and Actual 2021-2022 30 June 2022			
	SRV \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Total Revenue	316,385	301,860	14,525
Total Expenses	315,250	287,808	27,442
Operating results excluding capital grants and contributions	1,135	14,052	12,917

Major Variations	\$M
Revenue Variation	
Additional operational grants & contributions	7.44
Financial Assistance Grant	4.30
Improved revenue trends at Tourist Parks	0.43
Sale of land not in the register	0.00
Waste Facility Revenues partly due to operational efficiencies and removal of carbon tax	(12.75)
COVID-19 Impacts on revenue	(7.13)
Domestic Waste Management Income (partly due to lower waste facility operational charges)	(7.36)
Interest on investments reflecting investment markets	(3.60)
Profit on disposal of assets	0.56
Various other	3.59
Expense Variation	
Waste Facility revaluation of remediation provision	11.62
Valuation of provisions for employee long term leave liabilities Workers Compensation	4.51
Depreciation expense	3.40
Loss on disposal of assets	0.00
Waste Facility operating costs including EPA levy and carbon tax repeal	14.12
Domestic Waste Revenue (reflecting lower operational largely associated with Waste Facility)	6.74
Utility costs	(6.30)
Current and prior year capital expenditure reclassified as operational	(2.66)
Additional projects funded from accumulated operational improvements and grants	1.37
Implementation of new financial management information systems platform	(2.69)
Development Assessment additional costs	(1.06)
COVID-19 impacts on expenditure	(1.55)
Tourist Park Operations	0.06
Various other	(0.11)
Total variation for year ending 30 June 2022	12.92

Senior Staff Remuneration

As determined by a resolution of Council in August 2020, the General Manager, four directors and 14 senior managers are defined as senior staff under the Local Government Act (sec 332). The remuneration packages of senior staff include the:

- total value of the salary component of the package
- total amount payable by Council by way of the employer contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the manager may be a contributor
- total value of any non-cash benefits for which the manager may elect under the package
- total amount payable by Council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits, and
- total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of the salary package.

Position	Period	Total Value \$
General Manager	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	423,377
Directors (4) Community Services Corporate Services Infrastructure + Works Planning + Environment	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	1,210,899
Senior Managers (14) Manager Property + Recreation; Manager City Works; Manager Infrastructure, Strategy + Planning; Manager Project Delivery; Manager Open Space + Environmental Services; Manager Library + Community Services; Manager Governance + Customer Service; Chief Financial Officer; Chief Information Officer; Manager Community, Cultural + Economic Development; Manager City Strategy; Manager Development Assessment and Certification; Manager Regulation + Enforcement; General Counsel	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	2,599,933

Cyber Security Annual Attestation Statement

I, Greg Doyle, General Manager of Wollongong City Council, am of the opinion that Council has managed cyber security risks in a manner consistent with the Voluntary Requirements set out in the Cyber Security Guidelines for Local Government.

Governance is in place to manage the cybersecurity maturity and initiatives of Wollongong City Council. Risks to the information and systems of Wollongong City Council have been assessed and are managed.

There exists a current cyber incident response plan for Wollongong City Council which has been tested during the reporting period. Wollongong City Council has a Cyber Security Framework (CSF) in place.

Wollongong City Council has done the following to continuously improve the management of cyber security governance and resilience:

- Appointed a Regional Chief Information Officer and Operational Security Analyst.
- Regularly reported to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee identified threats and vulnerabilities.
- Undertaken extensive training cyber security awareness for staff.
- Implemented controls for identified cyber threats and vulnerabilities in line with Council's Risk Appetite Statement
- Identified Council's 'crown jewels'.

Contracts Awarded

In accordance with Reg cl 217 (a2) of the Local Government Act 1993 the following is a list of contracts equal to or greater than \$150,000 awarded during the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 (whether as a result of tender or otherwise):

Tender N°	Name of Contractor	Contract Description	Contract Amount (Including GST) \$
E5670	GHD Pty Ltd	WWARRP Stage 2B-2 Detailed Design	\$525,234.52
E1000002	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Swan Street Shared Path	\$581,050.47
T21/16	Boab Services Pty Ltd Commercial Cleaning	Cleaning service for the Wollongong City Mall	\$480,000.00
N1000002	Project Coordination (Australia) Pty Ltd	Corrimal Beach Tourist Park Amenities	\$1,344,625.04
E1000051	Source Separation Systems Pty. Ltd Batteries	FOGO compostable liner rolls supply and delivery	\$1,200,540.00
T1000007	Central West Electrical Contractors Pty Ltd	Thomas Dalton Park, Fairy Meadow Sportsfield Lighting Upgrade	\$1,061,553.97
E1000078	M & A Lukin	Coalcliff Surf Life Saving Club Remedial Works	\$151,954.00
E5667	Land HQ	3 x John Deere 6100 4WD Tractors 1 x John Deere 6100M 4WD Tractor with Gal Rims	\$493,192.96
E1000006	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd, State Asphalt Services Pty Ltd Road Resurfacing, NA Group Pty Ltd Construction Services	Roads - Spray Seal + Rejuvenation Primary Supplier	\$1,000,000.00 +
E1000074	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Windang Beach Tourist Park Supply and Install of Solar and BBQs	\$205,905.47
T21/10	Diverse Civil Contracting Pty Ltd	Cringila Hills Pump Track, Bike Skills Playground and associated works	\$2,847,839.13
E1000038	Southern Relining Services Pipe Relining	Stormwater Pipe Reline Works	\$177,133.00
T1000015	Dynamic Civil Pty Ltd	Grand Pacific Walk - Boardwalk Rehabilitation	\$315,197.30
E1000036	Wilmot Civil Pty Ltd Repairs & Maintenance Services	Stormwater Pipe Reline Works	\$251,045.19
T1000011	VBuilt Construction Group Pty Ltd Roofing Services	Bulli Seniors Centre and Childcare Refurbishment Works	\$732,271.18
E1000079	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Replacement of Bellambi Beach Shelters and New Paths	\$222,562.18
E1000055	Wilmot Civil Pty Ltd Repairs & Maintenance Services	Stormwater Pipe Reline Works	\$224,021.35
E1000065	Office Feuerman	Creative Signage and Seating Globe Lane	\$173,511.14
T1000009	TECY Transport Pty Ltd	Dapto Pool Kiosk and Cash Collection Services Licence	\$220,000.00
T1000010	Corrimal Swim Squad Pty Ltd Cash Collection Services	Corrimal Pool Kiosk and Cash Collection Licence	\$198,000.00
E1000037	Interflow Pty Ltd	Stormwater Pipe Reline Works	\$291,751.95

X1000126	AJ and ME Landscapes Pty Ltd Construction Materials	Paving Installation - Lower Crown Street South Side	\$445,500.00
E1000087	Creative Recreation Solutions Pty Ltd Construction	Bulli Beach Playground Replacement	\$296,985.00
E5668	Coniston Trucks Pty Ltd	1 x Isuzu Cab chassis	\$308,400.63
E1000096	Dynamic Civil Pty Ltd	Lean Mix Base for Franklin Avenue Bulli	\$181,858.00
E1000121	Ledacon Pty Ltd	Drainage Works - Station Road Otford	\$205,536.84
E1000056	Interflow Pty Ltd	Stormwater Pipe Reline Works	\$201,783.13
E1000059	Interflow Pty Ltd	Stormwater Pipe Reline Works	\$731,285.54
E1000106	Roadworx Surfacing Pty Ltd, Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd, Planet Civil Pty Ltd, Bitupave Limited Asphalt	Asphalt Patching and Resurfacing Primary Supplier	\$3,294,321.23+
E1000156	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Botanic Garden Nursery Re-roof	\$269,025.42
T1000028	Dynamic Civil Pty Ltd	Lindsay Maynes Park Unanderra Criterium Track and Associated Works	\$2,555,347.99
T1000012	Cadifern Pty Ltd	West Dapto Road Upgrade Stage 1 (Water Services Relocation)	\$928,752.24
E1000073	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Keira Mine Road, West Wollongong Embankment Stabilisation	\$1,454,858.65
T1000027	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow Embankment Stabilisation	\$741,188.80
E1000123	Ethos Urban Pty Ltd	West Dapto Needs Assessment Project	\$167,882.00
E5699	GHD Pty Ltd	Dam Safety Management	\$367,411.00
E1000075	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Windang Beach Tourist Park Supply and Prep of External Works TAFE Cabins	\$305,483.18
T1000038	A J Grant Building Pty Ltd Repairs & Maintenance Services	Port Kembla Sailing Club - reroofing and floor replacement	\$254,694.00
E1000175	GC Civil Contracting Pty Ltd Construction Roads & Civil	The Ridge, Helensburgh Retaining Wall	\$418,354.20
T1000042	Planet Civil Pty Ltd	Denison Street Wollongong Road Safety Upgrades	\$207,328.30
E1000146	Cleary Bros Bombo Pty Ltd	Leanmix Pavement Construction - Marlo Rd Towradgi	\$571,418.73
E1000001	Datacom Systems (AU) Pty Ltd	Microsoft Software Enterprise Agreement 2021 - 2024	\$1,546,131.00
T1000043	Dynamic Civil Pty Ltd	Continental Pool Wollongong Intake Pipeline Replacement	\$816,333.10
E1000145	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty. Limited	Stabilisation for Railway Cres, Stanwell Park	\$221,335.40
E1000144	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty. Limited	Stabilisation for Harry Graham Drive, Kembla Heights	\$265,675.58
E1000154	Quadracon Building Pty Ltd	Corrimal Preschool Kitchen and Laundry Refurbishment	\$208,601.39
E1000147	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Kembla Heights Community Hall Kitchen Upgrade	\$222,321.26
T1000041	Ground Stabilisation Systems Pty Ltd	Harry Graham Drive - Rockfall Barrier Brandy and Water Creek	\$2,667,240.46
T1000049	The RIX Group Pty Ltd	Lake Heights Road Retaining Wall	\$2,205,524.72

E1000203	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty. Limited	Stabilisation Walker St Helensburgh	\$343,220.54
E1000191	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty. Limited	Huntley Road, Avondale Pavement Stabilisation Works	\$1,519,139.47
E1000205	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty. Limited	Stabilisation Squires Way North Wollongong	\$878,796.01
E1000167	Cleary Bros Bombo Pty Ltd	Leanmix Pavement Construction Ramah Ave Mt Ousley	\$160,314.55
E1000215	Cleary Bros Bombo Pty Ltd	Leanmix concrete construction- Carcoola St, Mt Keira	\$352,041.68
E1000217	Cleary Bros Bombo Pty Ltd	Leanmix concrete construction- Francis St, Gwynneville	\$458,767.42
E1000216	Cleary Bros Bombo Pty Ltd	Leanmix concrete construction- Bulwarra St, Keiraville	\$319,303.92
E1000232	Abergeldie Contractors Pty Ltd	Harry Graham Drive Mt Kembla: Repair of Failed Road Embankment	\$2,241,475.20
T1000044	Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Banking Services	\$1,687,257.00
T1000037	Asplundh Tree Expert (Australia) Pty Ltd, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council Consultant, Southern Habitat (NSW) Pty Ltd Bushland Restoration, Ecohort Pty Ltd Bushland Restoration, Bowantz Bushfire and Environmental Bush Regeneration, Good Bush Pty Ltd Bush Regeneration, Midges Bushland Restoration Pty Ltd Bushland Restoration, Commelina Bushworks Natural Area Restoration, Adeco Environmental Bush Regeneration, Toolijooa Pty Ltd, Bushland Management Solutions Pty Ltd	Natural Area Restoration and Bushfire Hazard Reduction Works	\$9,900,000.00
T1000050	Milestone Construction Group Pty Ltd	Fisherman's Beach Access Ramp	\$478,030.30
T1000055	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Port Kembla Beach Access Ramp	\$428,066.38
PO1034874	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty. Limited	Princes Highway Kembla Grange Stabilisation	\$583,735.24
E1000010	Australian Hammer Supplies Pty Ltd	Supply of 12 Kubota F3690 Outfront Mowers Includes Tbar + 3 Mulch Kits.	\$380,809.00
E1000014	Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd	8 tonne Excavator	\$218,020.00
E1000019	Marriott Tree Equipment Pty Ltd	Supply trailer mounted woodchipper	\$151,024.50
E1000028	Cleary Bros Bombo Pty Ltd	Reconstruction Raymond Rd, Thirroul	\$260,883.61
E1000029	Cleary Bros Bombo Pty Ltd	Reconstruction Cocks Ave, Corrimal	\$290,675.28
E1000093	Roadworx Surfacing Pty Ltd	Road Stabilisation at Yallah Rd, Yallah	\$192,849.76
E1000097	Roadworx Surfacing Pty Ltd	Road stabilisation for Marshall Mount Rd, Dapto	\$241,673.26
E1000105	Creative Recreation Solutions Pty Ltd	Supply and Installation of playground design for Guest Park, Fairy Meadow	\$208,996.65
E1000108	Glory Marble & Granite	Paver supply Crown, Market x 2 and Burelli Street Projects	\$195,035.50

E1000138	Dynamic Civil Pty Ltd	Cordeaux Rd, Unanderra Patching	\$151,102.60
E1000163	Cardno NSW ACT Pty Ltd	Integral and Administration Buildings Condition Reporting	\$161,826.50
E5663	Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd	Wheel Loader	\$573,562.00
E5671	Coniston Trucks Pty Ltd	Four Trucks	\$625,688.00
E5682	Roadworx Surfacing Pty Ltd	Road Stabilisation of Franklin Avenue, Bulli	\$158,463.14
E5690	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty. Limited	Road Stabilisation Foreshore Road, Port Kembla	\$620,099.13
E5696	NSW Electoral Commission	Local Government Elections	\$1,314,111.60
PO1032284	Bolinda Digital Pty Ltd	Printed materials - Library Services	\$310,000.00
PO1032929	Boral Construction Materials NSW	Profile, supply and lay AC resurfacing at Bourke St, Fairy Meadow	\$151,162.87
PO1034132	Boral Construction Materials NSW	Profile, supply and lay AC resurfacing at Wongawilli Rd Wongawilli (Smiths Lane to end west)	\$187,387.22
PO1036440	Boral Construction Materials NSW	Profile, supply and lay AC resurfacing at Princes H'way Kembla Grange	\$258,203.30
PO1040517	Total Drain Cleaning Services Pty Ltd	Emergency Stormwater Disaster Works	\$231,560.56
PO1033040	Australian Laboratory Services	Environmental compliance testing at Whytes Gully and Helensburgh Waste Depots	\$150,000.00
LGP507-4	Panel - Various Book Suppliers	Library Books and Resource Materials	\$1,699,500+

Controlled Entities

There are no controlled entities in the financial statements for 2021-2022.

Council has significant influence over the following entities but do not consolidate due to their immaterial value and nature.

- Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Limited
- Wollongong City of Innovation Limited (trading as Destination Wollongong)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation

Partnerships, Cooperatives or Joint Ventures

Wollongong City Council was part of joint ventures with CivicRisk Mutual Ltd, whose principal activities are insurance. From 1 July 2021, the CivicRisk entities were reconstituted to form CivicRisk Mutual Ltd, a company limited by guarantee. This entity is not recognised as a joint venture.

Financial Assistance to Persons for Council Functions

Contributions of \$0.8M were made under section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 in 2021-2022.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' to its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government.

The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 Government Policy statement on the Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government.

The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses 'A Guide to Competitive Neutrality' issued by the Division of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard of disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents; Council subsidies; return on investments (rate of return); and dividends paid.

DECLARED BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses 'A Guide to Competitive Neutrality' Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

CATEGORY 1 (where gross operating turnover is over \$2M):

Waste Disposal - Manages the disposal of solid waste generated within the city.

Tourist Parks - Operation, management and development of Tourist Parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang.

Health and Fitness - Responsible for the management and upkeep of Council's Leisure Centres.

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY COMPLAINTS

Underpinning competitive neutrality is the need to properly recognise the full costs of Council's business activities. This allows comparisons to be made with competitors in the same marketplace and provides information that will allow Council to determine pricing policies for each business.

Wollongong City Council has a process distributing indirect costs and overheads attributable to the declared business activities which are shown in the Special Purpose Financial Reports.

Rates and Charges Written Off

	\$
Postponed Rates	14,063
Postponed Interest	564
Council Voluntary Pension Rebate	338,810
Rates written off due to Crown Lease cancelled	nil
Total	353,437

Companion Animal Management

Council submitted all Pound Data Returns to the Office of Local Government within required timeframes. These returns included information regarding dog attacks that occurred throughout the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) during the 2021-2022 year. The Pound Data returns included the following information:

- 163 dog attacks occurred within the Wollongong LGA in 2021-2022
- Council seized 495 companion animals in 2021-2022
- Council returned 64 companion animals to their owners, the remaining animals were impounded.

Council undertakes its impounding activities in accordance with a Deed of Agreement with the NSW RSPCA, through their facility at Industrial Road, Unanderra. This partnership provides opportunities for the re-homing of companion animals with Council and the RSPCA working together to maximise this outcome.

Council also has a Hardship Policy that was utilised during 2021-2022. This Policy provides increased opportunities to coordinate payment options for owners who may be experiencing financial difficulty to have their animals released from the Pound and taken home.

Throughout 2021-2022, Council expended \$1,531,083 on companion animal management activities with all the companion animal registration income returned from the Office of Local Government's Companion Animal Fund being invested back into these companion animal management activities.

During this reporting year, Council continued the implementation of the companion animal signage upgrade program that commenced early in 2019 with updated zone, demarcation and information signage being installed at the following beaches:

- Sandon Point beach Bulli
- McCauley's beach Thirroul

Signage at the remaining beaches and parks will be upgraded as part of a staged program that will continue into 2022-2023.

Council partnered with the RSPCA as part of the Companion Animal Welfare (CAWS) Program to facilitate a subsidised de-sexing and microchipping program for residents of Berkeley, Cringila, Lake Heights, Port Kembla and Warrawong.

A community education program was also developed and implemented throughout 2021-2022. This program included extensive summer radio and social media messaging campaigns, the development and distribution of promotional materials (brochures, dog leads and waste bags) as well as regular articles in the Community Newsletter.

Council's Foreshore Animal Compliance Officers worked throughout 2021-2022 with a focus on the busy beaches and foreshore parkland areas. Our Foreshore Animal Compliance Officers implemented a tiered beach patrol program across the City's beaches, with the program operating seven days per week. The program focused on compliance and education around Council's Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy.

The current list of declared off-leash beaches are:

- Perkins Beach, Windang (extending from Shellharbour Road/Wattle Street beach walkway north to access way south of Port Kembla Surf Life Saving Club southern car park)
- MM Beach, Port Kembla
- Coniston Beach, Coniston (south of Bank Street)
- Beach area directly east of Puckey's Estate, Fairy Meadow (walkway north of Fairy Creek lagoon to walkway south of playground at Fairy Meadow Beach)
- East Corrimal Beach (from northern side of Bellambi Lagoon to Bellambi Point)
- Bellambi (between Bellambi ramp and ocean pool)
- McCauley's Beach, Bulli and Thirroul
- Little Austinmer Beach, Austinmer
- Sharkey's Beach, Coledale (from the car park, south toward the rock outcrop)
- Stanwell Park Beach (north of northern lagoon)

In addition, Council also has a number of off-leash dog areas in the following parks and reserves:

- Figtree Oval, Figtree
- Proud Park, Helensburgh
- Riley Park, Unanderra
- Eleebana Reserve, Koonawarra
- King George V Park, Port Kembla
- Reed Park, Dapto (fenced dog park)

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Section 7.5(5) Planning Agreements

Particulars of compliance with and the effect of Planning Agreements in force during the year.

Agreement Description	Property Description	Agreement Date	Particulars of compliance with and effect of
Bulli Brickworks Land dedication and onsite works.	Lot 2, DP 582940 and Lot 207, DP 228538, Princes Highway, BULLI	5/6/2013	No effect this period.
Vista Park Subdivision Monetary contributions, land dedication and onsite works.	Lots 1, 2, 5 and 6 DP 1169628, Lot 4 DP 1178706, Lot 2 DP 1175865, known as 60 Smiths Lane, WONGAWILLI	25/07/2013	No effect this period.
Alkira Estate, Horsley Monetary contributions, land dedication and onsite works.	Lots 3, 5, 6 and 9 in DP 33650, Lot N in DP 103642 and Lot 4 in DP 661032 otherwise known as 80, 88, 94, 104 Shone Avenue and Lot 9 Iredell Road, HORSLEY	8/09/2015	No effect this period.
Calderwood Monetary contributions of 6 staged payments toward the construction of Marshall Mount Road, Yallah Road and new road NR1-NR3	Lot 2 DP 2534, Lots 1-4 and 8 DP 259137, Lot 112 DP 851153, Lots 21,22 and 23 DP 1224293, Lots 21 and 22 DP 809156, Lot 1 DP195342, Lot 1 DP 558196, Lot 10 DP 619547, Lot 42 DP 878122, Lots 1101-1175, 1177 and 1182 DP 1202087, Lots 1201, 1222-1225, 1227, 1233 and 1234 DP 1206166, Lots 1301-1377, 1379-1380 and 1382-1383 DP 1206167, Lots 1401-1450 DP 1206168, Lot 2 DP 158988, Lot 1 and Lot 2 DP 608238, Lot 1 DP 1044038, Lot 1 DP 998349.	13/12/2017	No effect this period.
University of Wollongong Public domain works.	Lot 2 DP 252694, Murphy's Avenue, KEIRAVILLE	7/9/2018	Monetary contributions of \$628,771 received during the period.
128 North Macquarie Road, Calderwood Monetary contributions	Lot 8 DP 259137, 128 North Macquarie Road, CALDERWOOD	14/8/2019	No effect this period.
81 Escarpment Drive, Calderwood Monetary contributions	Lot 1 DP 558196, 81 Escarpment Drive, CALDERWOOD	14/8/2019	No effect this period
347 Calderwood Road, Calderwood Monetary contributions	Lot 1 DP 608238, 347 Calderwood Road, CALDERWOOD	3/11/2020	No effect this period

Swimming Pool Inspections

The *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and regulations together with Australian Standard 1926 establish the safety standards for 'backyard' swimming pools. Council's role in this regulatory program is to:

- Ensure notification and registration of all swimming pools in the city
- Establish a swimming pool inspection program to assist in ensuring owner compliance
- Investigate safety concerns and complaints
- Promote awareness of the requirements in having a swimming pool

Inspection of swimming pool barriers has continued over the last 12 months with a focus on inspections generated by the sale or rental of residential properties. To assist with managing resources and workload including the impacts of COVID-19, simplified inspection checklists and reports have been developed.

An external audit of Council's Swimming Pool Safety Program was conducted in late 2021 identifying several opportunities to improve the program including development of a formal Swimming Pool Barrier Education Program and a review of Council's existing swimming pool barrier inspection program particularly the identification of non-registered or non-approved pools.

Inspections of pool barriers located at tourist and visitor accommodation	28
Inspections of pool barriers upon premises with two or more dwellings	5
Total number of compliance certificates issued	64
Total number of non-compliance certificates issued	26

Environmental Upgrade Agreements (Section 54p)

Particulars of any environmental upgrade agreement entered into, in accordance with any requirements imposed under s406

Nil. This is not a service offered by Wollongong City Council.

Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans (Reg cl 217(1) (e))

Councils identified in a plan as responsible for implementation of measures included in the plan, must report on actions taken to implement those measures as to the state of the environment in its area.

Nil. Wollongong City Council is not identified in a plan.

Coastal Protection Services (Fisheries Management Act 1994, s220ZT (2))

Nil. Wollongong City Council do not have a levy for Coastal Protection Services.

Stormwater Management Services

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CHARGE

In accordance with Section 496A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council levies a stormwater management charge on all parcels of rateable land within the urban area of the City of Wollongong categorised for rating purposes as 'Residential' or 'Business' (including all sub-categories), not being vacant land, or land owned by the Crown, or land held under a lease for private purposes granted under the Housing Act 2001 or The Aboriginal Housing Act 1998.

The following charges apply:

- Land categorised as residential (not being a strata lot) \$25.00.
- Residential strata lot \$12.50.
- Land categorised as business (not being a business strata lot) \$25.00 per 350 square metres or part capped at a maximum of \$100.00.
- Business strata lot \$25.00 per 350 square metres or part of the area of land upon which the lot exists capped at a maximum of \$100.00 and divided by the number of business strata lots on that area of land.

Projected Versus Actual Expenditure on Stormwater Infrastructure

Stormwater Management Service	Expenditure \$'000	Funding * \$'000
Planned - Operational Plan 2021-22	\$3,344	\$1,870
Actual costs 2021-22	\$2,408	\$1,876
Difference	\$936	\$(6)

* Stormwater Management Service Charge revenue

ALLOCATION OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE FUNDS

Income from the Stormwater Management Service Charge is allocated across five categories as follows:

Category	Planned Expenditure 2021-2022 \$	Final Expenditure 2021-2022 \$	Reasons for change
Stormwater Quantity Management	0	0	
Stormwater and Watercourse Quality Management	781,000	781,236	
Dam Safety Management	485,000	205,717	Inclement weather impacted progress on planned dam risk management investigations and reports
Stormwater Operational Management	461,000	311,038	Inclement weather impacted Council's ability to affect planned maintenance activities.
Stormwater Asset Management System	461,000	326,812	Inclement weather impacted Council's ability to undertake planned CCTV inspections of the stormwater network.
Floodplain Structures	0	46,063	Flood risk management plan and maintenance activities carried out.
Total:	\$2,188,000	\$1,670,866	

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE FUNDED WORKS**Stormwater Quantity Management**

Construction of new or enhanced stormwater drainage services to address current needs.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding \$
N/A		0
Total		0

Stormwater and Watercourse Quality Management

Construction or renewal of infrastructure for debris and/or pollution control; and creek bank clearing and revegetation with appropriate native species to maintain or improve stormwater flows, improve natural pollution control including siltation reduction and weed propagation as well as reducing flood risks.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding \$
Stormwater - Weed Tree Removal	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$39,236
Bellambi Creek - Albert Street	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$7,500
Branch Creek - Gellately Ave and O'Briens Road Figtree	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$4,000
Budjong Creek - Imperial Drive Berkeley	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$30,000
Byarong Creek - Figtree	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$25,000
Cabbage Tree Creek - UoW Innovation Campus North Wollongong	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$15,000
Cabbage Tree Creek - Alvan St, Helen Brae, Ira Ave Fairy Meadow	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$12,000
Cabbage Tree Creek - Foothills Road Balgownie	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$3,000
Cabbage Tree Creek - Cabbage Tree Lane, McMahon St Mt Ousley	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$5,000
Charcoal Creek - Cummins St Unanderra	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$20,000
Fairy Creek - Fraternity Club Fairy Meadow	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$8,000
Fairy Creek - Thomas Dalton Park Fairy Meadow	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$11,000
Fairy Creek - Wisemans Park Gwynneville Basin	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$6,000
Hospital Creek - Warrawong	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Stanwell Creek - Stanwell Park	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$2,500
Towradgi Creek - Lemrac Avenue Corrimall	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$2,000
Towradgi Creek - Meadow St, Karen Place, Underwood St Corrimall	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$2,000
American Creek - Gibsons Road, Mt Kembla	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Farahars Creek - Halley Crescent Woonona	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$2,500
Mullet Creek - Bong Bong Rd, Dapto	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$15,000
Robins Creek - Horsley	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$20,000
Mullet Creek - Avondale Road Dapto	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Ena Avenue Dapto	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Minnegang Creek - Ranchby Avenue Lake Heights	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Fairy Creek - Porter Street North Wollongong	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$2,000
Minnegang Creek - Denise Street Lake Heights	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Fairy Creek - Gilmore Park West Wollongong	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$15,000
American Creek - O'Briens Road Figtree	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$7,500
Camp Creek - Helensburgh - Landcom	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$7,000
Towradgi Creek - IRT Tarrawanna	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$7,500
Towradgi Creek - Meadow and Keira Streets Tarrawanna	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$1,000
Tramway Creek - North Depot Bulli	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$1,000
Slacky Creek Bulli	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$18,000

Project Location	Work Description	Funding \$
Brooks Creek - Kanahooka and Dapto	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$25,000
Towradgi Creek East - Railway St/Ziems St Corrimal	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$22,500
Whartons Creek - Bulli SWL	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$18,500
Fairy Creek - Mercury Street North Wollongong	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$5,000
Edgewood Estate Woonona	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Bellambi Creek - John Parker Reserve Russell Vale	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$5,000
Edgar St/WSLR Caters Lane Towradgi	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$11,000
Colvin St Detention Basin Dapto	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$25,000
Collins Creek - Carrington Road Woonona	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$35,000
Bellambi Creek - Pioneer Beach Estate Woonona	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$15,000
Mountbatten Park Corrimal	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$7,500
Hargraves Creek. Recreation Area Unanderra	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$5,000
Pioneer Rd Towradgi West Stormwater	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$5,000
Foothills Rd/ Charles Rd Fernhill S/water	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$14,000
Sunninghill Circuit Mt Ousley	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$8,000
Foothills and John St Woonona	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$4,000
George Fuller Drive Figtree	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$3,000
Brandy and Water Creek	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$4,000
Cosgrove Ave Keiraville	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$2,000
Florence and Storey St Fairy Meadow	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$4,000
Gurungaty Water Way Port Kembla - JJ Kelly Park Wollongong S/water works	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$16,000
Creek Run Cordeaux Heights	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$11,000
Caroona Street Berkeley	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$7,000
Lindsay Maynes Park Unanderra	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$40,000
Hibiscus Pl and Bruce St Unanderra	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$20,000
Auburn Pde Cringila	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Windang Rd Windang Drain	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$5,000
Hartley Close Windang	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$5,000
North Terrace Dapto	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Fairy Creek - Opp Nth Gong Hotel/Nth PCYC North Wollongong	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$3,000
Whipbird Reserve Port Kembla	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$3,000
Tathra Reserve Keiraville	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$6,000
Robsons Road West Wollongong Reserve	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$3,000
College Place Gwynneville	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$3,000
Foley Street North Wollongong	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$4,000
Koloona Park Figtree	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$10,000
Cabbage Tree Creek - Guest Park Fairy Meadow	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$25,000
WASIP - American Creek - Figtree Park	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$4,000
Branch Creek - Murray Park Road Figtree	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$8,000
Cobbler's Run Figtree	Weed removal and replanting with native species	\$11,000
Total		\$781,236

Dam Safety Management

Planning, engineering investigations and undertaking operational activities associated with managing the risk of Council's Declared Dam asset portfolio.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding \$
Citywide	Affecting routine inspections and maintenance, as well as completion of dam break studies and safety reviews by specialist engineering consultants.	\$205,717
Total		\$205,717

Stormwater Operational Management

Planning and undertaking operational activities including cleaning of debris and pollution control assets.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding \$
Citywide	Cleaning and removing of debris from stormwater pollution control and stormwater drainage infrastructure	\$311,038
Total		\$311,038

Stormwater Asset Management System

Collection of asset management data on the stormwater drainage network, the urban drainage (pits and pipes), creeks/waterways, flood attenuation and management structures and pollution/ debris control structures. This information is used to refine and update the asset management plan including maintenance, capital renewal and augmentation programs.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding \$
Citywide	Programmed inspections of stormwater assets, develop maintenance and capital renewal programs	\$326,812
Total		\$326,812

Floodplain Structure

Planning and undertaking detailed design and reviews of floodplain risk management plans/structure

Project Location	Work Description	Funding \$
Citywide	Programmed inspections of stormwater assets (Creeks), develop maintenance and capital renewal programs	\$46,063
Total		\$46,063

Condition of Public Works

Financial information on the condition of public works is reported in the General Purpose Financial Statements through Note C1-8 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment, Note E2-1 - Fair Value Measurement; and Special Schedule - Report on Infrastructure Assets.

Work Carried Out on Private Land *[Section 67(3)]*

Throughout the year, Council did not complete any works on private lands applicable under Section 67 Subsection 2(b) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Public Interest Disclosures (PID)

Public authorities are required to report annually to Parliament on their obligations under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (Section 31). The Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (PID Act) sets in place a system to encourage public officials to report serious wrongdoing. The conditions around this reporting are set out in Council's Internal Reporting Policy.

Public Interest Disclosures received and investigated by Council during 2021-2022 include:	
Number of public officials who made PIDs	4
Number of PIDs received	4
Alleged Corrupt Conduct	1
Number of PIDs finalised	3

During the reporting period, Council undertook the following actions to meet its staff awareness obligations:

- Policy briefing to senior managers
- Staff undertaking that they have read and understood Council's Code of Conduct and reporting procedures
- Reminder messages shared through the Hub and Team Brief's

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

The Government Information (Public Access) Act was introduced 1 July 2010 and facilitates access to information Council holds in the following ways: Mandatory release of information via Council's website (Open Access), authorised proactive release via Council's website, informal release subject to an Informal Access Application and release subject to a Formal Access Application. Any person who wishes to obtain access to information held by Council is encouraged to contact our Right to Information Officers for assistance. There are a number of Open Access documents available including the Community Strategic Plan 2028, management plans, annual reports, annual budgets, plans and policies, meeting agendas and minutes, and graffiti, contracts and land registers. These, and other documents, are easily accessed via our website.

The following table specifies the number of Formal Access Applications lodged under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 received during the 2021-2022 period. Statutory processing times were complied with in all cases bar one, in which the applicant consented to an extension.

Month	Number of Applications Received	Applications processed within the statutory timeframe of 20 working days
July	4	Yes
August	5	No
September	3	Yes
October	1	Yes
November	4	Yes
December	2	Yes
January	0	Yes
February	3	Yes
March	1	Yes
April	0	Yes
May	4	Yes
June	7	Yes

Where a Formal Access Application is received, and it is likely to be of interest to members of the public, Council may make the details available by publishing the content to its disclosure log. The disclosure log contains non-personal information only and can be viewed on Council's website via the following link - www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/your-council/access-to-information/information-registers/disclosure-log

Summary of Legal Proceedings

Particulars	Finalised	Expenses Including GST \$	Receipts Excluding GST \$
Liability Litigation Against Council			
Commercial Litigation	No	206,000.00	Nil
Personal Injury	Yes	122,046.03	Nil
Personal Injury	No	259,822.87	Nil
Council Initiated Litigation			
Unauthorised Structures and Use	Yes	15,000.00	Nil
General Prosecutions	Yes	19,274.00	N/A
Debt	N/A	157,000.00	N/A
Planning Appeals Against Council			
Refusal of Development Applications	Yes	220,000.00	24,000
Refusal of Development Applications	No	341,000.00	Nil

External Bodies that Exercise Functions Delegated by Council

During 2021-2022 the following external bodies assisted Council with the exercising of its functions as allowed under Section 355 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Body	Function
OPEN SPACE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Alanson Avenue Fiready	APZ maintenance
Allen Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Alvan Parade Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Arunta Drive, Thirroul	APZ Maintenance
Balmer Crescent Fiready	APZ maintenance
Banksia Bushcare (Stanwell Park)	Bushland restoration
Bellambi Beach Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Bellambi Dune Bushcare	Dune/lagoon restoration
Blue Divers Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Blue Lagoon Bushcare	Coastal/riparian restoration
Brandy and Water Cree Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Brickyard Point Bushcare	Coastal headland restoration
Brooks Creek Upper	Riparian restoration
Buttenshaw Place Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Byarong Creek (Figtree) Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Byarong Creek (Mt Keira) Bushcare	Riparian restoration
City Beach Dunecare	Dune restoration
Clifton Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Coledale Bushcare	Sea cliff restoration
Colvin St	Bushland restoration
Compton St	Bushland restoration
Compton St FiReady	APZ maintenance
Emperor Court Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Farmborough Waterfall Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Figtree Oval Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Friends of Wollongong Botanic Garden	Through active volunteering, the Friends foster community interest in the garden, promote the role of education in the garden, and support the development of the garden by raising funds for specific projects.
Garden Avenue Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Garden Avenue Fiready	APZ maintenance
Gellatly Bushcare	Riparian restoration
George Fuller Drive Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Gilmore Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Greenhouse Park Bushcare	Revegetation
Guest Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Harry Morton Park - FiReady	APZ maintenance
Helensburgh Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Hewitts Creek Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Hewitts Ck (Armagh Pde) FiReady	APZ maintenance
Hooka Point Bushcare	Saltmarsh/riparian restoration
Keira Oval Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Kelly Street Bushcare	Bushland Restoration

Body	Function
Kelvin Road Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Kooloobong Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Kulgoa Road Bushcare	Riparian Restoration
Kurrimul Creek Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Lower Hill Street Fiready	APZ maintenance
Mangerton Park Bushcare	Dry rainforest
Mangerton Park Project	Dry rainforest
Mount Kembla Pathway Project	Maintenance of Memorial Track
Murray Garden Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Nyrang Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Odenpa Road Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Port Beach Dunecare	Dune Restoration
Puckeys Estate Bushcare	Dune/lagoon restoration
Rae Crescent Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Reed Park Bushcare	Bushland Restoration
Richardson Park Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Riveroak Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Sharkies Beach Dunecare	Dune Restoration
Stephen Drive Fiready	APZ maintenance
Sunninghill Circuit Fiready	APZ maintenance
Tathra Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Throsby Drive Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Towradgi Dune Bushcare	Dune restoration
Underwood Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Upper Hill Street Fiready	APZ maintenance
Wharton's Creek Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Whipbird Reserve Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Windang Dunes South Dunecare	Dune restoration
Wisemans Park Bushcare	Woodland restoration
Wollomai Pt Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort Dunecare	Dune restoration
Wombarra Creek Bushcare	Riparian Restoration
Wombarra Pool	Bushland restoration
Yanderra Bushcare	Riparian Restoration
PROPERTY & RECREATION	
Surf Life Saving Illawarra	To provide lifesaving and rescue services to Council in accordance with the executed Service Agreement.
Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group	Undertake minor maintenance and works to the grounds and improvements of Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery also utilising private equipment and labour from the Periodical Detention Centre.
Friends of Scarborough Cemetery	Undertake minor maintenance and works to the grounds and improvements of Scarborough cemetery.
LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Bulli Senior Citizens' Centre	To occupy, manage, secure, care take and maintain the premises on behalf of Council. Make the premises available for use by senior groups, community groups and others compatible with guidelines at mutually agreed times.

Body	Function
Community Transport Volunteers	To transport eligible older people and their carers and people that are transport disadvantaged in their own vehicles or Council's vehicles.
Social Support Services Volunteers	To provide social support in the community for eligible people. To provide respite care for eligible carers of people living with dementia.
Volunteering Illawarra Volunteers	Interviewing members of the public interested in volunteering their time in the community.
Wollongong City Library Volunteers	Broadly working in libraries to gain skills undertaking administrative and customer service tasks such as IT training and events.
COMMUNITY CULTURAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Living Books	To be a "living book" as part of Council's Living Book program which includes sharing their story with young people and members of the Community at Living Book events
Wollongong Art Gallery Volunteers	To fulfil the role of Gallery guides, provide informed talks and facilitate discussion about the exhibitions for both school groups and adult members of the community. Gallery Guides, provide informed talks and facilitate discussion about the exhibitions for both school groups and adult members of the community. Customer Service, assist at the Gallery reception desk, assist staff with general administration, assist visitors providing information regarding gallery programs and activities.

Details of Overseas Visits by Councillors and Council Staff

There were no overseas visits by Councillors or Staff during the 2021-2022 Financial Year.

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

Council's Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Policy, has a Statement of Commitment which states:

Our strength is the diversity of our people.

Together our responsibility is to create an inclusive place where everyone is welcome, valued and belongs. We lead with courage, openness and curiosity. Our conversations and actions celebrate diversity, inclusion and belonging.

In parallel, Council has drafted a new Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan outlining Council's commitment to attracting, recruiting and retaining people with diverse abilities, skills, experiences and backgrounds. A workforce that reflects the diversity of our community is better positioned to understand the needs of our community and deliver high quality services. The refreshed EEO Management Policy will also see the finalisation of the EEO Action Plan in the 2022-2023 Financial year. The purpose of the EEO Action Plan is to promote equity and equal employment opportunity for underrepresented groups including Aboriginal people, people from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background, people with disability, women and young people. It is for that reason the EEO Action Plan is directly aligned to our existing: Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025; Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), endorsed by Reconciliation Australia during 2021-2022; Positive Ageing Action Plan 2018-2022 and Child Safety Implementation Plan 2020-2022. It is this combined approach of Council's Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Policy, the EEO Management Policy and the EEO Action Plan alongside the above-mentioned action plans clearly articulate Council's commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging and Council's legislative responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1983.

During the 2021-2022 financial year, Council continued to deliver workforce diversity programs that operationalised Council's strategies and focused on equal employment opportunity initiatives in the community. Council also undertook a number of activities that provided and sustained opportunities for diverse groups in our community.

Ongoing improvements to Council's recruitment practices resulted in an increased focus on the candidate experience, continued improvements in assessment methods to determine candidate capabilities and behaviours relative to the role and a continued improvement to pre-employment screening processes. Council's Recruitment Information Pack was updated to include our Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Statement of Commitment. Council's Employee Value Proposition (EVP) was finalised alongside a Leadership Value Proposition (LVP) now forms part of Council's Recruitment Information Packs and continues to build on Council's employer brand. Career days were unable to be held during the 2021-2022 period because of the risk protocols to manage the COVID-19 pandemic environment and associated NSW Public Health Orders.

Outside of Council's work in developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), Council is continuing to honor its commitment to support an indigenous PhD candidate by participating in their research relating to 'Improving Cultural Diversity in Corporate Australia' despite much of the activity having been on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. Council is also actively exploring various platforms to support First Nations people to identify and access employment opportunities. Council's objective to partner with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council on a local jobs board arrangement to improve our reach with Aboriginal community is testament to this approach. Council's three RAP Champions, who are all key organisational leaders, continue to advocate for and support reconciliation, inclusion and equity of our Indigenous community. During the 2021-2022-year Council's RAP Champions actively participated in the first Australian Reconciliation Convention of this century. As part of the Australian Reconciliation Day in May 2022, staff were invited to a Yarning Circle to hear about the lived experience of two local Aboriginal Elders. Due to the pandemic impacting on the timing of the event, it was held later in the year.

During the year Council, reviewed and/or developed new Action Plan strategies in our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2020-2025; Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and Child Safe Council Policy. In reviewing these and many other documents, an easy English guide has been adopted to improve the accessibility to Council Information. Accessibility to our library services continues to improve with the availability of online jigsaws, eBooks and delivery services. Accessibility for our staff continues to grow via digital devices that enable remote access to a range of new SMART Technologies to improve the quality of services to our community.

Council continued to build the capability of our staff through a draft Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Learning Framework. Training recommenced in Diversity Awareness and Autism Awareness with a new Cultural Intelligence course being introduced. Council also invested in membership to Diversity Council of Australia. Research papers, resources, and other tools and guidelines will be accessed to continue to develop internal expertise.

Engendering a sense of inclusion and belonging for Council staff was evidenced across the year through a number of accessible experiences, platforms and activities. A model of Peer Collectives was developed and supported by Council leadership with a view to introduce these in the next financial year. A lunch and learn was held during the financial year during which MINUS18 – an Australian charity improving the lives of LGBTQIA+ youth, led a learning session. Council's informal Pride staff network organised and led morning teas to raise funds for MINUS18. Group-based initiatives were established and/or patronised by diverse members of staff during the financial year. Council's internal social media platform - Yammer saw either the introduction or increased membership in groups such as the Pride Network, Garden Club, Bookworms United, Learning City and Spokes People by way of example. Members of staff from diverse schools of thought, life experiences and capabilities also came together to work on various Council initiatives like the Council's Reward Strategy, Zero Aggression Program and Wellness Program. The uptake of gender and gender-neutral pronouns into staff email signatures increased during the year to engender belonging for gender inclusion.

Council continued to support the development of diverse staff through accessibility to online development portals, ongoing investment in formal, informal and social learning and development opportunities as well as personalised plans for staff, taking into account their cultural and ability needs.

Council continues to identify and offer inclusive positions within our training pathway program for Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees (CAT's) such as identified positions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those living with disability. During the 2021-2022 year, 16 new Cadets, Apprentices, Trainees and School Based Trainees commenced with Council. Our Work Experience Program resumed following Council's COVID-19 safe approach. Forty-five placement opportunities were provided while Council continued to work closely with schools to identify opportunities for students with disability to participate.

Council continues to partner with community networks and schools to educate and promote employment opportunities. During the year, Council partnered with Green Connect to employ 28 former refugees to support the maintenance of our Foreshore area over the summer. These partnerships have resulted in increased engagement of women in non-traditional areas, young people, people living with disability, and people from CALD backgrounds in our training pathway program (Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees).

Council once again supported Wollongong Mentor Walks, a bi-monthly event that provides women with the opportunity to be mentored by local senior female executive in businesses across the Illawarra. Since the inception of the program in the Wollongong region in 2018, a number of senior staff from Council have volunteered their time to act as mentors. Council grew its support of Mentor Walks during the year by confirming financial sponsorship for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 financial years. Other inclusive international or national days celebrated during the year include; International Women's Day; National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week, International Day of People with Disability, Autism Awareness Day, International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), Wear it Purple Day and PRIDE month. The new Progress Pride flag was flown during Pride month.

Council's continued commitment to achieving gender equity is exemplified in Council's Gender Equality Report which is in the main body of this Annual Report. The results highlight a gender pay gap, based on like for like positions, at 3.56% or \$3,021.15 pa in favour of women.

Council continues to provide and communicate flexible work arrangements to support staff. In response to the pandemic period, Our Working from Home Procedure was implemented with a focus on caring for and supporting our people. Our Working from Home Procedure has been refined to consider learnings from the pandemic.

During the 2021-2022 year, Council introduced personalised plans supported by occupational therapists to help staff in the workplace. Where there is a need, supervisors and/or teams are provided mentoring and coaching on working with people with disability and/or CALD background. As an additional support, Council has launched a Wellbeing platform called Lifeworks Apps underpinned by Council's Employee Assistance Program.

Council was announced the winner of the Minister's Awards for Women in Local Government 2021-2022 in the category of NSW Employment Diversity Award. This category is awarded to Council for our commitment to increase female participation in senior leadership roles. Council's General Manager, Mr Greg Doyle won this award for work on the focus and outcomes he has driven across Wollongong Council to engender an environment of inclusion of women at all levels in Council, especially our most senior levels including an all-female Director executive.

Council is a values and behaviours based organisation, committed to providing a positive, inclusive, supportive and fair work environment where employee differences are respected, valued and relied upon to create a productive and

collaborative workplace. Our values and supporting behaviours allow all employees to understand expectations regarding their own and others' behaviours in the workplace and when working with the community.

Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging is the responsibility of all employees and reflects Council's values and purpose. By leveraging employees' diverse skills, experiences, cultures and attributes, Council optimises our collective organisational capability to sustainably generate creativity and enhance innovation to develop progressive strategies, services and outcomes for our community.

Human Service Agency

Wollongong City Council continues to comply with the Carers Recognition Act 2010 (CR Act s8(2)).



Councillors Attendance at Meetings

Council on 14 September 2015 resolved that Councillor attendance at Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings, Section 355 Committees, as well as Councillor Briefing sessions, be recorded and reported in the Annual Report. During the period under review, there were 13 Ordinary Council meetings, one Extraordinary Council meeting and 27 Councillor briefings.

Councillor	Council Meetings Attended	Councillor Briefings Attended
Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM	14	25
Councillor Cath Blakey	14	27
Councillor David Brown	14	27
Councillor Tania Brown	14	27
Councillor Leigh Colacino*	6	10
Councillor Mithra Cox	14	25
Councillor John Dorahy	14	22
Councillor Dom Figliomeni	14	27
Councillor Janice Kershaw	12	26
Councillor Ann Martin	14	26
Councillor Jenelle Rimmer*	6	11
Councillor Cameron Walters	14	26
Councillor Richard Martin**	8	16
Councillor Linda Campbell**	8	16
Councillor Elisha Aitken**	8	15

Attendance at Section 355 Committees

Australia Day Committee	Meetings Held	Attended
Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM	6	4
Councillor Jenelle Rimmer*	4	0
Councillor Tania Brown***	0	0

* Ceased to be a Councillor on 4 December 2021

** Councillor elected 4 December 2021

*** Councillor Tania Brown was appointed to the Committee on 27 June 2022 and no meetings have been held in the 2021-22 financial year subsequent to date of appointment.

Councillor Induction, Training and Ongoing Professional Development

- The Lord Mayor and all 12 Councillors participated in the Council Induction Program following the December 2021 Local Government Elections.
- The Lord Mayor and all 12 Councillors have been made aware of professional development opportunities available to them and have been involved in selecting appropriate opportunities to be undertaken towards their professional development.
- Council issued a total of 28 Office of Local Government Circulars to Councillors during 2021–2022.

Below are the attendances by Councillors in 2021–2022 at seminars and other activities delivered as part of the ongoing professional development program:

Detail	Councillors attending	Date/s
LGNSW Special Conference	Lord Mayor and seven Councillors	28 February–2 March 2022
ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government	Lord Mayor and three Councillors	19–22 June 2022
Training LGNSW – Taxation Considerations for Councillors	One Councillor	20 April 2022
Training LGNSW – Social Media for Councillors	One Councillor	10 May 2022

Report of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Report to Council covering the period July 2021 to June 2022.

BACKGROUND

This report covers the activities of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The ARIC is a key component of Council's Governance Framework. The objective of the ARIC is to provide independent assistance and advice to the General Manager and Council by overseeing and monitoring Council's governance, risk and control frameworks, and its fulfilment of external accountability requirements.

MEMBERSHIP AND CONDUCT

There was a quorum for each of the meetings held in 2021-2022.

Meetings were held on 16 August 2021, 9 September 2021, 6 October 2021, 1 December 2021, 8 March 2022 and 14 June 2022.

Two of these meetings (August and October) were extraordinary meetings to consider the financial statements.

Wollongong Council's ARIC comprises a total of five members – three independent members and two Councillor delegates.

All external independent members have completed written Conflict of Interest Declarations and Confidentiality Agreements.

The ARIC membership and meeting attendance for the 2021-2022 financial year was:

Member	Role	Term Ends	Meetings Attended/ Eligible to Attend
Donna Rygate	Independent Chair	31 October 2023	6/6
Stephen Horne	Independent member	31 October 2022	6/6
Catherine Hudson	Independent member	31 October 2022	6/6
Cr Mithra Cox	Councillor delegate	21 February 2022	1/3
Cr Dom Figliomeni	Councillor delegate	September 2024	5/5
Cr Tania Brown	Councillor delegate	September 2024	2/2

All independent members have extensive experience in corporate governance in addition to recent and relevant financial experience. Councillor members have appropriate qualifications and experience to allow them to undertake their roles.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Council continued to respond to considerable challenges in 2021-2022 especially in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and severe weather events. Despite this, Council's key achievements from a governance, risk and financial perspective include the following:

- 1 Financial Statements were audited and submitted as required
- 2 Progress was made around cyber risks
- 3 Ongoing effort to improve governance across the organisation

SUMMARY OF ARIC's ROLE AND ACTIVITIES

The responsibilities and functions of the ARIC are to monitor aspects of Council's operations such as its compliance and governance processes; risk management and fraud control frameworks; strategic plan implementation; delivery program and strategies; performance measurement systems; outcomes of service reviews and business improvement initiatives; financial management; and internal and external audit.

These arrangements have operated soundly during 2021-2022.

Compliance and Governance processes

Key ARIC activities included:

- Bi-annual review of the Gifts and Benefits Register, Conflicts of Interest Register and Secondary Employment Register
- Reviewing implementation of Council's Governance Improvement Plan and Fraud and Corruption Prevention Improvement Plan each quarter
- Reviewing Councillor Expense control
- Reviewing the Code of Conduct – Complaint Statistics Report

Risk management and fraud control

The Enterprise Risk Management Framework continued to evolve and improve during the year.

The ARIC monitors Council's topmost corporate risks to ensure that a comprehensive risk management framework is in place and that management is implementing a program to manage all significant risks by identification, prioritisation, and implementation of mitigation strategies.

In 2021-2022 key ARIC activities included:

- Receiving and reviewing reports on risk management and strategic risks.
- Considering strategic risks facing Council and monitoring risk treatment plans established to reduce or mitigate those risks.
- Considering significant emerging risks or legislative changes impacting Council.

The Committee received presentations in relation to issues including the following:

- 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW
- Cyber risks.
- COVID-19
- Combustible Cladding
- Asset Revaluations

The ARIC sought to ensure that Council has adequate fraud prevention strategies in place. It receives reports on the findings of any matters investigated by Council's Professional Conduct Coordinator in relation to:

- Fraud
- Corrupt conduct
- Maladministration
- Serious and substantial waste of public money

Internal Audit

The Internal Auditors have reported at each quarterly ARIC meeting on the status of the internal audit plan. In 2021-2022 the ARIC has reviewed the following Internal Audit Reports:

- CCTV Operations
- Recruitment, Selection and Appointments
- Contract Management
- Swimming pool compliance
- Accounts Payable
- Building Maintenance
- Developer Contributions

O'Connor Marsden (OCM) provides internal audit services to Council. OCM works closely with Council's Governance and Risk Manager to deliver Internal Audits to Council.

Key ARIC activities in relation to Internal Audit included:



- Reviewing and endorsing the annual Internal Audit Plan and monitoring its progress
- Reviewing internal audit reports, the practicality of any recommendations and the adequacy of management responses
- Monitoring the implementation by management of recommendations arising from audit reports
- Monitoring, through the results of internal and external audits, the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control structure
- Holding 'in camera' meetings with the internal audit service provider

External Audit

The Audit Office of NSW is the mandated External Audit provider for Wollongong City Council under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Key ARIC activities included:

- Supporting the work associated with preparing and finalising the financial statements
- Reviewing the annual Engagement Plan
- Reviewing the management letter with a view to ensuring corrective action was planned and implemented as necessary
- Holding 'in camera' meetings with the External Auditors
- Writing to the Auditor General to express concern in relation to the challenging timelines imposed on Council for the financial audit

Progress continues in implementing recommendations from both Internal and External Auditors and various other independent reviews. ARIC continues to monitor and review the progress in implementing recommendations, with particular focus on high priority issues. The ARIC reviews regular progress reports at each meeting.

Financial Management

Key activities for the ARIC this year included:

- Reviewing monthly and quarterly management, financial, investment and performance reports
- Reviewing the annual financial statements for completeness and consistency with the Committee's knowledge of operations and application of accounting policies and principles
- Reviewing Council's financial performance against the Budget as approved by Council (both operating and capital budgets)
- Reviewing strategies of management to achieve budget balance
- Reviewing long-term financial strategies developed by management
- Receiving briefings on significant accounting and legislative matters with the potential to affect the financial position of Council
- Considering and advising on the General Manager's financial delegations, to bring them into line with industry practice

OUTLOOK FOR 2022-2023

Council's Internal Audit Plan takes into consideration Council's strategic risks as well as issues currently faced by Council. Council, in conjunction with the ARIC, will continue to review the internal audit plan so it takes into consideration the changing environment and key aspects of Council's operations.

ARIC's activities are being aligned with the long-awaited audit, risk and improvement reforms still foreshadowed by the Office of Local Government.

Management and the ARIC members are committed to remaining up to date with developments in the local government sector as well as ensuring current processes in audit, risk, finance and governance are challenged to ensure Council continues to develop best practice in its business models whilst maintaining robust internal controls.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the Committee members, management and staff, the internal auditors and the external auditors for their valuable contributions.



Donna Rygate Chairperson
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
30 June 2022



Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation

Note: The Office of Local Government released a draft Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for Local Councils in NSW that was subject to public consultation. Whilst the framework is not yet mandatory on local councils, Wollongong City Council provides the following voluntary attestation in relation to elements of the draft framework that are applicable at this time.

I am of the opinion that Wollongong City Council has an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and risk management and internal audit processes that, excluding the exceptions outlined below, operate in compliance with the requirements set out in the draft Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for Local Councils in NSW.

Specifically:

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Requirement	Compliance
Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee is independent of the Council and has three members that comply with or exceed the minimum requirements for the Council's prescribed category as a 3 council	compliant
The chair and all members of Council's audit, risk and improvement committee meet the eligibility and independence criteria required of their position	compliant
Council's audit, risk and improvement committee operates according to terms of reference approved by the Council that are consistent with the draft Model Terms of Reference	compliant
Council's audit, risk and improvement committee provides an annual assessment to the governing body each year	compliant
The Council provides the audit, risk and improvement committee with direct and unrestricted access to the General Manager, senior management, professional conduct coordinator, as well as information and resources so it can fulfil its responsibilities	compliant
At least once each council term the Council receives a report on the operations and effectiveness of the audit, risk and improvement committee.	compliant

Membership

The chair and membership of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee are:

Independent chair	Donna Rygate	30/10/2020	30/09/2023
Independent member	Stephen Horne	01/02/2016	31/10/2022
Independent member	Catherine Hudson	19/10/2015	31/10/2022
Councillor member	Cr Tania Brown	21/02/2022	Term of Council
Councillor member	Cr Dom Figliomeni	31/08/2020	Term of Council
Councillor member	Cr Mithra Cox	24/09/2018	21/02/2022

Risk Management

Requirement	Compliance
Council has adopted a risk management framework that is consistent with current Australian risk management standards and appropriate for the Council's risks	compliant
Council's audit, risk and improvement committee is responsible for reviewing the implementation of Council's risk management framework	compliant

Internal Audit

Requirement	Compliance
Council has an internal audit function that provides an independent unbiased assessment of the Council's operations and risk and control activities	compliant
Council's internal audit function reports to the audit, risk and improvement committee on internal audit matters	compliant
Council's internal audit function operates independently of the Council and internal audit activities are not subject to direction by the Council	compliant
Council's internal audit function operates according to an internal audit charter	compliant
Council has appointed an external provider, with appropriately skilled staff member to undertake internal audit activities	compliant
Council's internal audit function operates according to annual and four-yearly strategic plans endorsed by the Council's audit, risk and improvement committee	compliant
Council provides the internal audit function with direct and unrestricted access to Council staff, Council's audit, risk and improvement committee, as well as information so it can fulfil its responsibilities	compliant

Greg Doyle – General Manager

Sponsorship of Wollongong City Council Events

The following table provides a list of all sponsorship, as per Council's Sponsorship Policy. (Figures reported excluding GST).

Sponsors	New Years Eve \$	Australia Day \$
Acorn Lawyers	7,500	
Remondis		2,500
BlueScope		2,500

Unsolicited Proposals

From time to time, Council is presented with Unsolicited Proposals from the community, businesses or other government agencies. To assist in appropriately managing governance and probity issues that arise in such circumstances, as well as seeking to ensure that Unsolicited Proposals are of benefit to the City of Wollongong, Council publicly reports on all Unsolicited Proposals that progress to Stage 2 assessment under Council's Unsolicited Proposals Policy.

In 2021-2022, there were no unsolicited proposals that progressed to Stage 2 assessment.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025

Council is striving to make Wollongong an inclusive city that provides equal opportunity for people with disability to participate in all aspects of community life. Our aim is to be a leader in promoting and supporting the social and economic participation of people with disability. Our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) sets out what we will do to support inclusion of people with disability in our city. It was developed after extensive community engagement to make sure the priorities reflect what is important to our community.

The Plan will assist us to meet requirements for local Government in the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014.

Our Plan has 91 Actions across four focus areas

- 1 Create liveable communities
- 2 Improve access to services through better systems and processes
- 3 Promote positive community attitudes and behaviours
- 4 Support access to meaningful employment

Annual Progress

Completed	In progress	Not started
2	80	9

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2021-2022

This report provides a summary of what we did in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Create Liveable Communities

Council delivered a range of projects to improve access to the built environment for people with disability, including:

- Installed a new unisex accessible toilet and two new ambulant toilets at Corrimal Beach Tourist Park
- Installed a new "Changing Place" accessible adult change facility at Port Kembla Beach which can be used 24 hours
- Installed 16 new footpaths and associated kerb ramps
- Upgraded eight existing footpaths and associated kerb ramps
- Installed five new cycle/pedestrian shared paths and renewed two cycle/pedestrian shared paths
- Renewed six Council car parks including the accessible car parking spaces
- Installed a new carpark with accessible parking at Cringila Hills Recreation Park
- Installed a new bus stop at Dapto Mall
- Renewed Bulli Beach Reserve playground which included the addition of a range of accessible and inclusive elements such as accessible parking, continuous accessible paths of travel, a wheelchair accessible carousel, variety of accessible swings and signage
- Purchased five personal transfer hoists for use at our aquatic facilities to transfer wheelchair users to pool wheelchairs as required
- Installed an accessible barbecue with continuous accessible path of travel to camp kitchen at Windang Tourist Park

Council delivered a range of planning and design projects, including:

- Commenced design work for an accessible adult change facility for Western Suburbs Pool, Unanderra
- Designed new access ramp for Port Kembla Beach
- Commenced work on planning improvements to accessible parking in Wollongong CBD

Improve Access to Services Through Better Systems and Processes

Council revised policy and planning documents to strengthen and support access and inclusion outcomes:

- Adopted revised version of Wollongong DCP 2009- Chapter E1 Access for People with Disability
- Drafted an evaluation framework to monitor and measure the outcomes of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Council undertook projects to increase access to information, including:

- Completed training on developing accessible print and PDF documents and writing in plain English to assist us to produce accessible publications that are accessible from a design and text/copy viewpoint
- Provided a range of communications including more than 30 Media Releases about access including promotion of new accessible playgrounds at Cringila and Bulli, the new "Changing Place" accessible adult change facility at Port Kembla Beach and to recognise International Day of People with Disability
- Developed Easy English versions of our Community Strategic Plan Our Future Our Wollongong 2032 and a Tree Removal or Pruning on Private Property Guide
- Upgraded three websites to meet access standards and include information about access Tourist Parks, Leisure Centres and The Vale Golf Course, Russell Vale
- Created new web content to promote beach accessibility and the location of hearing loops in our community facilities
- Provided social stories for Comic Gong 2022 and Paint the Gong REaD
- Promoted Council services for people with disability at the Illawarra Disability Options Expo

Council has continued to engage people with disability, including:

- Engaged people with disability to inform Council projects and updated community engagement tools and resources to meet access standards
- Convened the Walking, Cycling and Mobility Reference Group. This group includes representation of people with disability and their carers and provides advice to Council to inform our projects, policies, and plans

Promote Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours

Council delivered a range of projects to promote positive community attitudes and behaviours towards people with disability, including:

- Delivered two online "Conversations About Inclusion" to recognise and celebrate International Day of Person's with Disability. 34 Council managers participated in the conversations with people with disability. The aim of the conversations was to provide an opportunity to raise awareness, build understanding and continue the discussion about inclusion
- Drafted an Inclusive and Accessible Event Guide which is expected to be available on Council's website in 2022
- Delivered Inclusive and Accessible Events Training for 21 Council officers
- Worked with Flagstaff as part of the Bike City Program to draft a training module for tourism venue accessibility
- Created a Quiet Space in the Youth Centre including dimmable lights, fidgets, and sensory items.
- Designed and facilitated workshops in collaboration with Relationships Australia for Neurodiverse LGBTIQ+ Young People about healthy relationships
- Continued to deliver a range of programs via our Youth Services including TeenZ Connect program, tours of Wollongong Youth Centre and Belong workshops to increase participation of young people with disability
- Created a partnership between Beaton Park Leisure Centre and Rainbow Club to deliver a learn to swim program aligned to NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) funding. 18 participants are enrolled
- Continued to deliver exercise programs for young people with disability at Lakeside Leisure Centre. Ten-week programs are delivered in line with school terms. 20 students were enrolled in each program
- Provided the Quiet Space as part of the annual Comic Gong festival. The space was popular, and many participants made it their home base for the day, dropping in and out to decompress from the excitement of the day. Almost 200 people visited the space
- Delivered an inclusive session of Create Features for people who are blind or have low vision and the deaf community to come along and find out more about native animals. Touching and holding the animals was a highlight
- Continued the 'Visually Impaired Knitters' group in Wollongong City Library
- Hosted 'Gingerbread House' making workshops at Wollongong City Library. One with an Auslan Interpreter and two in partnership with Guide Dogs NSW for people who were blind or have low vision
- Worked with Disability Trust to provide artwork for 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event decorations. Works will go into the Ethel Hayton Walkway and the Arts Precinct and include 2D and 3D pieces
- Provided Access2Express Art Tours for 50 students with disability from Kiama and Dapto high schools
- Continued to facilitate "Art and Dementia Tours" at Wollongong Art Gallery

Support Access to Meaningful Employment

Council has provided opportunities for people with disability to gain employment and participate in work experience, including:

- Employed two people with disability via the Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees (CAT) program
- Worked with the Disability Trust to continue to deliver a one-year work experience program to provide a work experience program in our library for a person with disability
- Provided work experience for four people who indicated they had disability
- Delivered a social procurement workshop for Council officers at which a disability provider presented information about the services they provide

Council has delivered a range of learning and development opportunities for Council officers to promote and support their understanding of disability, including:

- Delivered Diversity Awareness Training for 35 Council officers
- Delivered Autism Awareness Training for six Council officers
- Delivered Dementia Awareness Training for ten Council officers
- Drafted a Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging training strategy
- Attended a tour of Flagstaff Group employment services for people with disability. 18 Council officers attended

Labour Statistics

The following provides a table under Section 217 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) of the number of persons who performed paid work for Council on the "relevant" day fixed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment each year. In 2021-2022, the "relevant" day for reporting was 25 May 2022.

No. of persons directly employed by Council:		* Apprentices are calculated in full-time or part-time figures
On a permanent full-time basis	957	
On a permanent part-time basis	225	
On a casual basis	71	
On a temporary full-time basis	105	
On a temporary part-time basis	35	
Under a fixed term contract	0	
Senior staff for the purposes of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (the Act). Does not include General Manager	18	
Nº of persons engaged by council, under a contractor other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person	4	
Nº of persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee	0*	

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

ATTACHMENT E

Payment of Expenses and
Provision of Facilities to
Lord Mayor and Councillors





COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: 27 JUNE 2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the facilities and support that are available to Councillors to assist them in fulfilling their civic duties. The Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to adopt a policy that allows for Councillors to receive adequate and reasonable expenses and facilities to enable them to carry out their civic duties as elected representatives of their local communities.

POLICY INTENT

This policy enables the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors to help them undertake their civic duties and ensure accountability and transparency.

WOLLONGONG 2028 OBJECTIVES

Council is committed to creating a sustainable City for future generations. This policy is guided by that principle and aims to encourage the ethical, financially responsible and environmentally sustainable use of Council resources by the elected Council.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The policy has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation) and complies with the Office of Local Government's s23A Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Mayors and Councillors in NSW.

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed within the first 12 months of each Council term, or more frequently as required.

REPORTING

Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors as required in the Act and Regulations.

APPLICATION OF POLICY

All monetary amounts referenced in this policy are exclusive of GST.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, Council may resolve to approve expenses in excess of any defined limits in this policy, or may resolve to vary or increase the provisions of this policy at any time.

Any costs incurred by a Councillor in excess of the provisions of this policy, and where there is no resolution of Council approving reimbursement of the additional expenses, the Councillor will be responsible for payment of these expenses.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

PART A – INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The provision of expenses and facilities enables Councillors to fulfil their civic duties as the elected representatives of Wollongong City Council.
- 1.2. The community is entitled to know the extent of expenses paid to Councillors, as well as the facilities provided and be comfortable there is minimal wastage of public resources.
- 1.3. Council staff are empowered to question or refuse a request for payment from a Councillor when it does not accord with this policy.
- 1.4. Expenses and facilities provided by this policy are in addition to fees paid to Councillors. The minimum and maximum fees a council may pay each Councillor are set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal as per Section 241 of the Act and reviewed annually. Council must adopt its annual fees within this set range.
- 1.5. Councillors must provide claims for reimbursement within 60 days of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved.
- 1.6. A report on Lord Mayor and Councillor expenses will be submitted to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 1.7. These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

2. Definitions

the Act	Local Government Act 1993
the Regulation	Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
OLG	Office of Local Government
Conference	Generally more than one day in duration
Seminar	Generally only one day in duration
Year	A financial year
Accompanying person	A person who has a close personal relationship with the Councillor and/or provides carer support for the Councillor.
For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply to travel -	
Illawarra	Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama LGAs
Local travel	Travel within the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama or Shoalhaven LGAs.
Intrastate	Travel within New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

3. Principles

- 3.1. Council commits to the following principles:
 - **Proper conduct:** Councillors and staff acting lawfully and honestly, exercising care and diligence in carrying out their functions
 - **Reasonable expenses:** providing for Councillors to be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred as part of their role as Councillor

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

- **Participation and access:** enabling people from diverse backgrounds, underrepresented groups, those in carer roles and those with special needs to serve as a Councillor
- **Equity:** there must be equitable access to expenses and facilities for all Councillors
- **Appropriate use of resources:** providing clear direction on the appropriate use of council resources in accordance with legal requirements and community expectations
- **Accountability and transparency:** clearly stating and reporting on the expenses and facilities provided to Councillors.

4. Private or political benefit

- 4.1. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.
- 4.2. Private use of Council equipment and facilities by Councillors may occur from time to time. For example, telephoning home to advise that a Council meeting will run later than expected.
- 4.3. Such incidental private use does not require a compensatory payment back to Council.
- 4.4. Councillors should avoid obtaining any greater private benefit from Council than an incidental benefit. Where there are unavoidable circumstances and more substantial private use of Council facilities does occur, Councillors must reimburse the Council.
- 4.5. Campaigns for re-election are considered to be a political benefit. The following are examples of what is considered to be a political interest during a re-election campaign:
 - production of election material
 - use of council resources and equipment for campaigning
 - use of official council letterhead, publications, websites or services for political benefit
 - fundraising activities of political parties or individuals, including political fundraising events.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

PART B – EXPENSES

5. General expenses

- 5.1. All expenses provided under this policy will be for a purpose specific to the functions of holding civic office. Allowances for general expenses are not permitted under this policy.
- 5.2. Expenses not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid or reimbursed. Documentation to support items claimed for reimbursement are required to be presented to Council staff as part of the claim.

6. Specific expensesGeneral travel arrangements and expenses

- 6.1 All travel by Councillors should be undertaken using the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport.
- 6.2 Councillors may request the use of a Council vehicle for official business use. A minimum of 48 hours' notice is required for access to a vehicle for overnight use and 7 days' notice for longer periods.
- 6.3 Each Councillor may be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses incurred while undertaking official business or professional development or attending approved conferences and seminars within NSW or the ACT, with the total of each claim not exceeding the cost of economy return air travel and reasonable Sydney airport transfer costs, where applicable. This includes reimbursement for:
 - the use of a private vehicle
 - public transport fares
 - tolls
 - documented ride-share programs, such as Uber, where tax invoices can be issued.
- 6.4. Official Council Business includes, but is not limited to, attendance at the following:
 - all Council and Committee meetings including Council reference groups and Councillor briefing sessions;
 - civic receptions;
 - meetings and inspections with Council staff;
 - authorised conferences, seminars and training;
 - Wollongong Local Planning Panel (WLPP) and/or formal facilitation sessions;
 - official meetings of external organisations where the Councillor is an elected Council delegate or alternate delegate; and
 - where Councillor attendance is required at official Council events (to undertake official duties) as indicated by –
 - receipt of an invitation from Council officers,
 - receipt of a meeting request where attendance is identified as required,
 and does not include event notifications sent for information purposes or general event invitations.
 - Councillors are to take the most direct route when travelling on official Council business.
- 6.5. Allowances for the use of a private internal combustion vehicle will be reimbursed by kilometre at the rate contained in the *Local Government (State) Award*.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

- 6.6. Allowances for the use of a private fully electric model vehicle, will be reimbursed, via any method identified in the *Local Government (State) Award*. If no methodology is defined the reimbursement will be calculated as follows:
- Identify the average electricity consumption per km travelled according to vehicle manufacturer specifications
 - Identify the Default Market Offer price for electricity set by the Australian Energy Regulator for the distribution zone where the Councillor resides
 - Identify the kilometres travelled in the claimable journey
 - Reimbursement calculated as - A x B x C identified above plus a 10% loading for depreciation
- 6.7. Councillors seeking to be reimbursed for use of a private vehicle must include the date, distance, starting location and destination, and purpose of travel being claimed, along with any other information relevant with the claim such as engine size where applicable.

Interstate and overseas travel expenses

- 6.8. Councillors seeking approval for any long-distance intrastate travel must submit a case to and obtain the approval of the General Manager prior to travel.
- 6.9. Councillors seeking approval for any interstate and overseas travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, a full Council meeting prior to travel.
- 6.10. The case should include:
- objectives to be achieved in travel, including an explanation of how the travel aligns with current council priorities and business, the community benefits which will accrue as a result, and its relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties;
 - who is to take part in the travel;
 - duration and itinerary of travel;
 - a detailed budget including costs for transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses.
- 6.11. For interstate journeys by air of less than four hours, the class of air travel is to be economy class.
- 6.12. For interstate journeys by air of more than four hours, the class of air travel may be premium economy.
- 6.13. For international travel, the class of air travel is to be premium economy if available. Otherwise, the class of travel is to be economy.
- 6.14. All Councillor travel arrangements will be centrally coordinated and booked by the Governance unit.
- 6.15. For air travel that is reimbursed as Council business, Councillors will not accrue points from the airline's frequent flyer program. This is considered a private benefit under the Code of Conduct.

Travel expenses not paid by Council

- 6.16. Council will not pay any traffic or parking fines or administrative charges for road toll accounts.

Accommodation and meals

- 6.17. In circumstances where it would introduce undue risk for a Councillor to travel to or from official business in the late evening or early morning, reimbursement of costs for accommodation and meals on the night before or after the meeting may be approved by the General Manager. This includes where a meeting finishes later than 9.00pm or starts earlier than 7.00am and the Councillor lives more than 50 kilometres from the meeting location.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES**COUNCIL POLICY**

- 6.18. Council will reimburse reasonable costs for accommodation and meals while Councillors are undertaking prior approved travel or professional development outside the Illawarra.
- 6.19. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses within Australia are to be consistent with those set out in Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.
- 6.20. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses outside Australia are to be determined in advance by the general manager, being mindful of Clause 6.19.
- 6.21. Where possible, accommodation is to be booked at the conference venue unless the General Manager determines otherwise.
- 6.22. Councillors will not be reimbursed for alcoholic beverages.

Refreshments for Council related meetings

- 6.23. Appropriate refreshments will be available for Council meetings, Council Committee meetings, Councillor briefings and workshops, approved meetings and engagements, and official Council functions as approved by the General Manager.
- 6.24. As an indicative guide for the standard of refreshments to be provided at council related meetings, the general manager must be mindful of Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.

Professional development

- 6.25. Council will set aside an amount annually in its budget to facilitate professional development of Councillors through programs, training and education courses. This does not include induction expenses incurred at the commencement of each term of a new Council.
- 6.26. In the first year of a new Council term, Council will provide a comprehensive induction program for all Councillors which considers any guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG). The cost of the induction program will be in addition to the ongoing professional development funding.
- 6.27. Council will provide annual membership of professional bodies only in circumstances where payment of the membership fee will generate a larger financial saving in attendance at event/s with that professional body that the Councillor will attend. Council will not pay any renewals of such memberships.
- 6.28. Approval for professional development activities is subject to a prior written request to the General Manager outlining the:
- details of the proposed professional development
 - relevance to Council priorities and business
 - relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.
- 6.29. In assessing a Councillor request for a professional development activity, the General Manager must consider the factors set out in Clause 6.28 as well as the cost of the professional development in relation to the Councillor's remaining budget.

Conferences and seminars

- 6.30. Council is committed to ensuring Councillors are up to date with contemporary issues facing Council and the community, and local government in NSW.
- 6.31. Council will set aside an amount annually in its budget to facilitate Councillor attendance at conferences and seminars. This allocation is for all Councillors. The General Manager will ensure that access to expenses relating to conferences and seminars is distributed equitably.
- 6.32. Approval to attend a conference or seminar is subject to a written request to the General Manager. In assessing a Councillor request, the General Manager must consider factors including the:

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

- relevance of the topics and presenters to current Council priorities and business and the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties
 - cost of the conference or seminar in relation to the total remaining budget.
- 6.33. Council will meet the reasonable cost of registration fees, transportation and accommodation associated with attendance at conferences approved by the General Manager. Council will also meet the reasonable cost of meals when they are not included in the conference fees. Reimbursement for accommodation and meals not included in the conference fees will be subject to Clauses 6.18-6.21. If meals are included in the conference fees no other reimbursement or allowance for meals will be provided.

Community and charitable functions, dinners and other non-Council functions

- 6.34. Council will provide a budget allocation in the annual budget for Councillor attendance at local community and charitable functions.
- 6.35. Where a Councillor accepts an invitation to attend a local community or charitable function in the role of a Councillor, Council shall meet the cost of the entry fee.
- 6.36. Council will meet the entry fee associated with the attendance of a Councillor at a dinner or other non-Council function which provides briefings to Councillors from key members of the community, politicians and business.
- 6.37. Council will not contribute to, or reimburse to a Councillor, any costs associated with attendance at any political fundraising event, any donation to a political party or candidate's electoral fund or for some other private benefit.

Accompanying person expenses

- 6.38. Council will meet:
- Registration and ticket costs of spouses, partners or an accompanying carer in attending official Council functions that are of a formal or ceremonial nature where the Councillor's spouse, partner or accompanying carer would reasonably be expected to attend. Examples include, but are not limited to Australia Day Award Ceremonies, Citizenship Ceremonies, Civic Receptions and charitable functions at the request of the Lord Mayor.
 - Limited expenses associated with the attendance of a Councillor's accompanying carer at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference and the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly of Local Government.
 - Travel expenses, any additional accommodation expenses and the cost of the spouse, partner or accompanying person's tours, etc will be the responsibility of individual Councillors.
- 6.39. Such functions include charitable functions to which the Lord Mayor has been invited and award ceremonies and other functions to which the Lord Mayor is invited to represent the Council.
- 6.40. The payment of expenses as detailed above is limited to the cost of the ticket, meal and/or the direct cost of attending the function.
- 6.41. Where not provided above, all expenses incurred in relation to the attendance of a spouse, partner or accompanying person at any event, function, seminar, conference, business trip and the like, must be met by the Councillor or the spouse, partner or accompanying person.

Special requirement and carer expenses

- 6.42. Council encourages wide participation and interest in civic office. It will seek to ensure Council premises and associated facilities are accessible, including provision for sight or hearing impaired Councillors and those with other disabilities.
- 6.43. Transportation provisions outlined in this policy will also assist Councillors who may be unable to drive a vehicle.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

- 6.44. In addition to the provisions above, the General Manager may authorise the provision of reasonable additional facilities and expenses in order to allow a Councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per annum.
- 6.45. Councillors who are the principal carer of a child or other elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family member will be entitled to reimbursement of carer's expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 per annum, for attendance at official business, plus reasonable travel from the principal place of residence.
- 6.46. Childcare expenses may be claimed for children up to and including the age of 16 years where the carer is not a relative, up to a maximum of \$3,000 per annum.
- 6.47. In the event of caring for an adult person, Councillors will need to provide suitable evidence to the General Manager that reimbursement is applicable. This may take the form of advice from a medical practitioner.

Protection expenses and obligations

- 6.48. Council may assist in providing protection to Councillors from any substantiated adverse security threats to their person or property. Approval of the General Manager must be sought and gained prior to any expenses being incurred by Councillors.
- 6.49. The General Manager will determine requests after consultation with the NSW Police as to the risk and history of the matter. These protection measures may take the form of a security assessment, installation of a security system and/or physical monitoring.
- 6.50. Requests will not be considered in circumstances where the NSW Police have not been informed of the security threat.
- 6.51. Council will, subject to substantiation, reimburse Councillors for expenses that they may incur up to a limit of \$2,000 per year.
- 6.52. Should an amount above the \$2,000 per year limit be required by any Councillor, the matter will be referred to Council for determination after taking advice from the General Manager, and the Independent Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

Recognition of service

- 6.53. In recognition of long service as Councillor and/or Lord Mayor, Councillors are eligible to receive particular Local Government NSW awards if their service meets certain criteria. In these cases, Council will meet the cost of the Local Government NSW Service Award or Certificate applied for.

7. Insurances

- 7.1. Councillors are to receive the benefit of the following insurance coverage effected by Council subject to any terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the policy of insurance effected by Council, for matters arising out of Councillors' performance of their civic duties and/or exercise of their Civic Functions:
 - a) Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance
 - b) Councillors and Officers insurance
 - c) Corporate Travel insurance
 - d) Personal Accident insurance
- 7.2. Insurance protection is only provided if a claim arises out of, or in connection with, the councillor's performance of their civic duties, or exercise of their functions as a councillor. All insurances are subject to any limitations or conditions set out in the policies of insurance.
- 7.3. Council shall pay the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim accepted by council's insurers, whether defended or not.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

- 7.4. Appropriate travel insurances will be provided for any councillors travelling on approved interstate and overseas travel on council business.

8. Legal assistance

- 8.1. Councillors are to receive the benefit of relevant insurance coverage that may be effected by Council for Legal Services in the event of:

- a An enquiry, investigation or hearing by an appropriate investigative or review body including:

- Council's Conduct Review Committee/Reviewer;
- Independent Commission Against Corruption;
- Office of the NSW Ombudsman;
- Office of Local Government;
- NSW Police Force;
- Director of Public Prosecutions or
- NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal;

into the conduct of a Councillor; or

- b Legal proceedings being taken against a Councillor, arising out of or in connection with the Councillor's exercise in good faith of their functions as a Councillor, provided the circumstances of the matter are reported to Council's relevant insurance provider who in turn consents to the legal services and costs prior to the costs being incurred.

Council shall subject to the terms and condition of the insurance coverage reimburse such Councillor, after the conclusion of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, for expenses properly and reasonably incurred, given the nature of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, on a Solicitor/client basis, provided that:

- i approval of the General Manager and insurance provider for the nominated solicitor and their hourly rates is both sought and gained in writing prior to legal expenses being incurred;
- ii approval of the General Manager and insurance provider for any additional legal expenses is both sought and gained in writing prior to those expenses being incurred;
- iii the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor or where an investigator or review body makes a finding that is not substantially unfavourable to the Councillor;
- iv the amount of such reimbursement shall be reduced by the amount of any monies that may be or are recouped by the Councillor on any basis; and
- v the Councillor's exercise of their function was, in the opinion of Council, bona fide and proper and as a Councillor.

- 8.2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Policy the following costs cannot be the subject of reimbursement:

- a the costs of any action in defamation taken by a Councillor as plaintiff in any circumstances;
- b the costs of a Councillor seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation;
- c legal costs for legal proceedings that do not involve a Councillor performing their role as a Councillor;
- d legal costs of legal proceedings initiated by a Councillor under any circumstances; or
- e the costs of defending any matter relating to the eligibility of a Councillor to stand for election.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

Part C – Facilities

9. General facilities for all Councillors

Facilities

- 9.1. Council will provide the following facilities to Councillors to assist them to effectively discharge their civic duties:
- A Councillor common room appropriately furnished in Council's Administration Building. Hard copies of council papers will not be automatically provided to Councillors. If necessary, Councillors can access the Councillor common room to print required documents, however electronic means are preferred in an aim to increase sustainability across Wollongong City Council.
 - Access to car parking in the Administration Building and Stewart Street East car parks while attending Council offices on official business. Vehicle stickers will be supplied for this purpose
 - Access to personal protective equipment, including umbrellas, for use during site visits
- 9.2. The provision of facilities will be of a standard deemed by the General Manager as appropriate for the purpose.

Information and communications technology (ICT) provisions

- 9.3. Council will provide Councillors with a Council specified standard laptop device for Council business. The type of device will be appropriate for viewing papers and presentations. One Council specified additional computer screen will be provided per councillor where required to assist with viewing Council business at home.
- 9.4. The Chief Information Officer will identify the device to be provided in accordance with clause 9.3, with the same type of device to be provided to all Councillors. Only where access and usability issues are relevant, will the Chief Information Officer consider a separate device for an individual Councillor.
- 9.5. If a Councillor does not have the ability to connect the laptop to an internet connection, Council may provide an internet hotspot device, or similar, with an appropriate data usage cap. The cost of the device will be deducted from any available allowance outlined in 9.16
- 9.6. Any excess data allowance charges will be reimbursed to Council by way of deduction from the Councillor's next monthly Councillor fee payment.
- 9.7. Council will provide Councillors with appropriate induction in the use of the provided equipment.
- 9.8. Internet access on Council provided devices will be filtered by Council.
- 9.9. Usage of all Council provided technology requires compliance with Council's *Technology Acceptable Use* policy.
- 9.10. Council will provide support services for Council provided services and applications during business hours, being 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, to assist Councillors in resolving operational issues.
- 9.11. Access to a Council supplied email address and Councillor Portal will be provided on the laptop.
- 9.12. Servicing and repairs to all Council provided equipment will be coordinated through Council's IMT Service Desk facility during business hours, being 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, on the basis of a back-to-base service.
- 9.13. All servicing and repairs to any privately owned equipment will be the responsibility of the individual Councillor irrespective of whether it is used for Council related business.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

Telephones, Plan Charges and E-Subscriptions

- 9.14. Council will not organise nor provide Councillors with a fixed landline nor a data plan from an Internet Service Provider, except in accordance with 9.5.
- 9.15. Councillors may choose to have provided a Council issued mobile phone. This phone will be the standard issued to Council staff inclusive of apps provided and the standard data plan. Alternatively, Councillors can opt to organise their own mobile phone and phone plan. If a Councillor opts to organise their own phone, compliance with Council's *Bring Your Own Device* policy is required.
- 9.16. If a Councillor elects to have a BYOD phone, any phone plans, data plans and any fixed landlines to Councillor premises shall be reimbursed a maximum of \$150 per month per Councillor towards these costs. The plans obtained by Councillors may include bundled equipment including mobile / smart phones, hot spot devices etc subject to the maximum reimbursement being \$150 per month.
- 9.17. Councillors will also be reimbursed for subscription costs to one electronic news service or App subject directly related to their duties as a councillor, within the maximum reimbursement limit (defined in 9.16) per month. Councillors will not be entitled for re-imbursement of an e-news service if they are provided with a physical newspaper delivery service.
- 9.18. Councillors may choose to retain ownership of the phone at the conclusion of the Council term. The Councillor will be responsible for organising all transfer, insurance, maintenance, and replacement of such devices.
- 9.19. Claims for reimbursement must be lodged within 60 days of the expense being incurred and supported by a signed declaration form and supporting documentation.
- 9.20. In the event that a Councillor has to break a contract for mobile and / or data due to ceasing being a councillor that council contribute towards plan cancellation costs if there are any, up to a maximum of the equivalent of three months payment of the relevant plan.

Postage

- 9.21. All outgoing mail is to be included as part of Council's daily mail collection by Australia Post and as such needs to be delivered to Council's Administration Centre. Mail is not permitted to be delivered directly to an individual Post Office. Electronic Mail (E-Mail) where possible and appropriate is the preferred method of communication.

Administrative support

- 9.22. Council will provide limited administrative support to Councillors to assist them with their civic duties only. Administrative support may be provided by a member of Council's administrative staff as arranged by the General Manager or their delegate.
- 9.23. As per Section 4, Council staff are expected to assist Councillors with civic duties only, and not assist with matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

Councillor welfare - access to Employee Assistance Program

- 9.24. Council extends access to its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to Councillors and their immediate family members (i.e. spouse; partner; or dependent child living under the same roof as the Councillor who is under the age of 18). It provides an effective program which enables the maintenance of Councillors' and their families' health and wellbeing.
- 9.25. Councillors encountering difficulties with the role or personal difficulties that may impact on their role as a Councillor are able to seek counselling, on a confidential basis, directly through the EAP. The EAP provider will assess and determine the number of sessions provided based on the nature of the support offered.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES**COUNCIL POLICY**Newspaper Subscriptions

- 9.26 Consistent with Council's sustainability goals, Councillors are encouraged to take up an electronic newspaper subscription service in accordance with 9.16 rather than a physical newspaper delivery service. However if required a physical newspaper delivery of a relevant regional newspaper will be provided to Councillors on request.

Printing

- 9.27 Consistent with Council's sustainability goals, Councillors are encouraged to use electronic/digital services and formats wherever possible. However if Councillors need to undertake their own printing, they can utilise printers in the Councillor Common Room, or be provided with a personal device upon request.
- 9.28 If a Councillor is provided with a printer, they will be required to return any printed materials, that may be of a confidential nature, to Council for secure destruction or disposal.

Insignia of Office

- 9.29 Provision of a jacket to be worn at civic functions indicating that the wearer holds the office Councillor. In addition, Councillors may be provided suitable council branded apparel for wearing whilst undertaking official council functions

10. Additional facilities for the Lord Mayor

- 10.01 A fully serviced and maintained vehicle with a value (inclusive of GST) below the Luxury Car Tax (LCT) threshold for official civic duties and incidental use or a credit through a Novated Lease to a similar value.
- 10.02 Full private use is available in accordance with the private use provisions contained within Council's Vehicle Management Policy.
- 10.03 The Lord Mayor is personally liable for all fines resulting from breaches of traffic laws and regulations and parking offences incurred whilst driving this vehicle.
- 10.04 A parking space at Council's offices will be reserved for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.
- 10.05 Council will provide the Lord Mayor with a furnished office incorporating a computer configured to Council's standard operating environment, telephone and meeting space.
- 10.06 A Purchase Card will be provided to meet hospitality and other reasonable incidental expenses incurred by the Lord Mayor whilst at official Council events. Use of the Purchase Card is to be in accordance with Council's Purchase Card Policy. The Purchase Card is not to be used for the purchase of alcohol.
- 10.07 Expenses that are personal or not related to business purposes are not to be paid on Council credit card, irrespective of intention to reimburse Council at a later date.
- 10.08 In performing their civic duties, the Lord Mayor will be assisted by a small number of staff providing administrative and secretarial support, as determined by the General Manager.

Insignia of Office

- 10.09 Provision of a jacket, badge and name plates to be worn at civic functions indicating that the wearer holds the offices of Lord Mayor and Councillor.
- 10.10 Provision of a Lord Mayoral Robe and Chain to be worn at civic receptions, citizenship ceremonies and other appropriate functions.

Maintenance and servicing of equipment

- 10.11 Servicing and repairs to all Council provided technology equipment will be coordinated through Council's IMT Service Desk facility during business hours, being 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, on the basis of a back-to-base service.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES**COUNCIL POLICY**

- 10.12 All servicing and repairs to any privately owned equipment will be the responsibility of the Lord Mayor irrespective of whether it is used for Council related business.

11. Payment of Lord Mayoral Fee to Deputy Lord Mayor

- 11.1 The Deputy Lord Mayor will receive payment of the Lord Mayoral fee for the period where –
- a The Lord Mayor is unable to exercise the function of the Lord Mayor for a period of more than 30 calendar days for any reason and irrespective of whether leave of absence has been granted.
 - b The office of the Lord Mayor becomes vacant in accordance with section 234 of the Local Government Act 1993.
 - c A casual vacancy occurs in the office of the Lord Mayor within 18 months before the date specified for the next ordinary election of councillors as detailed in section 294 of the Local Government Act 1993. In this occurrence the Deputy Lord Mayor is to be the Councillor nominated by the Council to the Governor for appointment to the vacant office.
- 11.2 The portion of the Lord Mayoral fee paid to the Deputy Lord Mayor in circumstance (a) outlined above is to be deducted from the Lord Mayor's annual fee in accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1993.
- 11.3 Any reference to a Deputy Lord Mayor in this policy can be taken to include an Acting Deputy Lord Mayor, in the case where the Deputy Lord Mayor is absent. The appointment of an Acting Deputy Lord Mayor is by resolution of Council.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

Part D – Processes

12 Approval, payment and reimbursement arrangements

	General Manager Approval Only	Report to Open Meeting of Council
A Applications to attend events (including those requiring overnight accommodation and/or air travel within the ACT or New South Wales) in accordance with the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminars; Board meetings, meetings with government ministers or external organisations where the Councillor is Council's appointed representative; Community functions, annual awards, dinners and other non-Council Functions; Events where the Councillor has been invited to speak on behalf of Council Professional Development requests of individual Councillors 	✓	
B Attendance at a Conference		✓
C Use of private vehicle for (non-local) official Council business	✓	
D Applications requiring interstate travel.		✓
E Applications requiring overseas travel.		✓
F All other Applications and where approval at a meeting of Council is not possible or appropriate.	✓	

- 12.1 Expenses should only be incurred by Councillors in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
- 12.2 A *Councillor Request to Attend External Event* application is to be submitted to the General Manager in the first instance for Councillor attendance at any Conference, seminar, meeting with external parties on official Council business, professional development or training and skills development session, community function, dinner and other non-Council event or function the Councillor wishes to attend in their civic capacity. All requests for approvals under this Policy are to be made in writing. Verbal requests will not be considered.
- 12.3 Application forms are to be submitted prior to attendance at the event and/or any expenses being incurred and must detail the purpose of the trip, expected benefits, duration, itinerary and approximate costs (where known).
- 12.4 The General Manager will consider whether they are authorised to approve the application form or whether it is appropriate to refer the application form for report to an open meeting of Council.
- 12.5 Where a report to Council is required, reports must detail the purpose of the trip, expected benefits, duration, itinerary, approximate costs and nomination/number of Councillors undertaking the trip.
- 12.6 Overseas travel must be approved prior to the Councillor/s undertaking the trip.
- 12.7 Retrospective reimbursement of overseas travel expenses is not permitted.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES**COUNCIL POLICY**

- 12.8 The use of a Lord Mayoral Minute to obtain Council approval for travel is not appropriate as it is not consistent with the principles of openness and transparency.

Reimbursement

- 12.9 All claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred are to be made on the prescribed form, supported by appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices and be submitted via the Councillors' Portal.

Advance payment

- 12.10 Council may pay a cash advance for Councillors attending approved conferences, seminars or professional development.
- 12.11 The maximum value of a cash advance is \$250 per day of the conference, seminar or professional development.
- 12.12 Requests for advance payment must be submitted to the General Manager for assessment against this policy using the prescribed form with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.
- 12.13 Councillors must fully reconcile all expenses against the cost of the advance within 30 days of incurring the cost and/or returning home. This includes providing to Council:
- 12.13.1 a full reconciliation of all expenses including appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices
 - 12.13.2 reimbursement of any amount of the advance payment not spent in attending to official business or professional development.

Notification

- 12.14 If a claim is approved, Council will make payment directly or reimburse the Councillor through accounts payable.
- 12.15 If a claim is refused, Council will inform the Councillor in writing that the claim has been refused and the reason for the refusal.

Reimbursement to Council

- 12.16 If Council has incurred an expense on behalf of a Councillor that exceeds a maximum limit, exceeds reasonable incidental private use or is not provided for in this policy, the Councillor will reimburse Council for that expense by way of a deduction from the Councillor's next allowance.

Timeframe for reimbursement

- 12.17 Unless otherwise specified in this policy, Councillors must provide all claims for reimbursement within 60 days of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved.

13 Disputes

- 13.1 If a Councillor disputes a determination under this policy, the Councillor should discuss the matter with the General Manager.
- 13.2 If the Councillor and the General Manager cannot resolve the dispute, the Councillor may submit a notice of motion to a Council meeting seeking to have the dispute resolved.
- 13.3 Council's decision will be final and no further appeal will be permitted.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES**COUNCIL POLICY****14 Return or retention of facilities**

- 14.1 All unexpended facilities or equipment supplied under this policy are to be relinquished immediately upon a Councillor or Lord Mayor ceasing to hold office or at the cessation of their civic duties.
- 14.2 Should a Councillor desire to keep any equipment allocated by Council, then this policy enables the Councillor to make application to the General Manager to purchase any such equipment. The General Manager will determine a fair market price or written down value for the item of equipment.
- 14.3 The prices for all equipment purchased by Councillors under Clause 14.2 will be recorded in Council's annual report.
- 14.4 Notwithstanding clause 14.2 equipment will not be available for purchase by a Councillor, if the Chief Information Officer determines that the device would present an information security risk if retained outside Council possession at the conclusion of the Councillors elected term.

15 Publication

- 15.1 This policy will be published on Council's website.

16 Reporting

- 16.1 Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors as required in the Act and Regulations.
- 16.2 A copy of this policy will be included in Council's annual report.
- 16.3 A report on Lord Mayor and Councillor expenses will be submitted to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 16.4 These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

17 Auditing

- 17.1 The operation of this policy, including claims made under the policy, will be included in Council's internal audit program and an audit undertaken at least once during a term of Council.

18 Breaches

- 18.1 Suspected breaches of this policy are to be reported to the General Manager.
- 18.2 Alleged breaches of this policy will be dealt with by following the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

COUNCIL POLICY

APPROVAL AND REVIEW			
Responsible Division	Governance and Customer Service		
Date adopted by Council	27 June 2022		
Date of previous adoptions	19/11/2018 09/11/2015 13/10/2014 11/11/2013	08/04/2013 12/11/2012 28/11/2011	26/07/2011 19/11/2007 17/10/1994
Date of next review	June 2024		
Legislative or other requirements for review	<p><i>Local Government Act 1993 - sect 252</i></p> <p>(1) Within the first 12 months of each term of a council, the council must adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, the mayor, the deputy mayor (if there is one) and the other councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.</p> <p>(5) A policy under this section must comply with the provisions of this Act, the regulations and any relevant guidelines issued under section 23A.</p> <p><i>Local Government Act 1993 – sect 253</i></p> <p>(1) A council must give public notice of its intention to adopt or amend a policy for the payment of expenses or provision of facilities allowing at least 28 days for the making of public submissions.</p> <p>(2) Before adopting or amending the policy, the council must consider any submissions made within the time allowed for submissions and make any appropriate changes to the draft policy or amendment.</p> <p>(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), a council need not give public notice of a proposed amendment to its policy for the payment of expenses or provision of facilities if the council is of the opinion that the proposed amendment is not substantial.</p> <p>(5) A council must comply with this section when proposing to adopt a policy in accordance with section 252 (1) even if the council proposes to adopt a policy that is the same as its existing policy.</p>		
Responsible Manager	Manager Governance and Customer Service		
Authorised by	Director Corporate Services		

ITEM 5 DRAFT QUARTERLY REVIEW STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 2022

The Quarterly Review Statement outlines progress towards the achievement of Council's Strategic Planning documents, in particular, the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023. The Statement addresses the financial and operational performance of Council and includes the Budget Review Statement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2022 be adopted.
- 2 The Budget Review Statement as at September 2022 be adopted and revised totals of income and expenditure be approved and voted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2022

BACKGROUND

Council's draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2022 outlines the operational and financial performance of Council's Strategic Planning documents - the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2026.

This report also provides an overview of achievements against priority areas and demonstrates the organisation's performance through the inclusion of performance indicators and details of Council's performance against its budgets.

Significant highlights during the quarter include:

- Delivery of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW.
- NAIDOC Celebrations and Awards Dinner.
- Council was successful in securing \$2.6M grant funding under the Get New South Wales Active Program for the delivery of shared path and sections of the Grand Pacific Walk.
- Delivery of the Spin Fest Beach Party event.
- Wollongong presented with the city's official recognition as a UCI Bike City.
- Public exhibition of Council's draft Sportsgrounds and Facilities Strategy 2023 2027.
- A key east-west link, Harry Graham Drive reopened after extensive works to stabilise and repair the road.
- Opening of the Illawarra Criterium Track at Unanderra.
- Opening of the new bike skills playground at Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Park.

Refreshed Format

To ensure alignment to Council's new Delivery Program, the Quarterly Review Statement format has been revised. The Statement now includes progress updates on all actions and reporting on 33 Council Services to improve transparency and accessibility for the community

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Executive Management Team

Senior Leadership Team

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 goal 4 “*We are a connected and engaged community*”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program 2022-2026 Service
4.1 Provide our community with equitable access to information and opportunities to inform decision-making.	Corporate Strategy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The review of the financial estimates proposes a range of adjustments that impact on the Operational Result and the Funds Result. The revised Funds Results forecasts a deterioration of \$0.8M while the revised Operating Result [pre capital] proposes a deterioration of \$2.0M compared to the original budget that is comprised as follows:

Non-Funds Variations (no Fund impact) \$1.2M (U)

• Funded projects	\$3.3M (U)
• New Grants	\$2.7M (F)
• Financial Assistance Grant	\$1.3M (F)
• Investment Revenue	\$0.3M (F)
• Operational Contingency	\$1.5M (U)
• Waste Remediation borrowing costs	\$0.4M (U)
• Transfer from capital to operating	\$0.2M (U)
• Other minor variations	\$0.1M (U)

Funds Variations \$0.8M (U)

• Emergency Services Grant early payment	\$0.8M (U)
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A more detailed analysis is provided in the attachment to this report.

CONCLUSION

This draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2022 has been prepared following input and assistance from all Divisions. It is submitted for consideration and adoption by Council.



Image: Children on Corrimal Beach

Wollongong City Council

Quarterly Review Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023

July - September 2022



Contents

General Manager's Message	3
About this Report	4
Reporting against the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023	8
Summary of Progress by Goal.....	9
GOAL 1 WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT	11
GOAL 2 WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY	27
GOAL 3 WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY.....	34
GOAL 4 WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY.....	40
GOAL 5 WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY.....	53
GOAL 6 WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT	67
SUPPORT SERVICES	70
QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT	79



Image: North Beach, Wollongong
Photo Caitlyn Phanith (Unsplash)

General Manager's Message

This Quarterly Review Statement (July to September 2022) reports on progress towards achieving the five Councillor Strategic Priorities from the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023.

Actions and updates from the Operational Plan 2022-2023 and 33 Council Services, which form the Delivery Program, are reported by the six Community Goals from the Our Wollongong 2032 Community Strategic Plan. Highlights from this quarter include:

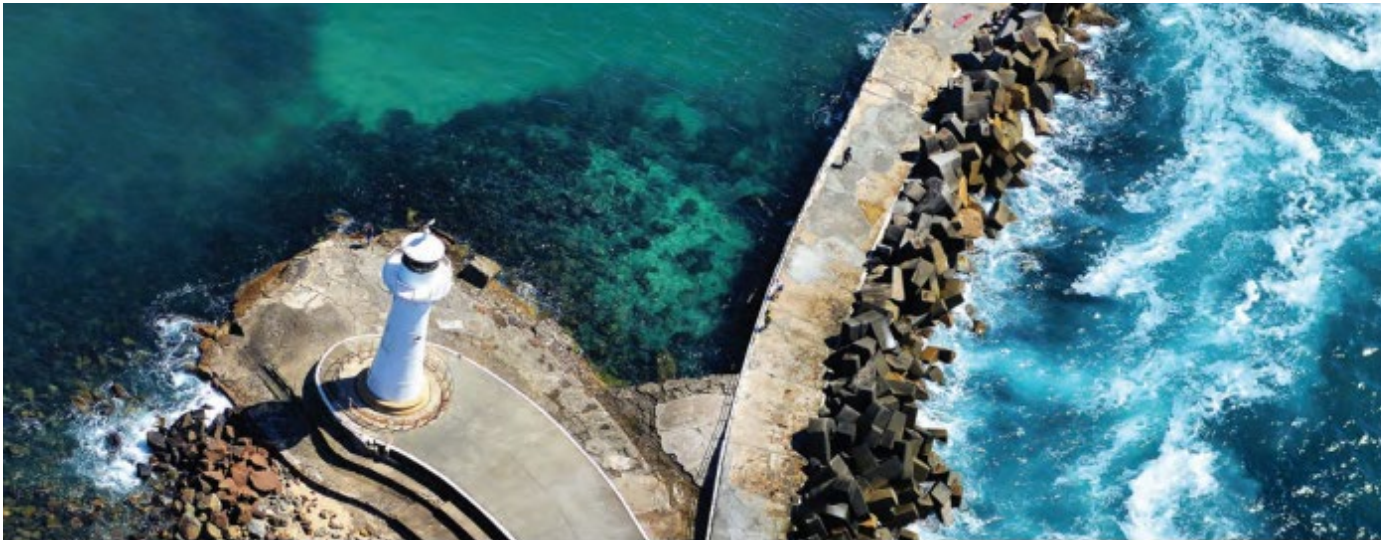
- 1 Delivery of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW.
- 2 NAIDOC Celebrations and Awards Dinner.
- 3 Council was successful in securing \$2.6M grant funding under the Get New South Wales Active Program for the delivery of shared path and sections of the Grand Pacific Walk.
- 4 Delivery of the *Spin Fest Beach Party* event.
- 5 Wollongong presented with the city's official recognition as a UCI Bike City.
- 6 Public exhibition of Council's draft Sportsgrounds and Facilities Strategy 2023-2027.
- 7 A key east-west link, Harry Graham Drive reopened after extensive works to stabilise and repair the road.
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- 9 Opening of the new bike skills playground at Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Park.

This Delivery Program includes a \$400M investment for major projects and maintaining our existing infrastructure and will continue to provide employment opportunities to local contractors, suppliers and businesses. As the community transitions into a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, measures to continue in 2022-2023 include outdoor dining fee waivers and supporting our creative community with the artist in residence and mentorship program and events re-emergence support as well as enhanced city centre marketing and activation. Council will also continue to apply the Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy where required.

We continue to focus on improving our customer service to best serve our community and are committed to be the best possible local government authority we can be to deliver on our promise of creating an extraordinary Wollongong.

I would like to thank all staff and the community for their contributions to the achievements identified in this Quarterly Review and Budget Review Statement. This Review will inform the Annual Report due in November 2023.

Greg Doyle
General Manager



About this Report

The Quarterly Review reports on Council's progress and outcomes against services and actions from the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. It presents Council's financials and budget and provides the community with the original and revised annual budgets with explanations if any significant adjustments have occurred.

It is important to present regular updates to the community to provide communication on the progress of Council's Plans, including achievements, delays or changes. While Council works to deliver all Services as planned, there can be changes required due to a number of factors, that may impact on Council's Services and their delivery. The Quarterly Review Report provides a regular opportunity to provide updates to our community.

This Quarterly Progress Review reports outcomes against Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2022-2023 for the September quarter.

Council's 33 Services form the foundation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Council's Services are presented under their best fit goal. Council's internal Services form an additional group called Support Services to demonstrate that these Services support the delivery of all goals.

Council reviews services as part of a continuous improvement approach based on community feedback with the aim of creating efficiencies and improving service

delivery to the community.

Wollongong City Council regularly tracks and monitors the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and reports to the community on progress through this Quarterly Report as well as on an annual basis. Council also tracks progress towards the Community Strategic Plan through the State of the City Report. All reports will be available on Council's website.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Localised
Suburbs and
Places

Sustainable
Wollongong

Active
Transport and
Connectivity

Business and
Investment

West Dapto

Our Councillors have made a commitment to support our organisation and community in making Wollongong a better place to live, work, visit and play. To focus Council's attention on achieving this, Councillors have agreed to five Strategic Priorities. These are outlined in the Delivery Program 2022-2026. A summary of progress made in the September quarter is outlined below:

Localised
Suburbs and
Places

Connecting Neighbours Grants were available to support an event or activity that connects people to each other and the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event. Funding was provided for a range of activities across the local government area such as street parties, street decorating, outdoor UCI screenings, bicycle activities for children, community picnic and other activities. An all-ages event was held in Helensburgh as part of the *Spin Fest* program.

Public artworks were installed on amenities blocks in Corrimal and West Wollongong. The 'Artward' artist in residence program was delivered in Helensburgh, Corrimal, Windang, Puckey's Estate, Wiseman's Park and Bellambi Lagoon. Each artist engaged with the community to inform the art workshops and creative products created as part of the program.

Planning for important community infrastructure continued during the quarter to enhance the liveability of our suburbs. A development application is currently being assessed for the Warrawong Community Centre and Library. A draft Plan of Management has also been lodged to New South Wales Crown Lands for the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library. Initial investigations, planning and design are underway for building extension and enhancement of Wongawilli Hall and development of a concept plan for the Community Recreation and Aquatic Centre at Cleveland has commenced.

Sustainable
Wollongong

Highlights for the quarter include advocacy around environmental sustainability of New South Wales planning controls; development of a Climate Friendly Planning Framework, based on feedback from the recent public exhibition process and progression of Power Purchase Agreement procurement process in a challenging market, with the goal of securing a renewable energy source for Council's electricity.

Council has submitted annual reporting and maintained its badges under the Global Covenant of Mayors program. Council was awarded bronze recognition for its membership in the Sustainability Advantage program.

The land fill gas expansion project accelerated, with the aim of reducing greenhouse emissions emanating from the Whytes Gully landfill.

Preparation of the draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2027 has commenced, to guide our continued efforts in emissions reduction for Council and the city. Progress is on track per the program plan.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Sustainable Wollongong

A report card showcasing the latest water quality results for Lake Illawarra has been released. Despite high rainfall over the last 12 months the water quality of the Lake is in good condition.

Active Transport and Connectivity

The Active Transport and Mobility Plan has been put to market and submissions are being reviewed.

Scoping and implementation of priority pedestrian and cyclist links are being delivered through the Infrastructure Delivery Program for new footpath and shared paths.

A scope of works for the development of a draft Integrated Transport Strategy was finalised and the approach to market is in progress.

Cycling maps were updated and published on Council's website. Cycling and pedestrian counts were also undertaken at key locations to inform usage and future priorities and an evaluation of pop up cycleways is in progress. A draft Bike City dashboard was developed to show the opportunities and benefits of becoming Australia's first UCI Bike City.

Events to promote active transport such as *Spin Fest* were held. Further promotional activities were undertaken as part of the Safer Routes to School Program to promote walking to school at priority locations.

Business and Investment

Council continues to place strategic priority on facilitating new business and investment to the city, whilst supporting the existing local business community. As part of the Invest Wollongong Program, Council continues to promote the city as an attractive business location. Council has now developed an online virtual tour of the Wollongong CBD to provide potential businesses and investors with further detail of the opportunities within our city. In addition, Council also launched a start-up case study video profiling local start-ups and their stories.

The digital marketing campaign targeting external stakeholders and raising awareness of Wollongong as a desirable alternative Central Business District location for business continued during the September quarter.

Events that emphasise Wollongong as a key area for business and investment were also hosted including Tech Connect targeted towards Wollongong's local start-ups and the UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW hospitality event, showcased the region during this period.

West Dapto

During the quarter progress continued on infrastructure planning, design and funding. Priority construction continues to focus in the area of Wongawilli Road /West Dapto Road urban upgrades.

Steps to finalise Biodiversity Certification for West Dapto continued with lodgement of a revised application and public exhibition expected during the December 2022 quarter.

Progress has been made on key studies including the West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and West Dapto Green Network (Landscape) Masterplan.

During the quarter, Council made submission to the Geographical Names Board on the proposed new suburb of Stream Hill. It is anticipated a final decision about the new suburb will be made in the December 2022 quarter.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



West Dapto

Council continues to assess applications and facilitate pre-lodgement meetings for planning proposals, neighbourhood plans and development applications within the release area.






Reporting against the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023

This Quarterly Review reports on progress of activities and actions within Council's 33 Services. Council's Services are presented under their best fit goal. Council's internal Services form an additional group called Support Services to demonstrate that these Services support the delivery of all goals.





Summary of Progress by Goal Status of Actions for September Quarter

Status		Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Support Services	Total
On-Track		93%	92%	90%	97%	87%	71%	83%	90%
Action is progressing as planned									
Complete		0%	0%	10%	3%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Action or project achieved as planned									
Deferred		3%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
A decision has been made to reschedule the timing of the project or actions									
Not scheduled to commence		2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
The action was not due to commence during the reporting quarter									
Delayed		2%	8%	0%	0%	9%	29%	17%	6%
Unforeseen event has changed the timing of a project or action									



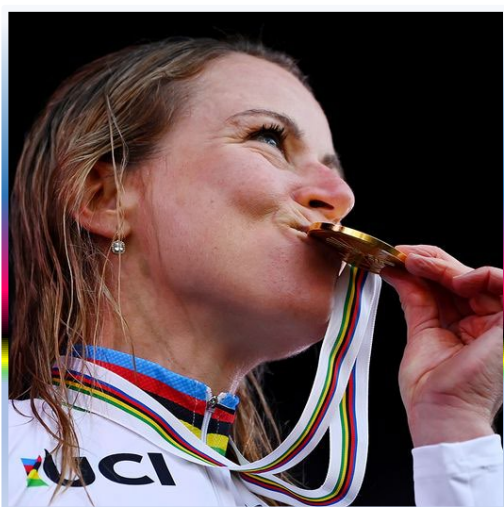
In partnership with Wollongong 2022, Council supported and delivered the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW. This prestigious global, Olympic scale event was the largest event ever hosted by the city and featured over 670 riders from 65 countries competing in championship races over eight days and welcomed over 240,000 visitors to the city. Alongside the event, Council delivered *Spin Fest*, a city wide celebration involving a free program of live music, art, entertainment, food and a beach party. Legacy outcomes from hosting the event include attraction of funding to support active transport infrastructure, increasing opportunities for participation in cycling and sport, developing education programs for cyclists and tourism opportunities.



2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW finishing line.



Spin Fest Beach Party, North Wollongong Beach.



Women's Champion, Annemiek van Vleuten.



Men's Champion, Remco Evenepoel (centre), 2nd Christophe La Por (Left) and 3rd Michael Matthews (right).

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

September Quarter Highlights



IMAGE: Local students from Waiora Public School and Council staff planting native shrubs and grasses at Arthur Osborne Grove, Bulli.



IMAGE: Council Road Sweeping Operations crew work through the night and day to sweep streets of rubbish and debris.



IMAGE: Community members participate in the Rise & Shine Community Clean Up event.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Development Assessment

Responsibility Manager Development Assessment and Certification

About this Service





The service undertakes assessment and determination of planning matters to facilitate balanced planning outcomes to serve the current and future community. This includes development applications, construction certificates, complying development, building and subdivision certificates, pre-lodgement advice, managing panels, Fire Safety Statements and upgrades, building compliance inspections, audits on completed buildings, providing expert evidence in Land and Environment Court Appeals, and advice to Council and stakeholders in all aspects of the development assessment process.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council continued to assess a diverse range of development applications for the September quarter ranging from single dwelling additions to multi storey mixed use developments in the city centre. Pre-lodgement advice was provided for a variety of stakeholders with potential projects during the quarter. Council also continues to provide a service as a Principal Certifying Authority for building and subdivisions as an alternative option to the private sector.

Council has engaged in a 'Faster Local Assessment Grant Program' with the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment focusing on streamlining subdivision assessment times. The grant funding has enabled the establishment of a dedicated subdivision assessment team. There has also been a significant focus on the integration of the New South Wales Planning Portal with Council's systems for improved efficiencies with lodging Development Applications.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Engage with NSW Government, agencies, development/building industry and the broader community to achieve improved development outcomes	On-Track 	Council continues to engage with all levels of government and industry for improved development outcomes. Over the last quarter this has included engagement with Planning New South Wales on faster local approvals and the evolution of the planning portal and various meetings with the Southern Regional Planning Panel on pending and current applications and potential process improvements.
Administer Design Review Panel in relation to key sites or significant development	On-Track 	Council continues to work with the Design Review Panel to achieve design excellence in the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel provided advice on 13 matters during the September quarter.
Administer the Wollongong Local Planning Panel	On-Track 	Council continues to work with the Wollongong Local Planning Panels to finalise the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel considered 10 matters during the September quarter.
In conjunction with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment administer the Southern Regional Planning Panel	On-Track 	Council continues to work with the Southern Regional Planning Panel to finalise the assessment and determination of significant Development Applications. The Panel was briefed on one application matter during the September quarter.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Emergency Management

Responsibility Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning




About this Service

The service provides support in the planning and preparation for significant emergencies that may impact the safety and security of residents and visitors to the city. This involves Council's operational response to support Emergency Service Agencies during incidents and emergencies.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council's core business in emergency management is to provide executive support to the Illawarra Local Emergency Management Committee in line with the Illawarra Emergency Management's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). During the quarter Council provided support for three severe weather events when the Illawarra Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated or placed on standby. The region experienced severe storm activity and high rainfall which led to minor flash flooding and some landslips. The EOC was activated in order to coordinate evacuation of low-lying caravan parks around Lake Illawarra should that need have arisen.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Collaborate with Shellharbour City Council and Kiama Municipal Council under the Illawarra Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding	On-Track 	Council continues to collaborate with Shellharbour City and Kiama Municipal council's per the current Illawarra Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU outlines the collaboration to support the Illawarra Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) by providing the services of LEMC chair, executive support to the committee and Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) duties. Shellharbour City Council and Kiama Council Local Emergency Management Officers provided coverage for the Wollongong Council Local Emergency Management Officer during the UCI Road World Cycling Championships.
Prepare resilience and response plans to respond to unforeseen events	On-Track 	Council is actively engaged with the preparation of resilience and response plans through providing executive support to the Illawarra Emergency Management Committee. During the quarter, Council commenced collaboration with various Council stakeholders to determine suitable community buildings to act as 'places of refuge' for the community during extreme weather events; participated in a post-event review after the Tallawarra Substation Fire and led a site familiarisation program involving emergency services and the asset owner. Research also commenced to develop a safety exercise for Council's prescribed dams.
Continue to progress design and construction of a new Wollongong State Emergency Services unit	On-Track 	The State Emergency Service (SES) and Council are working together to consider the requirements of the SES across the Local Government Area and the location and function required for buildings. Council met with SES to discuss this matter in August 2022. Since this time, Council has reviewed and refined the draft SES facilities assessment - project brief and requested further information. Suitable site locations will be determined for the Dapto, Wollongong, Northern Suburbs units.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Regulatory Compliance

Responsibility Manager Regulation + Enforcement

About this Service




This service involves environment and development compliance, animal control and parking in accordance with statutory requirements and Council Policy. Providing education programs and information to raise community awareness also forms part of this service.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council's Regulatory Compliance services were delivered throughout the September quarter with various programs being implemented. Council implemented programs for companion animal management, parking compliance, illegal dumping, onsite sewage management system compliance, food premise compliance inspections and general development compliance functions including a focus on Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Compliance inspections and education leading into summer.


Council revised its Compliance and Enforcement Policy which was adopted on 22 August 2022 following community consultation.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Maintain a proactive surveillance and inspection program of known dumping hot-spots and implement education and awareness raising programs aimed at reducing illegally dumped waste	On-Track 	Council staff investigated 171 illegal dumping incidents and following investigation issued eight formal cautions and eight verbal clean up notices during the quarter. A hotspot inspection program was implemented, with known illegal dumping locations inspected weekly and with surveillance cameras also in place at known illegal dumping sites across the Wollongong Local Government Area. Council continued to work closely with Department of Communities and Justice – Housing to educate their tenants and reduce the amount of kerbside dumping that is occurring adjacent to their properties.
Maintain a proactive compliance program for companion animals in public places	On-Track 	Council implemented a proactive companion animal compliance program during the September quarter. The program included a proactive beach patrol program to educate dog owners of their responsibilities under Council's Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy and the Companion Animals Act. A signage upgrade program also continued with new signage installed at Thomas Gibson Park, Thirroul and Beaton Park, Gwynneville.
Develop and implement an education and awareness raising program regarding swimming pool barriers	On-Track 	A draft Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Education and Awareness Program Procedure has been developed for exhibition as an action resulting from Council's internal audit program. The procedure is expected to be finalised in the December 2022 quarter and will formally document the education and awareness program that involves engaging with homeowners, property managers, real estate agents, sporting clubs, and dance schools with educating their clientele about swimming pool safety. Council's swimming pool safety barrier inspection program involves direct education with affected pool owners and includes providing the 'Swimming Pool Safety Booklet'.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Regulatory Compliance Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Undertake targeted compliance of subdivision and residential building sites for sediment and erosion control, hours of operation, waste management and dust control	On-Track 	<p>Council's compliance officers investigate all complaints regarding sediment and erosion control matters, non-compliance with development consent conditions specific to hours of operation, waste management and dust control. Council also delivered formalised training to builders, civil contractor and earthworks companies and developers in sediment and erosion control. A second training session was held for Council staff.</p> <p>To provide additional focus in this area, Council has recruited a Building Sites Compliance Officer as a trial to commence in October 2022.</p>

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Stormwater Services

Responsibility Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning

About this Service



This service strategically plans for a coordinated approach to floodplain risk management and stormwater management including protection of waterways, beaches, lakes, lagoons and creeks. This service manages and maintains 835 kilometres of drainage and associated infrastructure assets across the city that aim to be safe, efficient, effective and sustainable.

Quarterly Progress Update

The review of floodplain risk management studies and plans has well progressed over the September quarter however delays have been experienced due to the availability of flood consultants who have been redirecting their resources to flood recovery assistance for a significant number of flood affected communities throughout New South Wales and Queensland.

Educational videos for our community have progressed that provide useful information responding to the most common stormwater and flood related enquiries. The planned stormwater maintenance program has been issued for delivery. The assessment and design of mitigation measures for high priority stormwater inlets has also progressed. The delivery of stormwater programs has been delayed as resources prioritise handling high volumes of enquiries related to the significant rainfall events that have occurred in the city.



Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and implement the Floodplain Risk Management Plans including Voluntary Purchase Scheme	On-Track 	Council is currently progressing the review of 10 flood studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans. Three of these are currently scheduled to be completed during 2022-2023, with the remainder to be delivered in 2024-2025. Two studies are planned to go to community exhibition in the December 2022 quarter (Mullet Creek and Towradgi Creek), with another three later in 2022-2023. Nine projects are currently being designed that provide flood mitigation to the community for the future. The voluntary purchase scheme has not progressed during this quarter due to the timing of funding availability. It is planned to approach property owners in the December 2022 quarter.
Plan and deliver stormwater maintenance, renewal and upgrade works	On-Track 	Stormwater maintenance lists for 2022-2023 have been prepared and environmental approvals obtained. Projects have been allocated for implementation. Additional stormwater maintenance actions identified through the ongoing camera inspection program are being reviewed for environmental approval and inclusion on future maintenance lists. The existing contracted works for pit and pipe clearing have been delivered. The stormwater reline tender is currently being reviewed, with works to commence once the tender has been finalised. Of the 18 projects identified for construction in the Infrastructure Delivery Program in 2022-2023, one has been completed, one has been handed over and the rest are on track.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Stormwater Services Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver rolling program of flood and stormwater infrastructure condition and safety inspections	On-Track 	Stormwater pipe closed circuit television (CCTV) and pit inspections continued during quarter. Inspections undertaken were a combination of scheduled and ad hoc inspections to investigate issues raised by the community. Routine monthly surveillance inspections of Council's declared dams were completed as scheduled.
Enhance the management of Council owned water and wastewater assets	On-Track 	Water management plans for Sublime point and Mt Keira have been completed and approved. The Southern gateway now has additional capacity and is monitored via telemetry.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*

About this Service

This service involves Council working with the community in relation to local climate change mitigation, adaptation, monitoring and reporting, environmental education, volunteer management and partnerships, waste minimisation and environmental advocacy.

Quarterly Progress Update




Council continued its focus on its climate change response during the quarter, meeting its Global Covenant of Mayors commitments and implementing actions from the Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022 (for instance acceleration of the land fill gas expansion project at Whytes Gully landfill) and Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022 (for instance development of an Urban Heat Strategy).

Work also progressed on the development of the next Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2022-2026 and the Coastal Management Program for the Open Coast.

Council was awarded bronze recognition for its membership in the Sustainability Advantage program. A successful grant from the New South Wales Coastal and Estuary Program is assisting to fund with the water quality and estuary health monitoring program at Lake Illawarra and the catchment monitoring program. The 2021-2022 Lake Illawarra Estuary Health and Water Quality Report Card indicated that the water quality of the lake is in good condition despite significant rainfall over the last 12 months.





Policy and procedures associated with environmental and sustainability matters have been reviewed, including; Asbestos Policy, Development Control Plan Chapters E17 and E18, Community Gardens and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Public Land.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver commitments made under the Global Covenant of Mayors and support Council's climate emergency declaration	On-Track 	Annual reporting has been submitted for Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) requirements on time. It is expected Council will retain badges earned from previous successes, announcement to be made in the upcoming quarter. Council staff continue to be involved with Cities Power Partnership activities and contribute to achieving Council's associated pledges. Actions continue to be implemented from the existing Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022, including progress on negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement and including Electric Vehicles in Council's fleet.
Prepare the Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2022-2026	On-Track 	Preparation of the draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2027 has commenced, and progress is on track per the program plan, consistent with Council's commitments under the Global Covenant of Mayors initiative.
Implement priority actions from the Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022	On-Track 	Priority actions have commenced with the scope being prepared for development of an Urban Heat Strategy, investigation of the adequacy of community facilities to withstand extreme heat, consideration of climate risk in the planned upgrade of Helensburgh community centre, further emergency planning and a successful grant application for updating Council's bushfire risk planning.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate Council's waste, volunteer, environmental and conservation programs, activities and events	On-Track 	The <i>Plastic Free</i> July campaign was delivered and included a Mall promotion a new lookout at Greenhouse Park was completed with Wollongong Rotary completed and officially opened by the Deputy Lord Mayor; National Tree Day activities involving 70 volunteers planting 550 natives along Cabbage Tree Creek in Fairy Meadow; Natural Areas staff promoted volunteers programs at the University of Wollongong on two occasions and spoke to Corrimal Rotary about the opportunities to assist locally and how to contribute.
Implement priority actions of the certified Coastal Management Program for Lake Illawarra	On-Track 	The Coastal Management Program implementation schedule is being carried out. Two key projects were initiated during the quarter; the development of a Community Engagement and Participation Strategy for the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program, and a Development Control Plan review to incorporate the outcomes of the Coastal Management Program. These projects were partly funded through the New South Wales Coast and Estuary Program. A significant number of other projects are either ongoing or are progressing, including a bathymetric survey of the Lake and a Bank Management Strategy for the foreshore.
Develop a Coastal Management Program for the Open Coast	On-Track 	During the quarter, community engagement, including with First Nations groups, has continued and the engagement report was prepared. Three first pass risk assessment workshops were held with key Council and agency staff to help to prioritise issues for consideration in the future Coastal Management Program.
Council support local food security outcomes through advocacy, sponsorship, partnering and local initiatives	On-Track 	Council continues to deliver a range of services to promote food security within Wollongong. These include delivery of education on food waste avoidance, facilitation of enquiries relating to community gardens, and publication of the Low Cost and Free Meals Directory.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Natural Area Management

Responsibility *Manager Open Space + Environmental Services*

About this Service




This service includes the management of natural areas under Council care and control. Activities undertaken as part of this service include restoration of natural areas, weed management, pest management, bushfire management as well as the conservation of endangered ecological communities and threatened species. These activities are funded through a combination of Council's own operating funds, external grants, partnerships with other organisations and the support of community volunteers.

Quarterly Progress Update

The draft Fairy Creek Corridor Vegetation Management Plan has been developed to guide long term restoration work.

Local Bike tracks at Figtree, Bulli, Horsley and Fairy meadow were impacted by significant wet weather erosion and have now been repaired for safe access.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate natural area restoration works at priority sites	On-Track 	A new tender panel of ecological restoration contractors has been established. Quotation assessments and allocation of contracts is currently occurring across all sites. A draft Fairy Creek Corridor Vegetation Management Plan has been developed to guide long term restoration work. Local Bike tracks underwent repairs and upgrades during August to ensure safety and good order. 77 natural area and 43 pest action customer requests were responded to during the September quarter.
Continue implementation of priority actions from the Dune Management Strategy	On-Track 	Quotations for dune management works during 2022-2023 have been sought and are undergoing assessment.
Implement annual bushfire hazard reduction works program for Asset Protection Zones on Council managed lands	On-Track 	Quotations have been sought for the 2022-2023 period, which includes a total of 62 Asset Protection Zones. All of the priority one projects will be completed by October 2022. Council was awarded \$100,000 in external funds from Resilience New South Wales to undertake a review of asset protection zones in line with new modelling. Seven customer service requests were responded to during the quarter.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management

Responsibility *Manager Open Space + Environmental Services*

About this Service





Waste management includes the environmentally responsible, customer focused resource recovery, recycling and solid waste management. The service includes community education programs, waste collection and recycling, operation of the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park, public domain waste collection and facilities cleaning.

Quarterly Progress Update

Waste Management continues to be delivered in support of Wollongong's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.



The 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event posed a significant challenge to the delivery of regular collection services during the September quarter. The planning and implementation of service modifications, including change of service days and starting times, ensured continuity of services with limited impacts to residents.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Continue to monitor environmentally sustainable actions for charitable waste	On-Track 	Charitable waste continues to be monitored following the development of Individualised Waste Management Plans for each Registered Community Service Organisation and changes to the exemptions policy to encourage sorting and diversion from landfill. 100 tonnes of material have been diverted from landfill during the September quarter.
Implement a research and development program targeting waste diversion from landfill with the University of Wollongong	On-Track 	Options for a waste diversion development research and development program with the University of Wollongong (UOW) are being explored. Council is currently working with UOW and Remondis on the identification of contamination in the domestic waste stream using artificial intelligence technology.
Deliver options for a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) trial for multi-unit dwellings	Delayed 	Challenges in finalising suitable trial locations have been experienced due to changes with strata managers and owners of multi-unit dwellings. Options are currently being explored with the intent to commence a trial as soon as possible.
Deliver a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program across the LGA	On-Track 	A community Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) survey was conducted this quarter with 1,627 valid responses received. The survey has provided valuable information on community behaviour and attitudes towards FOGO and will be used to inform future actions. Since the program commenced 66,578 tonnes of FOGO material has been diverted from landfill with contamination well below the New South Wales average.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Continue to educate the community on waste principles – avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle to increase waste diversion from household waste streams	On-Track 	This quarter was focused on conducting the Food Organics (FOGO) Community Survey. The review of Sustainability related Education across Council has continued with the draft Sustainability Education program scheduled for completion in January 2023. The Sustainability Education program will include activities to support actions from the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans including waste reduction, urban greening, and other activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Continue to develop and implement the landfill gas management system at Whytes Gully	On-Track 	Landfill gas capture continues to improve with an average of 1,870 kilograms of equivalent carbon dioxide avoided per month. This equates to a 12% increase in gas capture from the monthly average recorded during 2021-2022.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Land Use Planning

Responsibility *Manager City Strategy*

About this Service

Land Use Planning manages the plans, policies and certificates that help our community understand the role and function of land within Wollongong. The team undertakes detailed studies to make long term plans for how we can live, work and play sustainably, protecting what we value and ensuring development contributes to great places for our community.

Quarterly Progress Update




During the quarter, Council endorsed the draft Wollongong Housing Strategy and draft Retail and Business Centres Strategy for exhibition.

Council endorsed updated chapters of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 relating to riparian lands and boarding houses as well as the City-Wide Development Contributions Plan. Two Planning Proposals were finalised through amendments to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009, namely - the listing of 15 additional heritage items in the Wollongong City Centre and the approval of an artisan food and drink premise at Darkes Forest.

The draft Plan of Management for Helensburgh Park Crown Reserve was submitted to New South Wales Crown Lands for permission to place on public exhibition.






Council resolved to reform the Heritage Reference Group and endorsed a revised Charter. Community membership of the reference group is being sought.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Local Government Area Wide Retail Centres Study and South West Sydney Development Impacts Study	On-Track 	On 12 September 2022, Council endorsed the draft Retail and Business Centres Strategy for public exhibition. The Strategy will be on exhibition from 10 October to 2 December 2022. The South-West Sydney Development Impacts Study has progressed and is nearing completion. Council has been working with consultants to develop an index of 106 of Wollongong's key visitor locations. This information will help Council plan for and manage our key visitor locations in the future.
Prepare a Local Government Area Industrial Lands Study	On-Track 	The Industrial Lands Study has commenced. Data on employment zones is being compiled and relevant literature has been reviewed. Interviews with stakeholders has occurred in during the quarter. A survey has also been distributed to landowners and stakeholders seeking their feedback to inform the Study parameters and focus areas.
Review the Local Strategic Planning Statement	Not Scheduled to commence 	The revised Local Strategic Planning Statement will be informed by finalisation of the draft Housing Strategy and Retail and Business Centre Strategy which are both currently on public exhibition. Review of Local Strategic Planning Statement is scheduled to commence in early 2023.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT


Land Use Planning Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Continue the review of West Dapto Land Release Area by developing a Local Infrastructure Plan	On-Track 	Development of the West Dapto Local Infrastructure Plan has commenced with the scheduled review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan, 2020. The Local Infrastructure Plan will also be informed by a Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment for West Dapto and Landscape Plan for riparian corridors which are currently being developed. Public exhibition of the draft Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment is planned for the end of 2022 to early 2023.
In collaboration with key agencies, facilitate the West Dapto Review Committee to deliver the West Dapto Urban Release Area	On-Track 	The West Dapto Review Committee is Chaired by the Lord Mayor and includes Ward three Councillors. The New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment has an ongoing invitation to attend committee meetings. On 17 August 2022, the committee agreed on a revised Charter. The updated Charter was adopted at the ordinary meeting of Council held 12 September 2022.
Review West Dapto recreation needs in line with the bi-annual review of the West Dapto Development Contribution Plan	On-Track 	During the quarter Council made progress preparing the West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment to identify the open space and recreation needs for the release area. The needs assessment will inform development of the updated (2023) West Dapto Development Contributions Plan and Local Infrastructure Plan.
Progress the City Centre Planning Strategy	Deferred 	In December 2020, Council resolved to defer the progression of the draft City Centre Planning Strategy pending the progression of other projects. One of the supporting strategies, the draft Retail and Business Centres Strategy has been endorsed by Council for exhibition. The City Centre Movement and Place Study is being progressed in association with development of the Wollongong Integrated Transport Plan.
Develop and install the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place Interpretive Strategy and Indigenous Art Project	On-Track 	The Sandon Point Interpretation Strategy has been completed in consultation with the Joint Management partners and broader Aboriginal community. Four interpretative signs have been erected. Consultation commenced with stakeholders on the methodology to progress the next phase - to seek expressions of interest from artists for Aboriginal artworks that tell appropriate stories.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Land Use Planning Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Finalise the development of the Housing Strategy and commence implementation on initial priorities	On-Track 	<p>The draft Housing Strategy was endorsed for exhibition on 29 August 2022. The Strategy will be on exhibition from 10 October to 2 December 2022.</p> <p>Following the exhibition, Council will consider the issues raised in submissions. If the Strategy is endorsed, it will be implemented via draft changes to planning controls contained in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP) and Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 (DCP), Development Contribution Plans and Fees and Charges Policy. The draft changes will be exhibited for community input. The effect of the changes will be monitored, and if necessary further refinements will be made.</p>

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data Where Available – September 2021	Result September 2022
Development Assessment			
Outstanding DAs < 90 days	200	259	304
Outstanding DAs >90 days	50	78	83
Average net determination days ¹	50	New Measure	-

¹ Data unavailable for September 2022

Environmental Services			
Participation Rate in Education Programs	Increase	New Measure	1,626
Tonnes of waste collected from clean up activities	Decrease	18	3.24

Natural Area Management			
Participation rate in environmental programs	Increase	11*	4,329
Number of volunteers worked at Bushcare, Dunecare and FIREReady sites	Increase	11*	283

*Comparative result impacted by COVID-19.

Waste Services			
Waste diverted from landfill (tonnes)	Decrease	New Measure	47.23
Waste Education Workshops and Events - number	Increase	New Measure	30
Waste Education Workshops and Events - Participants	Increase	New Measure	1,626
Waste Removed from Our Creek and Waterway Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices and Trash Racks	Decrease	Not Applicable (Annual)	-
Recycling Contamination In Public Waste Bins	Decreased	Not Applicable (Annual)	-

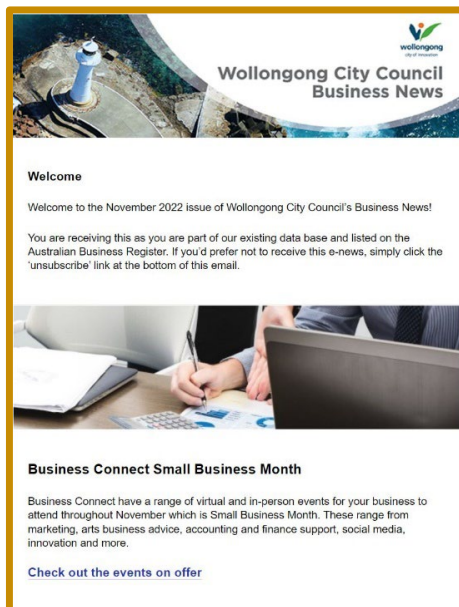
Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the State of the City Report.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

September Quarter Highlights



Expansion of Outdoor Dining initiatives, Crown Street Mall, Wollongong.



Wollongong City Council's bi-monthly Business Newsletter.



CBD Activation – Inflatable Sculptures at Spin Fest celebrations, Crown Street Mall.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

City Centre Management

Responsibility Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development

About this Service

From Wollongong Station to the foreshore, City Centre Management supports the revitalisation of the City Centre through the coordination and delivery of a range of strategies in collaboration with various stakeholders. The service also ensures the smooth operation of the City Centre, particularly Crown Street Mall which is funded by the Special Mall Levy. This includes day-to-day management, security, CCTV operations, graffiti removal, events and activation opportunities and marketing.




Quarterly Progress Update

The Wollongong City Centre featured as a key visitor destination during the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event. To improve attractiveness to visitors, the City Centre was decked in colour and vibrancy and improved wayfinding, safety measures and additional cleaning were implemented to enhance the amenity of the area.

Extensive engagement was undertaken with businesses to assist with planning for the event and identifying opportunities to maximise business benefits. The Wollongong CBD website and social media channels promoted the Wollongong City Centre experience.

City Centre operations, cleanliness, maintenance, and security continued to be delivered throughout the quarter.


Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver increased City Centre marketing and activation initiatives to support local and regional economic recovery in response to COVID-19	On-Track 	In preparation for the 2022 UCI Road World Championship – Wollongong NSW event, Lower Crown Street Mall and Lower Crown Street received an additional boost for outdoor dining through the provision of outdoor dining seating areas and parklets. This project was funded by the New South Wales State Government under the Streets as Shared Spaces Program in conjunction with Council. As part of the Wollongong <i>Spin Fest</i> Event, extensive live music, entertainment, and visual arts were programmed in the Wollongong CBD.
Implement a range of pilot projects and activation initiatives across the City Centre precincts	On-Track 	Music has continued to be a focus with support being provided to Globe Lane's DJ music program. <i>Live@Lunch</i> continued in Crown Street Mall twice weekly in partnership with Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and the Illawarra Folk Club. The Crown Lane temporary road closure and outdoor dining pavilions have been extended for a further six-month trial until early April 2023 due to positive business feedback.
Develop and implement City Centre Wayfinding	Delayed 	The Creative Wayfinding project in Globe Lane has been reviewed and updated in response to the increased activation of outdoor dining areas within this precinct. Final designs have been approved and include an entry sign and two bespoke seats. Construction will commence during the December 2022 quarter.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

City Centre Management Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver an integrated marketing campaign that reflects the 'city experience'	On-Track 	<p>Wollongong CBD social media followers and engagement has reached at least 179,000 Facebook users and 29,000 Instagram users. A significant amount of this reach occurred during the two weeks of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW (17-28 September).</p> <p>In the lead-up to the UCI event, communication included information for businesses to plan for and during the event and to explore opportunities for maximising business benefits. The <i>Spin Fest</i> event featured a program of free family-friendly celebrations, and the event guide was shared through the Wollongong CBD website and social media channels.</p>

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Economic Development

Responsibility *Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development*




About this Service

This service promotes sustainable economic development across Wollongong Local Government Area through implementation of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029. The service contributes to a number of economic development programs and initiatives in partnership with business, government, the University of Wollongong and a range of business and industry stakeholders.

Quarterly Progress Update




Council facilitated 18 new business and investment enquiries during the September quarter. 13 of these were Investment enquiries and five of these were business enquiries. Council continues to facilitate many longer-term ongoing projects, via Council's Major Project process.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Economic Development Strategy 20219-2029	On-Track 	BlueScope appointed world-leading architects and urban designers, Bjarke Ingels Group, to develop a master plan for 200 hectares of surplus industrial land. The Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy the Hon. Chris Bowen MP announced six cities that have world-class offshore wind potential, including Wollongong. The New South Wales Government announced four Wollongong projects have been shortlisted as part of its \$140M Hydrogen Hub program, with a final decision by the end of the year. A Tech Connect event with local start-up's community and a new video featuring some of our local innovative start-up companies was released.
Continue to support growth of our local small business sector	On-Track 	Council released two editions of a bi-monthly Business newsletter which went out to over 10,000 businesses across the Wollongong Local Government Area to support local businesses by facilitating information and opportunities to support local small businesses. Council sponsored the 'Excellence in Innovation' award category at the annual Business Illawarra Awards.
Work with other levels of government and the business community to respond to the post COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery	On-Track 	Council's COVID-19 recovery package included Council's Business Support Programs, buy-local campaign - 'We Shop the Gong', and changes to outdoor dining policies. This initiative included deliveries of merchandise and collateral to businesses including tote bags, posters, and coasters. Latest figures show total local spending for the Local Government Area over the past year (August 2021- July 2022) increased by 1.2% compared to the previous year. Resident local spending within the Local Government Area over the same period (August 2021- July 2022) increased by 2.3% compared to the previous year.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Economic Development Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
In partnership with NSW Government and the University of Wollongong, deliver the Invest Wollongong program	On-Track 	The Invest Wollongong digital advertising campaign continued to roll out, which targeted external stakeholders with a particular focus on profiling Wollongong as a desirable alternative business location. The campaign compared favourably with digital advertising benchmarks and generated over 4,800 clicks through to the Invest Wollongong webpage for more information. Council launched the next video in its Invest Wollongong start-up case study video series, profiling Scalapay – a global fintech company which has established its technical headquarters in Wollongong.
Deliver against the five pillars of the Destination Wollongong Funding Agreement 2021-2026 including: Marketing, Major Events, Business Visitor Economy, Tourism Infrastructure and Product Development and Cycling.	On-Track 	Destination Wollongong finalised their Business Plan for 2022-2023. The 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event were a major focus and included a range of activities such as the recruitment of ambassadors under the Wollongong 2022 Volunteer program, creating two temporary visitor information centres for the event, and promoting business support collateral and messaging. Destination Wollongong, in collaboration with The Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation launched the 'The Dharawal Country Experience' at the Southern Gateway Centre Visitor Centre - Bulli Tops on 15 August. As a result of a successful bid by Destination Wollongong, it was announced the Australian Cruise Ship Association's milestone 25 th annual conference and annual general meeting will be held in Wollongong in 2023.
Seek funding for key iconic tourism infrastructure	On-Track 	Council has submitted grant applications for: Resources for Regions (Round 9) – Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Upgrades; Port Kembla Community Investment Fund - Hill 60 Upgrade; and Multisport Community Facilities Fund - Helensburgh Park Multisport Facility Upgrade.
Support the ongoing development of key target sectors	On-Track 	Council hosted a Tech Connect event in July 2022 that brought together start-up businesses across Wollongong to discuss Wollongong's local innovation ecosystem, with a view to further inform Council's collaboration with local businesses in this sector. In August 2022, i3Net, Business Illawarra in collaboration with Council hosted a round table of Industry, Education, and Government representatives to discuss the Illawarra's enviable major projects either underway or in the pipeline in the industrial and clean energy space.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Tourist Parks

Responsibility *Manager Property + Recreation*


About this Service

Wollongong City Tourist Parks provide beachside accommodation for visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area. Our Tourist Parks are located at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang, and include annual sites and tourist accommodation. The three Tourist Parks compete in a commercial environment and operate accordingly to ensure they remain commercially viable and provide an acceptable return to Council.

Quarterly Progress Update

The tourist parks continued to renew infrastructure during the September quarter with three new cabins arriving from TAFE NSW and installed at Windang Tourist Park. The cabins arrived in time for a large influx of visitors here for both the Rural Fire Service Challenge as well as the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW. All three parks have enjoyed large numbers of visitors throughout the winter period.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Contribute to the promotion of tourism in the Wollongong Local Government Area through the management of Council's three tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang	On-Track 	The tourist parks enjoyed high occupancy throughout the first quarter and provided accommodation to support several key events in the city that drew a large influx of tourists. Highlights included the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW and Rugby Rural Fire Service Challenge. Council continued to participate in the New South Wales Stays and Parents voucher program as well as other promotional programs. This increased visitation during quieter mid-week and winter periods.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data Where Available – September 2021	Result September 2022
City Centre Management			
Number of People Movements Within Crown Street Mall	1,000,000 (annual)	New Measure	505,003
Economic Development			
Business Enquiries Facilitated	Increase	14	18
Tourist Parks			
Tourist Park occupancy rate of cabins	Greater than 60% (annual)	10%*	65%
Tourist parks occupancy rate of powered sites	Greater than 50% (annual)	13%*	38%

*Comparative result impacted by COVID-19.

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the State of the City Report.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

September Quarter Highlights



Wollongong City Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM with (L) Athlete Sarah Carli and (R) Roller Hawks Basketball player Nick Taylor and Club President Geoff Adams at the Lord Mayor Recognition Reception.



Brad Eastman mural at Coledale Community Centre.



Lighthouse projections at Flagstaff Hill, Wollongong.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Engagement, Communication and Events

Responsibility Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development

About this Service

The service is responsible for internal and external communications including media, community engagement, delivery of major community events (in particular New Year's Eve and Australia Day), management of Sister City Relations, coordination of Council's Financial Assistance Policy and the provision of graphic design, digital content, print and signage needs for the organisation.



Quarterly Progress Update

An extensive review of our Community Engagement Framework and toolkit has been undertaken. A new framework has been drafted in line with our Community Engagement Policy and current best practice.

Council continued to service events and filming enquiries and delivered the concierge service. Approximately 157 enquiries were serviced across various methods.





This quarter seven minor donation requests were supported, and Financial Assistance Grants agreements were sent out to the successful applicants. Sixteen Sponsorship of Community Events recipients received a share of over \$52,000 and seven Bands and Choirs recipients received a share of \$6,500.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
In conjunction with the Local Organising Committee, prepare for and support the delivery of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – September 2022	Complete 	The 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW was held 18 – 25 September with all planned infrastructure completed in time for the event. A training day and community participation event was held on 17 September. Council activated a Host City Operations Team to support staff and actions arising from the Wollongong 2022 Event Control Centre and to ensure smooth operations of Council's usual services to the community during the period. This structure worked well and the city has been recognised for its support of the event. Evaluation is in progress with event partners and Council teams.
Host six major events reflecting priority sectors and contribute to the acquisition and management of signature events	On-Track 	In addition to the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW, the city hosted a number of major sporting events during the September quarter. New South Wales Junior Surfing Titles, World Series Darts, New South Wales and Australian Junior Road Cycling Championships and the Australian Masters Road Cycling Championships. Council and Destination Wollongong continue to be active in sourcing and securing events for the city with Australian TimberSports Championships confirmed for Spring 2023.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Engagement, Communication and Events Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver civic activities which recognise and celebrate the city's people	On-Track 	On 25 August Council hosted the Lord Mayors Recognition Reception, the first since the COVID-19 pandemic. 85 community members and groups received recognition from the Lord Mayor for their valuable contribution to our city. Lord Mayor's recognition also included Member of the Order of Australia and Medal of the Order of Australia recipients from the Australia Day and Queens Birthday Honours lists from 2019 to 2022. Council also hosted a civic welcome reception for the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW, on 20 September. The event showcased local entertainment, locally sourced food and beverages and a Welcome to Country given by Uncle Richard Davis. Council has been coordinating a Freedom of Entry for the Airforce Cadets anniversary which is scheduled for delivery in November.
Deliver a diverse range of community engagement opportunities to receive feedback and guide Council's services	On-Track 	Opportunity for input was provided for a number of projects, some of which include: the Area 5 Social Infrastructure Plan, Warrawong Town Centre, draft Public Art Strategy, draft Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027, and the draft Stuart Park Master Plan. Several plans and policies were also placed on public exhibition. Targeted engagement was undertaken with local Aboriginal communities about a range of projects including managing flood risk in several catchments. Project updates were provided for Helensburgh Community Centre and Library project, Helensburgh Streetscape Masterplan, Wongawilli Access project, Harry Graham Drive upgrades, 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Services' Great Southern Walk.
Engage with the local community regarding the Draft Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Strategy	On-Track 	National Parks and Wildlife Services exhibited a draft Review of Environmental Factors in July 2022. Council is planning community engagement in early 2023 on amenities and infrastructure to support the trail network.
Develop and deliver an organisational marketing framework and Council-wide marketing and branding strategic objectives.	On-Track 	A project is underway to develop a strategic approach to organisational marketing.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Cultural Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development*

About this Service




This service delivers cultural programs, infrastructure such as public art, exhibitions and events to the community. The service also engages in community cultural development programs, including advocacy for and support of the creative industries sector, development of artists and performers funding opportunities.

Quarterly Progress Update

Art and culture were key focus areas of Council's *Spin Fest* community program to celebrate the UCI 2022 Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event.


The community participated in and shared stories through an arts and cultural event as well as a cycling exhibition – all of which showcased and supported our creative sectors. A digital exhibition was displayed on the Flagstaff Hill Lighthouse which focussed on the connection of local and South Coast First Nations communities with our waterway's coastal environment. Community Cultural events were held in Helensburgh, the Arts Precinct and Wollongong CBD, as well as the *Spin Fest* beach party at North Beach.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver annual community cultural development festival	On-Track 	As part of the <i>Spin Fest</i> program of events during Wollongong 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW, a community arts and cultural event was developed and delivered. Located in the Arts Precinct, the program featured six local community arts organisations delivering hands on free activities aimed at families. Six local community performances were on the program, as well as art exhibitions provided by the Disability trust. Approximately 1,500 people attended the five-hour event.
Deliver key strategies from Creative Wollongong Implementation Plan 2019–2024	On-Track 	Council continues to deliver against the diverse range of strategic actions within Creative Wollongong 2019–2024. This quarter, programs delivered as part of Creative Wollongong include: <i>Artward</i> artist in residence program and Youth Services artist in residence; cycling exhibition by Sam St Jon exhibited in Crown Street Mall; public art 'walkshops' including 150 children from Wollongong Public School; an artist and business mentoring program; NAIDOC Week exhibition at Curio Gallery; professional development bursary program; <i>WEAVE</i> artist network directory in partnership with three local councils; support for Breakwater Battery Museum to audit and catalogue the collection; evening economy initiatives including Wollongong Art Gallery 'after dark' and <i>Spin Fest</i> Crown Street Mall and Globe Lane.
Facilitate the Lower Town Hall as a creative space	On-Track 	Ten artists have been residents in the Creative Wollongong studios since March 2022 selected via an open invitation expression of interest process.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Cultural Services Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Implement priorities from Framing our Future: Wollongong Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2020-2025	On-Track 	<p>Wollongong Art Gallery delivered 74 diverse education and public programs across workshops, art programs, artist/ author/ curator talks, art making sessions and guided tours during the September quarter. A program of events after dark was trialled, including two shadow puppet performances accompanied by local musicians and two live band performances in conjunction with <i>Yours and Owls</i>.</p> <p>Exhibitions during the quarter included: <i>Boundary Strider</i>; <i>Drawn by Stones</i>; and <i>Healing Garden</i> incorporating audio, digital and video components. Two exhibitions were held in the community access gallery: <i>Colours</i> by Robert Sherwood Duffield and Corrimal community action group presented the work of local artists.</p> <p><i>Beyond the Breaking Waves</i> was created for <i>Spin Fest</i> with 10 Aboriginal artworks from the collection animated for digital projection on Flagstaff Hill Lighthouse.</p>

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data Where Available – September 2021	Result September 2022
Cultural Services			
Wollongong Art Gallery Partnership Projects Engaging with First Nations and CALD Communities	2 per annum	New Measure	4
Subsidised Artist Studio Space - Opportunities Accessed	6 per annum	New Measure	6
Wollongong City Gallery visitation*	Increase	13,673*	8,993
IPAC and Town Hall Visitation	Increase	New Measure	24,177
*Comparative figures include online programs visitation during COVID-19. September 2022 result reflects in-person visitation only.			
Engagement, Communications and Events			
Followers, Reach and Engagement Across Council's Social Media Channels	Increase	New Measure	67,460

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the State of the City Report.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

September Quarter Highlights



Female Aboriginal Elder of the Year, Aunty Jodie Stewart. 2022 NAIDOC Week Awards



Old Boys Social Club outing at the Industry World Tour, Port Kembla.



SHALLOW PINK from Campbelltown Performing Arts High performing at Spin Fest Live! At Wollongong Youth Services on Friday 16 September. Photography by Anna Warrg.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Integrated Customer Service

Responsibility *Manager Governance + Customer Service*




About this Service

Provision of a professional and efficient customer service experiences with Council through a variety of methods.

Quarterly Progress Update

During the September quarter Customer Service received record levels of requests and enquiries with significant call volumes relating to the UCI World Road Cycling Championships – Wollongong NSW. Staff absorbed the higher level of calls while upskilling in UCI related matters.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Upgrade Customer Contact Centre System	On-Track 	Development of system requirements and specifications is complete. It is intended to issue an open tender to market in December 2022 quarter.
Review and enhance Council's digital customer service and engagement channels with a focus on inclusion and participation	On-Track 	Work continues on expanding digital options for customers to interact with Council. An project is underway to identify remaining current manual processes and forms that can be made into online forms to increase efficiency for customers and allow access for all.
Identify and implement customer service improvement opportunities	On-Track 	Customer experience continues to improve with additional functionality with the release of new OneCouncil system modules. Customer service have verified over 5,400 users of Council's online customer portal registrations. Customer Service have implemented A program to market our online services via email signature and further promoting in our contact and service centres has been implemented.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Property Services

Responsibility *Manager Property + Recreation*




About this Service

This service manages over 450 leases and licenses on behalf of Council and includes the management, development, maintenance and disposal of Council owned property in order to meet Council's statutory requirements and contribute to the expansion of Council's revenue base. Leases and licenses also ensure the effective management and coordination of community and business use of Council's public spaces, buildings and facilities.

Quarterly Progress Update

The core business of Property Services has been ongoing with a focus on improvement. Functions such as leasing/licencing, acquisition/disposal of lands, acting as roads authority, provision of landowner's consent, managing Council's CBD parking contracts and Outdoor Dining initiatives are progressing well. Property Services is prioritising a more customer focused approach in terms of day to day work.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review, update and deliver the Property Strategy	On-Track 	Council staff are finalising a review of Wollongong CBD Council owned properties which will be subject to external review. This will lead into the review and progression of the greater Property Strategy.
Finalise Land Title requirements for the transfer of private land occupied by Russell Vale Golf Course	On-Track 	Meetings and discussions have occurred during the quarter with a view of considering all options available while taking a risk based approach prior to reaching any agreement. It is important any future implications or liabilities in relation to the parcels of land are considered. Council staff will continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders to progress this matter.
Continue to undertake Council's surplus land review	On-Track 	Council staff are working through parcels of land on Council's surplus land list, including parcels that have been reclassified and ready for sale. Staff have been liaising with various interested parties in relation to the surplus lands ready for sale. Staff are also working to progress the reclassification process in relation to a number of other parcels.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Aged and Disability Services

Responsibility *Manager Library and Community Services*





About this Service

Council works in partnership with government, community and business organisations to provide services for older people, people with disability and their carers, to support them to maintain quality of life and continue to live independently in the community. This includes direct provision of Community Transport Services to people aged over 65 years, or who are transport disadvantaged to maintain access to essential services and participation in community life. Council also directly delivers Social Support Services, including respite, home maintenance, group and individual support programs, which enhance the quality of life of older people living in our community.

Quarterly Progress Update

Aged and Disability Services have focused on continued recovery and re-building of services following the COVID-19 pandemic and confirmation from funding bodies of continued funding through to June 2023. Service reactivations have included: re-connecting with volunteers and customers who had withdrawn from services due to vulnerability to the virus; re-calibrating safety requirements; and reviewing service processes and team structures (through a Change Management Plan) to position these services for the future.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Support the delivery of programs providing social connection for frail aged people and their carers	On-Track 	As our service consumers' confidence to leave their homes and to socialise continues to grow, the range of social activities being offered to frail older people and their carers has been broadened. This quarter, Council organised outings for Social Support and Community Transport customers to the Wollongong Art Gallery, launched an Op Shop Trail program, and supported attendance at concerts, markets and more. Feedback from those participating in these new programs has been very positive.
Deliver Community Transport Services across the Wollongong and Shellharbour Local Government Areas to connect older people to social and recreational activities	On-Track 	Community transport provides opportunities for older people and those who are disadvantaged in the local community to connect with social events and outings, attend medical appointments and shopping and other life tasks, which supports them in continuing to live independently in the community. Hope Street Community Service at Port Kembla provides social connections and a meal for those who are disadvantaged. They access community transport buses for fortnightly outings, which in this quarter have included trips to the Sea Cliff bridge, ten pin bowling and to attend a funeral for a former client at the centre. Community transport also assisted in transporting local Aboriginal Elders to attend the Annual NAIDOC Awards in July 2022.
Promote access to community transport services to meet the needs of eligible consumers	On-Track 	A number of marketing strategies have been deployed to promote access to the community transport service. This included Community Transport Wollongong-Shellharbour website updates, social media posts to promote activities and promotional material distributed to home library service customers.
Continue to investigate options for alternative service delivery models for Community Transport, in response to Commonwealth and NSW Government policy	On-Track 	Investigation of alternative service models to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on volunteering has led to the creation of casual driver' positions currently being recruited. Options for future service delivery, including registration as a 'point to point' transport provider to enable greater flexibility of service funding are being explored.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs

Responsibility *Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development*

About this Service

Community programs deliver support to people living in Wollongong Local Government Area. These services deliver community programs, building community capacity and wellbeing related to target groups and communities. Language Services (Interpreter service and Language Aides), volunteer services, placemaking, community safety and social planning.

Quarterly Progress Update

Language Services continued to be delivered providing the community with access to interpreters and language aids. Key documents were translated including the Waste Services brochure in Arabic, Macedonian, Farsi, Chinese and Thai. Council assisted with the development and distribution of translated 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event information for residents to increase access and inclusion at UCI events, including appropriate infrastructure and accessible information.



Advice related to social impact and crime prevention through environmental design was provided on a range of development, pre-lodgement and event applications.

Information sessions were delivered to Council staff and local community-based organisations following the release of the 2021 Census to inform policy and projects.

Children were engaged to inform the designs for Unanderra Park and Figtree Oval playgrounds.





Council supported organisations within the sector to deliver high quality services to the community. This includes convening the Children and Family Services sector interagency and Illawarra Refugee Issues Forums (IRIF) meetings.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Continue to review and adapt the Volunteering Illawarra program in line with changes to funding contracts and the volunteering sector	Complete 	On 27 June Council endorsed the closure of Volunteering Illawarra, effective 26 August 2022. The decision was based on changes to the volunteering sector and to the main funding program for the service. This quarter the focus has been on developing and implementing the service's transition out and a communication plan to ensure all internal and external stakeholders were advised of the upcoming closure. During July 2022, 14 interviews were held and potential volunteers referred to relevant organisations who rely on volunteers to deliver their community services.
Initiate opportunities and projects to support the community specifically in response to COVID-19 pandemic	On-Track 	COVID-19 restrictions highlighted digital disadvantage or inequality and the barriers faced by those impacted, particularly vulnerable communities. To inform strategies, research has been undertaken to understand the current environment, existing assets and gaps. The findings will be shared with organisations and used to inform initiatives to increase digital inclusion.






GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Child Safe Implementation Plan	On-Track 	Council's Child Safe Responding and Reporting Procedure has been updated and made available to staff. Information on Council's child safety approach, operations and governance have been made available on Council's website. A series of videos to promote child safety have been finalised, strengthening the message that 'child safety is everyone's business'. These videos will be a key part of raising awareness and communicating with staff.
Deliver the Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023	On-Track 	A draft design for the Aboriginal specific space at Kembla Grange Cemetery has been completed incorporating local Aboriginal cultural components. Further engagement with the Aboriginal community is planned for remainder of 2022 to finalise the design. <i>Dharawal People, Places and Stories</i> short films featuring local Aboriginal people sharing their connection to connection to Dharawal Country were launched during the quarter. Council hosted the 2022 Regional Local Government NAIDOC Awards in August 2022. The evening provides an opportunity to celebrate the contribution and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven local government areas.
Deliver a range of community development activities and programs that focus on diversity, access, inclusion, and capacity building	On-Track 	Living Books events were delivered at Corrimal and Figtree High Schools and new volunteer 'books' were recruited. Peer facilitator workshops commenced for the Illawarra Refugee Challenge, delivered in partnership with Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra. A campaign to raise awareness of the abuse of older persons within multicultural communities is being planned and will include translation of information into community languages. The <i>Spin Fest</i> Beach Party featured Auslan interpreters for the duration of event and mobility viewing areas. <i>Spin Fest</i> accessibility information was made available on Council's website.
Deliver the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020 2025	On-Track 	The Accessible and Inclusive Event Guidelines were promoted. A range of support opportunities for social enterprises that provide employment for people with disability have been provided including linking Flagstaff with relevant Council staff. To celebrate International Day of Persons with Disability <i>Thinking in Pink Collage</i> workshops have been planned.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Provide support and participate in the Illawarra Domestic and Family Violence Trauma Recovery Centre Consultative Working Group	On-Track 	Council continues to support and participate in the Illawarra Domestic and Family Violence Trauma Recovery Centre Consultative Working Group.
Deliver the Council Resolution for Affordable Housing (targeting of commonwealth funding)	On-Track 	The tender for round two of the Affordable Housing grant is nearing completion and will be reported to Council by the end of 2022. A third round is also being prepared for early 2023 to allocate the remaining funding.
Explore opportunities to work in partnership with other relevant agencies that provide services for the homeless	On-Track 	Council staff worked with Housing New South Wales, Wollongong Homeless Hub, Mental Health Assessment Team and New South Wales Police to connect homeless people with accommodation service providers to meet their needs.
Deliver the Community Safety Action Plan 2021 2025	On-Track 	Graffiti removal kits to community members and a graffiti prevention community education service provider has been engaged to deliver a program for all primary and secondary schools in the Dapto area. Prevention of Older Persons Abuse education prevention program is being developed and a review of Alcohol Free Zones was completed.
Advocate for accessible and appropriate medical services are available to the community	On-Track 	Council meets on a biannual basis with Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District representatives. These meetings are an opportunity to provide advocacy on behalf of the community, updates on relevant projects and strengthen networks and working relationships. There was no meeting in the September quarter. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2022.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries

Responsibility *Manager Library and Community Services*




About this Service

Wollongong City Libraries delivers information, learning outcomes and access to resources for residents and visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area. The service is delivered from seven libraries and ten street libraries, across the city, and through the Home Library Service, and a range of online services.

Quarterly Progress Update







The libraries have increased the number of programs delivered to the community following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Highlights for the quarter include: the libraries promoted the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW through the 'win a bike' competition; a movie and music streaming platform was added to Library service; South East Zone public libraries collaboration – consortium access to new Overdrive online materials platform; and community consultation for the Learning City Project. *Tech Savvy* training for the Indigenous community and health services training for culturally and linguistically diverse communities were delivered.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the annual Comic Gong Festival	On-Track 	This year, after two COVID-19 cancellations Comic Gong was held in 2022. Close to 13,000 people attended; an 11.5% increase over 2019. Of those that attended, 54.7% of attendees gave the festival the highest rating of five stars - the highest satisfaction level since Comic Gong began in 2013. Staff are investigating dates for Comic Gong 2023 later in the year.
Implement the Wollongong Learning City Project based on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization framework and principles	On-Track 	The first round of community engagement for the Learning City Project was conducted through two online surveys, 50 community engagement activities, two media releases, an interview on ABC Illawarra's Drive show and several social media posts. An engagement report is being prepared and findings will inform Wollongong's first Learning City Plan.
Deliver learning programs for employment, digital inclusion, innovation and creativity from 'The Lab' digital learning space	On-Track 	A number of events have been held in the lab including: <i>The Game On Board</i> game session each fortnight; weekly meetings of the South Coast Writer's Centre's Young Writers youth program; the Old Boy Social Club; and <i>Tech Help</i> sessions.


GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver customer driven, evolving library collections	On-Track 	This quarter's total loans (255,000) are the highest since the pre-pandemic March 2020 quarter. Online collections have also maintained higher loan rates. Loans of eAudiobook collections in particular has shown a consistent increase. A new "customer voting" interactive website, <i>Hublio</i> , is also in preparation for implementation, allowing greater control over material displayed and increased customer engagement.
Investigate opportunities to enhance Library opening hours	On-Track 	Staff are reviewing opening hours at Helensburgh Library to consider options for increasing access. To inform the review, a community engagement survey will be available during October 2022, and Helensburgh library customers will be contacted by email/post to encourage their participation. The information will be shared broadly to stakeholders and the community.
Deliver tailored library programs to facilitate access and participation of people with disability	On-Track 	A <i>Sip and Paint</i> session for the deaf community, featuring an Auslan interpreter has proved popular. The <i>Vision Impaired Yarners</i> have been meeting monthly, with a hybrid model in person at the Library and some joining online. The <i>Knit, Stitch, Yarn</i> session has been attracting older people with a disability and their carers. The Library After Hours program for families with neurodiverse children has been put on hold, due to insufficient attendees. Council has been liaising with local groups to discuss the best way forward for this program in the future.
Review and deliver the Wollongong City Libraries Marketing Strategy	On-Track 	The Libraries Marketing Plan 2022-24 was adopted in August 2022. This plan identifies six key objectives to support growth in Wollongong City Libraries utilisation and visitation after a period of disruption caused by COVID-19.
Investigate and deploy enhancements to library multimedia, and digital services, and technology	On-Track 	Council continues to enhance digital and technological library services and is currently optimising the Library app by changing the landing page and content; carrying out improvements to the website based on customer feedback; investigating Premiere Pro and other cloud options for greater multimedia creation ability.
Collect, analyse and review customer feedback to continually improve the Wollongong City Library customer experience	On-Track 	Council has reviewed and developed updates to Wollongong City Libraries Customer Feedback Forms available in all libraries and conducted a review of the existing customer feedback questions available in each library via online tablets. This will be used to develop and deploy a suite of new range of questions during the December 2022 quarter.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver library programs that recognise and reflect the cultural diversity of our community	On-Track 	Seven outreach events were held during NAIDOC week. Programs for our culturally and linguistically diverse community included <i>Multicultural Storytime</i> at Wollongong Library and <i>Lets' Chat</i> English conversation classes at Wollongong Library (152 participants) in collaboration with Strategic and Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF), as well as six <i>Let's Learn Citizenship</i> classes for the Arabic community, held at Warrawong library (62 participants).

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Youth Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development*

About this Service



Youth Services provides a program of recreation, cultural and education activities to meet the needs of young people aged 12 - 24 at Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Wollongong Local Government Area. These programs build social connections and inclusion, community engagement, information and referrals. Council funds the Neighbourhood Youth Work Program (NYWP) in three areas (Port Kembla, Berkeley and Dapto and surrounds) to support the needs of young people in the community.

Quarterly Progress Update

A program of recreation, cultural and education activities continued to be provided for young people aged 12 - 24 at Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Wollongong Local Government Area. Information and referral have been a key program providing support for young people in various aspects of their life and linking them to vital services within the community.

A campaign was delivered to encourage young people to share their ideas to inform Youth Services programs. Staff visited local high schools to promote R U OK? Day and provided information about Youth Services programs and activities. Wollongong Youth Centre was hired by various local service providers to deliver programs for young people from the space including Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra, Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families and The Disability Trust.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, inclusion, skill development, sector development and support.	On-Track 	A range of youth development opportunities were delivered, including: <i>Rainbow League</i> and <i>Qmunity</i> ; <i>Youth in Fashion</i> ; Girls Café for young women from culturally and linguistically diverse background; <i>Bundaleer Connect</i> ; <i>Teenz Connect</i> and workshops on mental health, career advice, resume writing and work readiness.
Provide opportunities for young people to develop skills, experience and exposure in creative industries	On-Track 	<i>Team Ignite</i> provided a platform for young people to inform live music, production activities and events at Wollongong Youth Centre. <i>On Stage</i> , a weekly performance space for young people hosted bands, open mic nights, world music nights and DJ workshops. Workshops with First Nations rapper Nooky were held at Bundaleer Community Centre, Koonawarra Community Centre and Wollongong Youth Centre which culminated in a live performance during NAIDOC Week.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Corporate Strategy

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

This service facilitates the development of the ten year Community Strategic Plan and Council's four year Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Corporate Strategy monitors and reports on progress to our community, coordinates research and performance measurement and carries out strategic and business improvement projects.

Quarterly Progress Update

During the September quarter, a new format for the Quarterly Review Statement was developed to improve the accessibility of information shared with the community.

Work commenced on a project to develop a consolidated performance measurement framework to further improve the data used to inform Council decisions. A review and update of Council's Project Management Framework has commenced, with the plan to roll out education in the December 2022 quarter.

A comprehensive review of Council's strategies and plans is currently underway that will inform the annual review of the Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan 2023-2024.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate the preparation and review of Council's Operational Plan	On-Track 	The Operational Plan 2023-2024 is required to be adopted by Council by 30 June 2023. Initial planning for this project has commenced with a timeline developed and a cross organisational review of the status of all Supporting Documents commencing in the September quarter.
Develop a Service Review methodology	On-Track 	During the September quarter research for Council's proposed Service Review Program commenced. The service review program will aim to better understand and define service requirements, optimise delivery methods and resourcing, and balance service aims against affordability for both the Council and the community. The project is in the initial forming stage and on track to be developed by 30 June 2023.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data Where Available – September 2021	Result September 2022
Aged and Disability Services			
People Over 65 Using Community Transport - Number	Increase	New Measure	8,712
Hours of Social Support Provided to People Aged Over 65	Maintain	649*	4,855
*Comparative figures impacted by COVID-19.			
Integrated Customer Service			
Telephone calls are answered within 30 seconds	80%	87%	75.72%
Correspondence Met to Target	80%	92%	88%
Libraries			
Library visitations	Increase	158,391*	274,076
Library - membership	Increase	New Measure	74,957
Library – total number of loans	Increase	124,832*	256,629
Library programs: number of programs	Increase	10*	479
Library programs: number of participants	Increase	6,404	8,978
*Comparative figures impacted by COVID-19			
Property Services			
Occupancy rates of commercial buildings	90%	98%	96%
Youth Services			
Wollongong Youth Services - participation of young people in programs and projects	24,000	New Measure	5,674

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the State of the City Report.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

September Quarter Highlights



Wollongong's first criterium cycling track, Unanderra.



Local children testing out the new bike skills playground, Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Park.



New playground installed at Guest Park, Fairy Meadow.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Public Health and Safety

Responsibility Manager Regulation + Enforcement

About this Service




This service conducts and manages the registration, inspections and monitoring of regulated public and environmental health premises including public swimming pools and On-site Sewage Management systems with the aim of ensuring compliance. The service provides environmental and public health related assessment and referrals as part of the development assessment process. It also involves the development of environmental and public health policies, community education programs and customer information.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council staff carried out additional inspections of mobile and temporary food businesses in anticipation of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event held in September and maintained a presence during the event in the Wollongong CBD at event sites to ensure food safety was monitored continually while large numbers of spectators were in attendance.

Routine inspections of food businesses, cooling towers and other regulated premises are on track. Council will soon participate in a survey of local food businesses, coordinated by the New South Wales Food Authority. The survey will involve inspection of targeted premises using a digital questionnaire focusing on allergen management and food safety culture. Results will be uploaded to the New South Wales Food Authority to be used to further develop strategies for improved allergy awareness and food handling controls.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Inspect all medium and high-risk food premises annually	On-Track 	Council staff continued routine inspection of all high and medium risk food premises during the quarter, with a total of 430 inspections of fixed, mobile and temporary food businesses completed. The food surveillance program remains on-track with compliance generally high, despite a significant increase in the number of customer requests.
Maintain inspection programs for public swimming pools, places of shared accommodation and mortuaries	On-Track 	Inspection programs for these areas are on track and compliance levels of facilities remains high.
Implement a community safety and parking awareness raising programs based on scheduled patrols of schools and identified high risk areas	On-Track 	<p>Council implemented a proactive School Zone Parking Compliance Program throughout the September quarter.</p> <p>The program focused on creating awareness of School Zone Parking requirements for parents and care givers. Council completed proactive patrols during the morning and afternoon with 50 primary schools being patrolled during the quarter.</p> <p>Mobility Parking Spaces were key areas for Council staff to regulate to maintain accessibility. These programs were implemented seven days per week throughout the quarter.</p> <p>Considerable planning of parking compliance service was also undertaken in preparation for the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event. Throughout the event, staff delivered parking compliance services from 7am to 7pm each day with a risk-based approach taken to education and compliance action.</p>

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Community Facilities

Responsibility *Manager Library and Community Services*

About this Service

This service manages and operates 56 Council-owned community facilities across the Wollongong Local Government Area. This includes Neighbourhood Centres, Senior Citizens Centres, Childcare Centres, Libraries, Community Centres and Community Halls. The service provides accessible community spaces to support the delivery of a diverse range of community programs, activities and events. The service also manages a number of 'direct-run' Council facilities, supporting community development and enabling community groups to develop and deliver community services. The service includes long-term social infrastructure planning and managing a range of functions associated with the maintenance, design, replacement or refurbishment of new and existing community facilities.




Quarterly Progress Update

Building works have been completed at Kembla Heights Community Hall and Corrimal Community Preschool and shade sails installed over Tea Tree Terrace at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre. Outdoor storage has been constructed at Helensburgh Library to avoid sourcing chairs from another community centre when larger programs are being delivered.

Waste reduction strategies are being implemented across Council's community facilities. Community recycling stations have been installed, new bins purchased to help divert waste away from landfill, increase recycling and use of the Food Organics Garden Organics program. Social procurement options have been used to refurbish furniture at Thirroul and assets from Helensburgh Community Centre have been recycled for use at other Council facilities.





Assistance has been provided to licensees impacted by flooding to undertake clean-up works; to tidy up gardens and install carpark signage. Fee reductions have also been provided to enable a newly formed community organisation to build their membership and plan service delivery.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Plan for a new Community Centre and Library at Warrawong to serve Wollongong's southern suburbs	On-Track 	Warrawong Community Centre and Library (CC&L) project continues to progress with the development application currently being assessed. Council staff are considering ways to use patterns collected from members of the community through the <i>Patterns of Community</i> project, to create a visual identity for the new CC&L that reflects the centre's locality, history and community diversity.
Plan for a new Community Centre and Library to meet the needs of the community in Helensburgh and surrounding suburbs	Delayed 	Council plans for the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library have continued with a draft Plan of Management lodged to New South Wales Crown Lands. Council officers continue to undertake due diligence in planning for facilities for the Helensburgh community.
Progress planning and construction of Wongawilli Hall extension and refurbishment	On-Track 	Initial investigations, planning and design are underway for building extension and enhancement of Wongawilli Hall.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Community Facilities Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Complete Community Needs Analysis for City Centre Social Infrastructure	Complete 	The community needs analysis of Wollongong CBD Social Infrastructure has been completed. The findings of this analysis have been used to support future directions of Wollongong CBD community facilities in the Places for the Future Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2022-2036.
Complete Social Infrastructure Feasibility Studies at Bong Bong Road, Yallah/Marshall Mount and Figtree	On-Track 	The scope of the needs analysis study for Planning Area 7 (Figtree/Unanderra) has been developed and the documentation to go out for quotation for a consultant to complete the study has been prepared. Studies for proposed community facilities at Bong Bong and Yallah/Marshall Mount are not scheduled to commence until the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 respectively.
Develop and deploy 'Places for People' Forward Directions Plan 2022-2036 (Implementation Plan)	On-Track 	The draft Plan has been developed and Councillors were briefed on its purpose and scope in July 2022. A further Councillor briefing is planned for the December 2022 quarter. Some projects flagged in the plan are currently in progress, for example Otford Hall Disability Discrimination Act compliance.
Complete Community Needs Analysis for social, cultural and recreational infrastructure for emerging West Dapto communities	On-Track 	The review of the West Dapto Community Facilities and Open Space community needs analysis is ongoing and is scheduled to be completed by December 2022.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries

Responsibility *Manager Property + Recreation*



About this Service

This service provides memorial, burial and funeral service facilities at six sites across the Local Government Area.

Quarterly Progress Update

The Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries continue to provide a variety of interment options to the community. Works have progressed on the design of a new Aboriginal and Children's section at Wollongong Lawn Cemetery as well as the identification of a number of interment sites at Scarborough Cemetery that will be used for at need burials. New gardens have been created at Wollongong Memorial Gardens and community talks titled Conversations Around Death & Dying have also continued which aim to educate our community on the importance of memorialising and the need to pre plan.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage Council's commercial businesses to optimise service delivery at Wollongong Memorial Gardens and cemeteries	On-Track 	Investigations have been undertaken by Council staff to identify vacant sites across older cemeteries. As these continue, a number of sites are expected to become available for at-need burials in previously closed cemeteries, to allow the community more choice on where they wish to be interred. The development of cemeteries in ensuring a variety of options are available to the community has continued with plans well underway for both an Aboriginal and Children's section at Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, the completion of a Jewish section at Wollongong Lawn Cemetery and the commencement of designs for a new garden at Wollongong Memorial Gardens. All areas will be available for both pre-planned and at-need interments.
Reinstate the Cemetery at Waterfall (Garrawarra)	Deferred 	This project is currently on hold pending a decision by the New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service in relation to taking ownership of the site from Council.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Aquatic Services

Responsibility *Manager Property + Recreation*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council operates 17 patrolled beaches, two heated swimming pools at Dapto and Corrimal, six free public swimming pools located at Helensburgh, Thirroul, Western Suburbs (Unanderra), Continental Baths Wollongong, Port Kembla and Berkeley. We have nine ocean rock pools situated at Coalcliff, Wombarra, Coledale, Austinmer, Bulli, Woonona, Bellambi, Towradgi and Wollongong Gentleman's pool. Aquatic Services also provides ocean and pool lifeguard services and surf education programs.




Quarterly Progress Update

Council continued to operate Corrimal Swimming Pool, Dapto Swimming Pool and the Continental Pool during the winter period. Winter works continued to progress while the seasonal pools were closed to ensure facilities were in operation in time for the start of the season in late September 2022.

During the Wollongong 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event, Continental Pool summer operational hours were brought forward to ensure the community and visitors were able to use this community asset.






Council staff also worked closely with Destination Wollongong to install a large banner on the floor of the Continental pool to promote Wollongong during the UCI event.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Plan, design and complete the renewal of the downstairs Lifesaving building of North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club	On-Track 	Council continues to progress the renewal of the North Wollongong Surf Club, with works being finalised in this period. Works are on track to be completed and handed over to the surf club in the December 2022 quarter.
Plan, design and undertake renewal works at Council's Community, Commercial Pools and Ocean Rock Pools in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Program	On-Track 	Work is continuing on a number of projects within Council's delivery program. Works are complete on the replacement of the intake lines at the Continental Pool, Wollongong which recirculate water through the pool. Council is sourcing a specialist contractor to carry out the replacement of the failed southern inlet line at Port Kembla Pool with work to commence in early 2023 and work is underway on the construction of an accessible ramp from the pool to the beach to improve accessibility for all users. Western Suburbs Pool - Council is currently sourcing a specialist contractor to replace the failed toddlers pool with a water play space at the Western Suburbs Pool, Unanderra.
Implement funded actions from The Future of Our Pools Strategy 2014-2024	On-Track 	The proposed splash pad at Western Suburbs pool is progressing, with procurement currently underway with works to commence during the December 2022 quarter. A grant application was submitted to the New South Wales Government Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund for Helensburgh Swimming Pool for the refurbishment and related plant infrastructure.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Aquatic Services Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Implement funded actions from the Beach and Foreshore Access Strategy 2019-2032	On-Track 	The beach access ramp project at Port Kembla beach has continued to progress during this period, with construction underway. The new access ramp will be completed during the December 2022 quarter. Council's Beach Lifeguard Service will provide accessible beach mats across a number of beaches in the Local Government Area from September 2022 onwards.
Design and construct a boat storage shed for North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club	On-Track 	Council staff are continuing to liaise with club representatives in relation to both short and long term opportunities.
Explore and deploy Smart Technology options to better obtain and utilise attendance and event data to inform Lifeguard services provision	On-Track 	Council is currently working in partnership with the Coastal Safety Group at the New South Wales Office of Local Government on the Smart Beaches Initiative. Council is working through identifying two trial sites for the installation of smart beaches technology that will support the Lifeguard Service to gather and utilise data to inform decisions made on our beaches.
Progress concept plans, investigations, and detailed designs for a Community Recreation & Aquatic Centre at Cleveland to service the Southern Suburbs	On-Track 	A consultant has been engaged and works are underway on the development of a concept plan for the Community Recreation and Aquatic Centre at Cleveland.
Design and implement the North Wollongong Beach Seawall Renewal	Delayed 	Construction of Stage 1 of the seawall at North Wollongong Beach is continuing, which is on a challenging site subject to high sea and wave conditions. The foundation system and the associated buried rock armouring is now installed with work commencing on the reinforced concrete support system which underpins the final precast seating bleachers.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes

Responsibility *Manager Open Space + Environmental Services*




About this Service

The Botanic Garden and Nursery service involves managing and promoting the conservation, education, recreation and aesthetic values of the main 30 hectare site in Keiraville, including the maintenance of the Gleniffer Brae grounds and the three natural area annexes of Mt Keira, Puckey's Estate and Korrungulla Wetland. Environmental education programs and interpretation are conducted at the Discovery Centre.

Quarterly Progress Update




The Botanic Garden maintenance program is largely back on track following the extended wet weather period. The Tiny Forest project was established at the Botanic Garden during the September quarter. Tiny Forests use small spaces to deliver big impact while using a small footprint (as small as a tennis court). They are filled with a diverse mix of native plants normally found in the wild, and suited to local growing conditions, with plants closely planted (3-5 per square metre). Plants are selected to replicate the layers of a forest and the soil is carefully prepared before planting. The site is maintained in the early years to help these forests mature in record time – growing in as little as 10 years, compared with up to 70 years it takes a forest to restore.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver priority actions from the Urban Greening Strategy Implementation Plan 2017 2021	On-Track 	During the quarter, a review of the private and public tree management policies was completed and a new combined Tree Policy including resident incentives to plant trees will be placed on public exhibition in November 2022. The Urban Greening Strategy Implementation Plan was reviewed and updated with operational projects scheduled over the next four years. New Tiny Forests have been planted at Tarrawanna and the Botanic Garden, with planning progressing for a third Tiny Forest at Dapto.
Enhance Botanic Garden visitor experience with programs, interpretation, education and events	On-Track 	To support the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event, a key focus for this quarter was on presentation on the Botanic Garden. Banners were installed on the fence line, planter pots placed at entrances, and supporting associated messaging on the live television broadcasts, website and social media. The Wollongong Conservatorium of Music's 50th Birthday music event held in September attracted approximately 1,000 attendees over two days. The Living Collections Database at the Botanic Garden now has 3,802 plants listed covering 914 classifications allowing the living collections to be more accessible to visitors and supporting the scientific/conservation work carried out by the Botanic Garden and partners. The Botanic Garden works with the National Parks and Wildlife Service New South Wales, Department of Primary Industries and other Botanic Garden's to produce plants for translocation to help conserve the species.
Finalise the review of the Botanic Garden Plan of Management and Masterplan	On-Track 	The Botanic Garden Plan of Management has been adopted by Council. The Botanic Garden Masterplan will be presented to Council for adoption with the Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan following endorsement by Heritage New South Wales.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Implement priority actions from the Botanic Garden Masterplan	On-Track 	Two capital projects were in design phase during the September quarter: a new fully accessible amenities block and the new aerial rainforest boardwalk and accessible pathway.
Facilitate future uses of Gleniffer Brae	On-Track 	Council is awaiting endorsement from Heritage New South Wales of the Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan. Following endorsement, the Plan will be presented to Council for adoption.
Implement actions arising from the Mt Keira Summit Park Plan of Management	On-Track 	Council's partnership with the Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council continued at Djeera/Mt Keira Summit Park with 800 locally native plants produced by the Botanic Garden planted along with other ongoing vegetation management works.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Leisure Centres

Responsibility *Manager Property + Recreation*





About this Service

This service involves the provision of commercially operated recreation centres at Beaton Park Wollongong and Lakeside Leisure Kanahooka.

Quarterly Progress Update

The leisure centres continue to provide affordable and equitable access to health and leisure facilities to the community. Over 100 exercise classes are provided each week that cater for community members of all ages, abilities and fitness levels from teenagers to seniors, multicultural groups as well as at risk health groups. For younger age groups, learn to swim numbers have grown following COVID-19 closures with over 800 children attending classes each week.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Provide a variety of affordable senior programs at the Leisure Centres	On-Track 	Council's leisure centres continue to deliver a variety of seniors programs both at the centres as well as out in the community to targeted community groups. These programs are well attended and aim to ensure the senior community remain fit and healthy as they get older.
Develop a concept plan for the Beaton Park Regional Precinct	Delayed 	The finalisation of the Beaton Park Regional Precinct concept plan has been placed on hold to facilitate renewal of the regional tennis facility on site. Concepts will be recommenced in early 2023.
Pursue the renewal and relocation of Beaton Park Tennis Courts in accordance with the Beaton Park Masterplan	On-Track 	Plans for the renewal of the tennis courts at Beaton Park have been finalised and are being reviewed by Council staff. It is anticipated works will commence in February 2023.
Increase utilisation of Council's recreation and leisure assets	On-Track 	Visitation to our leisure centres continues to grow following COVID disruptions and closures. Over 100 classes group exercise classes are offered on a weekly basis along with almost 200 learn to swim classes. Programs designed specifically for special populations also continue to be rolled out including for the elderly, disabled, multicultural groups and those at risk of lifestyle diseases. These programs are provided at both the centres as well as off site to ensure the needs of the community are continually being met.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields

Responsibility *Manager Property + Recreation*

About this Service

This service operates 493 parks, 65 sports fields, 220 playing fields, 7 outdoor fitness stations, 9 turf wickets and 154 playgrounds across the Wollongong Local Government Area and includes Russell Vale Golf Course. Provision of passive access to community parks and playgrounds, and affordable and equitable access to sports fields and facilities. Service planning for the creation of enhanced public amenity and recreational opportunities. These services are supported through facilitating casual hire and bookings of parks and sports fields. Twenty two sports fields are licensed by volunteer or semi-professional sporting clubs.




Quarterly Progress Update

During the September quarter a number of park improvements were completed. The Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Pump Track, Skills Park and Illawarra Criterium track were opened.

In addition to these new facilities, Council supported a rock fishing safety workshop at King George V Oval in partnership with Surf Lifesaving New South Wales and Department of Fisheries. This event provided participants with valuable information when participating in the high risk activity of Rock Fishing as well as providing each participant with a free life jacket at the end of the event.

There were 2228 Sportsfield bookings during this period, however due to wet weather and ground conditions 763 events were cancelled.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Involve children in the design of public art features within key regional play space renewals	On-Track 	Council staff engaged with 63 local children aged between 3-12 years to ask their opinion on Figtree Park Playground renewal program. 88 local children were also engaged about what they would like to see at a new playground at Unanderra. Both of these engagement activities will be utilised as part of the design and construction of the local playgrounds.
Collaborate with Destination Wollongong to encourage local sporting associations to host and facilitate events	On-Track 	Council staff continue to collaborate with Destination Wollongong encouraging and supporting events within the city and worked closely to deliver a number of initiatives as part of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event. Investigations and preparations are occurring on a number of events scheduled take place this financial year. This includes the Sheffield Shield cricket match at North Dalton Park, Fairy Meadow (November 2022); MS Gong Ride - finish line at Thomas Dalton Park (November 2022); Australian Surf Boat League event 2023 and Australian Beach Volleyball event 2023.
Implement the Figtree Oval Recreational Masterplan 2016-2029	On-Track 	Engagement has occurred with delivery of the renewal of a playground at Figtree Oval, in line with the Masterplan. Council will continue to engage with representatives from West Cricket Club and Figtree Kangaroos AFL team in the delivery of the Masterplan in particular the delivery of gender equitable amenities in the precinct.








GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Finalise the Bulli Showground Masterplan	On-Track 	Council staff are currently reviewing and investigating the preferred options for the site, with a Councillor briefing scheduled during the March 2023 quarter. Council staff will continue engagement with external stakeholders throughout 2022.
Implement the Landscape Masterplan recommendations for Hill 60 Reserve, Port Kembla	On-Track 	Council continues to progress the Landscape Master Plan for Hill 60. Works are continuing on investigations for an appropriate use of the tunnels. A preliminary draft report has been received and is currently being reviewed by staff.
Develop and implement the Landscape Masterplan for Stuart and Galvin Parks, North Wollongong	On-Track 	The Landscape Masterplan has been drafted and placed on public exhibition for community feedback. The draft Masterplan provides a range of improvements including parking, spaces to meet and spaces to play.
Progress the staged realignment of the outdoor netball courts at Fred Finch Park, Berkeley	On-Track 	Six netball courts have been completed to date, with the remainder of the courts (10 courts) under construction due to be completed by November 2022 as part of Stage 1 works. Stage 2 works remains unfunded for the remainder of the 28 netball courts.
Implement the Landscape Masterplan for King George V Oval, Port Kembla	On-Track 	Council continues to implement the adopted Landscape Masterplan engagement with local sporting groups and the community in regard to the timing of future works as well as supporting clubs with submitting grant applications.
Provide in principle support to the Illawarra United Stingrays in their planning for a home ground location	On-Track 	Council continued to progress the licence agreement with the club for Guest Park, Fairy Meadow. This ground licence will continue to support the club and their vision for their club and the region. Draft terms have also been provided to the club for their review and acceptance with relation to a home ground. Works currently underway during the next six months on perimeter fencing and irrigation at Guest Park.
Collaborate with Destination Wollongong and the Australian Baseball League to establish Wollongong as a home base location for a National Baseball League team	On-Track 	Council staff continue to investigate opportunities for a location for a home base for a national Baseball League team with Destination Wollongong.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Preparation of the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan	Delayed 	Investigations have continued into land ownership and planning constraints.
Implement key projects identified in the Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan	On-Track 	Council recently completed and officially opened the Mountain Bike Skills track during the lead up to the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event. Delivery of the shared amenities building is progressing which is currently in the procurement stage.
Develop and implement the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2022-2026	On-Track 	The draft Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2022-2026 was presented to Council and placed on exhibition during the September quarter. A further report will be provided to Council for adoption following the public exhibition period.
Manage the multi-use criterium cycle track at Lindsay Maynes Park, Unanderra	On-Track 	The multi-use criterium cycle track is operational and in-use. The facility is now available to hire by cycling and other organisations. There has been a number of events since the official opening, aligning with the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event.
Undertake feasibility assessments for sports fields drainage and irrigation across priority sites	On-Track 	Three sites have been identified across the local government area, with geotechnical investigations to progress in the December 2022 quarter. A grant application has been submitted for each of the three sites to support the projects.
Implement recommendations of the Public Toilets Strategy 2019-2029 to improve accessibility	On-Track 	Cringila Hills Mountain biking amenities are being finalised for procurement which will begin construction in early 2023. This facility will provide improved accessibility to public toilets and provide an accessible toilet facility. An Exeloo accessible toilet has been installed at Gilmore Park, West Wollongong during the quarter.
Progress the planning and development of a Wollongong City Centre Skate Park	On-Track 	Staff are finalising site investigations to support the delivery of a skate park in the Wollongong City Centre.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data Where Available – September 2021	Result September 2022
Aquatic Services			
Total Visits commercial heated pools: Corrimal	At least 180,000 per annum	0*	13,428
Total Visits commercial heated pools: Dapto	At least 180,000 per annum	0*	9,475
Botanic Garden and Annexes			
Wollongong Botanic Garden - Visitation	At least 400,000 per annum	New Measure	75,914
Community Facilities			
Utilisation of Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities (hours)	Increase	63*	8,175
Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities visitation	Increase	540*	40,908
Community Hall/ Centre - Hours of Use	Increase	New Measure	2,702
Community Halls/Centres - Visitation	Increase	New Measure	11,561

*Comparative figures impacted by COVID-19.

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the State of the City Report.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

September Quarter Highlights



Harry Graham Drive, a key east-west link reopened after extensive works to stabilise and repair the road.



Work progressing on the Fairy Creek Shared Path Project.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services

Responsibility Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning

About this Service

This service provides the delivery, management and advocacy of transport infrastructure. The service aims to provide a transport network that is safe, efficient, equitable, effective and sustainable. The service supports the community through creating the provision of transport access for residential, business, recreation, leisure and tourism activities.

This Service also includes provision of road safety, traffic and integrated transport planning support and advice. Road Safety Education Programs and promotion is a critical activity implemented across all aspects of our transport services.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council has prepared an approach to market to undertake an inspection of the complete road network that will be issued in the December 2022 quarter. This will inform future programs for maintenance and renewal of the road network. An approach to market for the Wollongong integrated transport strategy has also been completed and it is anticipated the successful consultant will commence work on this significant project in the December 2022 quarter.

The Local Traffic Committee has considered a significant number of items during the September quarter to support the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event and respond to community concerns.



A significant milestone this quarter was the finalisation of a strong business case for Cleveland Road Upgrade to support allocation of funding towards the delivery of this project which will provide significant community benefits.

The delivery of *Streets As Shared Spaces* program in Lower Crown Street, Wollongong is scheduled for completion by December 2022. This provides a great space for the community to move through and enjoy.

Council's transport data collection capacity has also increased due to the purchase and deployment of three smart Variable Message Signs and rolling tube count program.






An Expression Of Interest process for community members for the Walking Cycling Access and Mobility Reference Group has been completed and meetings will resume next quarter.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Collaborate with the New South Wales Government to fund and deliver the Safe Routes to School Program	On-Track 	Safer Routes to School Working Group have completed one school assessment report and assessed two primary school sites. Ten school site plans (out of 20 planned for the quarter) have been prepared and awaiting further assessment.
Implement actions from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030	On-Track 	Council was heavily involved in the planning and delivery of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event which raised the profile of cycling in the city. Council supported a number of community cycling events such as <i>Spin Fest</i> and promoted cycling safety during the event. A key achievement during the quarter was the review of Council's cycling maps and delivery of CBD pop-up cycleway wayfinding and cycling route markers from several train stations to the Grand Pacific Walk. Council was advised of a total of \$2.6 million grant funding under the Get New South Wales Active Program for the delivery of shared path and sections of the Grand Pacific Walk.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Subject to funding, explore the installation of tactile and braille street signage to support navigation and wayfinding throughout the Wollongong Local Government Area	Delayed 	Council continues to investigate potential funding options in collaboration with Transport for New South Wales.
Develop and implement the Integrated Transport Strategy	Delayed 	An approach to market was completed during the first quarter and the assessment of proposals received for the Integrated Transport Strategy and City Centre Movement and Place Plan is in progress.
Advocate for the provision of expanded public transport services and support the provision of existing services	On-Track 	Council participated in a number of workshops with Transport for New South Wales related to the extended provision of public transport services in Wollongong and the Illawarra Region. Council continues to emphasis comments provided to the draft Shoalhaven Illawarra Regional Transport Plan, advocating for enhanced public transport services so it becomes an attractive proposition when compared to driving. More train services and efficient bus routes planning will be critical to achieve this outcome.
Work with key agencies and partners to progress the Illawarra Regional Transport Plan	On-Track 	Eight initiatives of the plan which apply to Wollongong have been actioned. These include accessibility upgrades to Bellambi, Dapto, Towradgi and Unanderra Stations, 30km/h speed zone change to Helensburgh town centre, Bulli and Thirroul town centre improvements, submission against the Transport for New South Wales proposal, submission to the Picton Road upgrade detailing Council's support and opportunities described for the upgrade. Council will continue to advocate for sustainable and accessible transport options for Wollongong that can be leveraged from this Plan.
Develop road safety programs, education and promotion of sustainable multimodal transport options	On-Track 	Workshops for parents of learner drivers and a week of bike safety education were held during the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event. Staff are planning major education events for the December 2022 quarter, including Ride to Work day, learner driver logbook run, older driver program with the men's shed, breakfast <i>TORQUE</i> with Sutherland and Georges River Councils and school fence banner program with rangers, as well as a kindergarten exposition at Mount Kembla Public school.

Goal 6 | We Have Affordable and Accessible Transport | Measuring Success

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures in Goal 6 are tracked every two years via the Community Survey and will be reported in the State of the City Report.

SUPPORT SERVICES

September Quarter Highlights



Applications for Wollongong City Council's cadets, apprentices and trainees 2023 program opened during the quarter.



SMART Bin sensors deployed on bins at the Blue Mile, Wollongong.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Financial Services

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council is a large and diverse organisation that provides services from the funding it receives from its community through rates, fees, and charges. Financial Sustainability and efficiency are aims of this service. This is achieved through financial strategy, policy, budgets and controls; while ensuring Council meets its taxation obligations, investment return, and internal and external reporting that provides transparency about decision-making. Council's primary source of income is property rates and sundry debtors systems used for billing and recovery, and customer service relating to these areas.




Quarterly Progress Update

Financial Services have continued to provide services internally and externally during the quarter. Annual Financial Statements were prepared and presented to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee prior to audit, which is in progress. Annual Rates were levied and issued in accordance with the Revenue Policy and first quarter instalment receipts were in line with forecasts.

Transition to Council's new Bank (Commonwealth Bank) has been progressed with improved security and controls to banking systems leading up to the finalisation of the transition planned for November 2022.

Implementation of a new E-Invoicing and invoicing recognition services was completed during the quarter with Council's first E-Invoicing supplier now on board.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage and further develop a compliance program to promote awareness of Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and other related policies	On-Track 	Council's procurement compliance has been progressed under existing frameworks. Enhancements have been identified through internal audit of procurement and credit cards that are under development with a view to introduce prior the March 2023 quarter.
Review Financial Strategy to include goals and actions aimed to improve financial capacity to respond to increased service demands	On-Track 	This item will be progressed through the strategic planning process.
Continue the review of the rating structure to align to legislative changes	Delayed 	This project was initiated to review proposed changes to Rating legislation and determine opportunities to improve Council's rating policy and structures. While some changes have been introduced to legislation and have been proclaimed, many others have not yet been proclaimed, do not have regulations and cannot be implemented at this stage. It is now expected these changes will not be able to be implemented for 2023-2024 as anticipated.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Governance and Administration

Responsibility *Manager Governance + Customer Service*



About this Service

The Governance and Administration Service includes policy, internal audit, legal, insurance, claims management, supply chain, risk management, business paper functions and corporate governance. The service also captures the Office of the General Manager and Executive Group, support for Councillors and the Professional Conduct Coordinator.

Quarterly Progress Update

Ongoing support continued to be provided to the organisation with the procurement, governance, councillor support and risk management functions. Support was provided for four ordinary and two extraordinary Council meetings in the quarter. In addition delegations to the General Manager and Lord Mayor were reviewed and re-adopted by Council.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Continue to collaborate with NSW Government and partners to help the Wollongong community navigate COVID-19 pandemic	On-Track 	Council continued to communicate with employees and the community regarding COVID-19 requirements. COVID-19 transmission significantly reduced during the quarter and minimal interaction with New South Wales Government agencies was required.
Deliver the Internal Audit Program	On-Track 	Council has adopted a rolling three-year Internal Audit Program that is reviewed on an annual basis. During the September 2022 three internal audits were completed: internal audit on tourist parks; disaster recovery audit; and fraud risk Assessment.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services

Responsibility *Manager Organisational Development*

About this Service





Council's Employee Services provides support, advice and information to staff, work, health and safety, attracting and engaging staff, and employee learning and development. This service also fosters a safe and equitable work environment where people are skilled, valued and supported.

Quarterly Progress Update

A collaborative Business Plan has been developed for Employee Services which includes eight focus areas to further support service delivery of key Human Resources functions which includes:

Workforce Management Strategy outcomes; Learning and Development Strategy; Recruitment Strategy; Reward and Recognition Strategy; best practise review of the injury management function; payroll integration and process improvement; *Our Safety* program and Industrial Relations Strategy.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Workforce Strategy 2022-2026	On-Track 	During the September quarter, Council became a Diversity Council Australia organisational member. The 24 Month Leadership Program was endorsed to launch next quarter. Suicide Intervention Training was also rolled out to Council staff and implementation of the performance review process continued. Council progressed the Performance Review implementation.
Refresh Council's Attraction and Retention Strategies	On-Track 	The Reward Strategy Project has delivered a new Employee Performance and Recognition program. This includes a new performance management system and salary progression methodology across the organisation. The next six months will see the implementation of a new job evaluation system and consideration given to other attraction and retention strategies.
Support Council's Cadet, Apprentice and Trainee program	On-Track 	Council is currently recruiting for the 2023 intake of Cadets, Apprentices, Trainees and School Based Trainees. Participants will be invited to attend a job applicants' workshop in late October 2022.
Enhance Council's Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Programs	On-Track 	Council became a Diversity Council Australia organisational member. The updated Equal Employment Opportunity Management Policy and Employment Opportunity Management Plan have been drafted and Diversity Awareness Training has recommenced.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Implement Safety and Wellbeing Programs	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Staff commenced the next phase of Council risk management methodologies which included the critical risk and control management framework. Critical risks and controls have been identified and verification of these draft critical controls will continue throughout the December 2022 quarter.</p> <p>A review of the workplace health and safety (WHS) leadership and all staff training has been reviewed with roll out of training commencing in late October 2022. This training will involve over 570 staff. Council has partnered with Lifeline for suicide prevention training during the quarter which involved 45 staff members.</p>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Management and Technology

Responsibility *Chief Information Officer*

About this Service

This service delivers digitally enabled, information driven and secure services that empower our customer community.




Quarterly Progress Update

During the quarter, Information Management and Technology received 5,859 service requests with 5,838 resolved. An additional 35 requests to use technology / or provide information to resolve business issues or exploit business opportunities were also received.

In May 2022 the organisation successfully migrated the document management, compliance and property and ratings functions to the TechnologyOne (Software as a Service) suite. This will also Council to decommission a number of disparate legacy on-premise systems decreasing our cyber security risk.



Council has worked with neighbouring Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation councils and the University of Wollongong to deploy a number of Smart technologies which use artificial intelligence and business analytics to assist Council with making data driven decisions. A regional Chief Information Security officer has been appointed to improve cyber security. Council was also the first council in New South Wales to report to Cyber Security New South Wales against the Cyber Security Guideline for Local Government. The guideline deploys best practices to continuously improve cyber security.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Cyber Security Strategy	On-Track 	Council continues to improve cyber security and has implemented employee multi-factor authentication and is working with the Australian Cybersecurity Centre and New South Wales government to further protect Council's Systems and the information of customers.
Finalise the Information Technology Cloud Transformation Program	Delayed 	Review of the legacy systems and data stores has demonstrated there are a number of complexities in relation to their decommissioning. These issues will need to be resolved prior to on-premises infrastructure being decommissioned.
Continue to consolidate information technology systems and platforms	Delayed 	Council has continued work to consolidate information technology systems into the Technology One enterprise resource platform. 15 modules are now operational in the Technology One system including financials, contracts and sourcing, asset management and request management. During this quarter, work continued on the Human Resources and Payroll module, with a review of the solution design underway to meet business needs. Work also commenced this quarter on optimising the use of the modules that are now operational.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Management and Technology Continued

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Pilot and expand the use of robust SMART technologies across Council	On-Track 	The Smart Cities team established an Information Technology environment to accept data from sensors and other smart city devices for the purpose of improved decision making through data visualisation and insights. Current projects include smart bins and waterways, fleet and plant telemetry, pedestrian and cyclist interactions on the blue mile, automated Environmental Protection Authority reporting and the memorial gardens project. Work is underway to understand Council's emissions profile in order to reach net zero by 2030 through waste emissions reporting, utility and fuel utilisation. To improve the quality of our roads, a three month trial will be conducted using camera technology and artificial intelligence to automatically detect defects such as potholes, faded line markings and signage.
Implement the CCTV Strategy	On-Track 	<p>Council's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy and Code of Practice has been revised and a single standard operating procedure developed to cover all council locations with CCTV.</p> <p>A review of all Council locations and facilities with CCTV installed has been completed to identify works required. A plan to upgrade and update ageing CCTV infrastructure to improve effectiveness, reliability and capability has been developed and commenced.</p> <p>The Whytes Gully Waste Facility is the first location to be upgraded and sets the standard for future site upgrades. This upgrade introduces the move to a cloud-based platform for monitoring, improved security and data storage.</p> <p>Council also provided CCTV access for New South Wales Police to the city street surveillance network at the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong NSW event control centre to assist with crowd monitoring and public safety.</p>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Infrastructure Strategy and Support

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*


About this Service

This service includes the strategic management and technical planning of Council's infrastructure that supports all Council Services. It also includes the development and review of Council's Asset Management Strategy, Asset Management Plans, the development and delivery of rolling capital works and planned annual maintenance programs.

Quarterly Progress Update

Several grant applications were completed in the quarter to leverage Council funding. Council is reviewing the Infrastructure Delivery Program in the context of the economic environment and impacts of inflation, materials costs and resource shortages on the Program.

Operational Plan 2022-2023 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and regularly review Asset Management Plans to ensure appropriate investment in Council's asset base	On-Track 	Summary Asset Management Plans are being drafted as a simpler guide for Council's Asset Management Strategy.
Review Asset Management Plans to include latest methodology, asset condition and performance data	On-Track 	Summary Asset Management Plans have been updated to include latest data from the recent Stormwater and Transport revaluation.
Progressively implement the Asset Management Improvement Program	On-Track 	Priority actions identified in Council's Asset Management Strategy and Plans are underway including summary asset Management Plans for community use.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data Where Available – September 2021	Result
Financial Services			
Available funds	3.5% to 5.5% of Operational Revenue (Pre-Capital)	\$27.3M or 9.9%	\$23.2M or 8.2%
Operating result pre capital income, including depreciation	Small Operational Surplus (average over 3 years)	-\$1.2M	-\$5.2M
Information Management and Technology			
Formal Government Information Public Access (GIPA) Applications Processed Within 20 Days	100%	New Measure	100%

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the State of the City Report.



Image: Coledale Beach

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

July 2022 – September 2022

Introduction

This Quarterly Review Statement is the first review of the Operational Plan 2022-2023.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement provides financial information and updates to the Council and the community on income and expenditure in comparison with the approved annual budget. It outlines the original budget and year to date spend, as well as proposed variations to the budget that have been identified in the Quarter.

Changes to Council's income and expenditure occur throughout the financial year due to both external and internal factors. This report provides the mechanism to communicate such changes to the Councillors and community in a transparent manner. The Quarterly Budget Review Statement is composed of the following budget review components:

- 1 Income and Expenses and Capital Budget Commentary;
- 2 Combined Income and Expenses Statement;
- 3 Summary of Variations – Operational and Capital;
- 4 Budget Review Cash and Investments Position;
- 5 Budget Review Key Performance Indicators;
- 6 Contracts and Other Expenses; and
- 7 Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer;

Appendix 1 – Supporting Documents Report

Appendix 2 – Detailed Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

Income and Expenses Statement

This Budget Review Statement includes revised estimates of income and expenditure for 2022-2023 financial year in comparison of the estimated income and expenditure that is set out in the Operational Plan 2022-2023. The Income and Expenses Statement can be found in Table 1.

Commentary: The proposed Operating Result [pre capital] deficit of \$25.9M indicates a deterioration of \$2.0M compared to current budget which mainly relates to the introduction of a projects that are externally funded, a transfer of funds from capital to operating and the removal of the budget for the 2022-2023 Emergency Services grant that was paid early in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Additional variations related to increased anticipated interest on investments, the actual CPI adjustment for the 2021/22 Financial Assistance Grant and increased allocation to the Financial Assistance Grant for 2022/23 and future years would have resulted in a favourable variation of \$1.5M on the Operating Result [pre capital]. These variations are proposed to be transferred to the Operational Contingency in the 2022/23 financial year and Budget Capacity in the future years to assist Council in managing the potential impact of external economic factors on the budget.

The proposed Funds Result deficit of \$17.8M indicates a deterioration of \$0.8M compared to current budget. This relates to the early payment of the Emergency Services grant that increased Available Funds in 2021-2022 and is now reduced to reflect the net impact over the two years. Further details are provided in the summary of variations.

Project Timing

At the finalisation of the 2021-2022 financial year, a number of projects where still in progress. Through the September Quarterly review, it has been proposed that the unspent budget on specific projects be re-introduced into the 2022-2023 budget to enable these projects to be finalised. It is proposed that these projects be offset with a negative contingency as it is anticipated that other projects will need to be delayed into future financial years in future budget reviews.

Supporting Documents

Council Supporting Documents (strategy and plan development) are prioritised in the development of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. They therefore have an important role in planning for the community. Through the September Quarterly Review, several Supporting Documents that were still in progress at the end of 2021-2022 are proposed to be reintroduced into 2022-2023. It is proposed that these adjustments will not have an overall impact on the budget as it is anticipated that other programs will be rephased into 2023-2024 to enable the delivery of these projects. Refer to Appendix 1 for the detailed report.

Capital Budget Statement

The capital budget review statement provides the original and revised capital budget that has been varied through monthly resolution of Council. The changes against the Operational Plan 2022-2023 have been included for information to reflect the adjustments over the quarter. The Capital Budget can be found in Table 1. Additional Project Capital Budget Reports outlining variations by asset classes are provided in Appendix 2.

Commentary: During this Quarter, the capital budget expenditure projections were increased by \$4.0M through monthly adjustments. These adjustments have been reported and approved by Council through the monthly reporting process. In addition to these changes, through the September Quarterly review \$0.2M of capital has been transferred to operational to support road and bridge inspections.

Table 1

Wollongong City Council September Quarter 2022 Income and Expense Statement					
	2022/23 Original Budget \$'000	2022/23 Current Budget \$'000	Proposed v Current Variance \$'000	2022/23 Proposed Budget \$'000	2022/23 Actual YTD \$'000
Income From Continuing Operations					
Rates and Annual Charges	221,315	221,315	0	221,315	55,861
User Charges and Fees	33,841	33,841	124	33,965	8,954
Interest and Investment Revenues	2,333	2,333	270	2,603	781
Other Revenues	5,977	5,977	(21)	5,956	1,329
Rental Income	5,874	5,874	(7)	5,868	1,456
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	13,818	13,818	3,151	16,969	5,676
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	40,442	40,442	(0)	40,442	6,120
Total Income from Continuing Operations	323,601	323,601	3,517	327,118	80,176
Expenses From Continuing Operations					
Employee Costs	145,502	145,502	1,918	147,420	38,495
Borrowing Costs	242	242	367	609	166
Materials & Services	88,796	88,796	2,971	91,767	20,885
Other Expenses	19,155	19,155	522	19,677	5,498
Depreciation, Amortisation + Impairment	75,642	75,642	(220)	75,422	18,188
Labour Internal Charges	(19,578)	(19,578)	29	(19,549)	(3,579)
Non-Labour Internal Charges	(1,795)	(1,795)	(104)	(1,899)	(386)
Total Expenses From Continuing Operations	307,964	307,964	5,483	313,447	79,267
Operating Result	15,637	15,637	(1,966)	13,671	909
Operating Result [pre capital]	(24,806)	(24,806)	(1,966)	(26,771)	(5,211)
Funding Statement					
Net Operating Result for the Year	15,637	15,637	(1,966)	13,671	909
Add back :					
- Non-cash Operating Transactions	92,764	92,764	541	93,305	22,617
- Restricted cash used for operations	15,710	15,710	3,307	19,017	2,901
- Income transferred to Restricted Cash	(57,120)	(57,120)	(2,686)	(59,806)	(12,829)
Leases Repaid	(413)	(413)	0	(413)	(105)
Terminations	(14,354)	(14,354)	(208)	(14,562)	(3,537)
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Funds Available from Operations	52,224	52,224	(1,011)	51,213	9,956
Loans Repaid	(3,702)	(3,702)	0	(3,702)	(1,412)
Advances (made by) / repaid to Council	0	0	0	0	0
Operational Funds Available for Capital Budget	48,522	48,522	(1,011)	47,511	8,543
Capital Budget Statement					
Assets Acquired	(101,916)	(105,955)	173	(105,782)	(24,520)
Contributed Assets	(10,056)	(10,056)	0	(10,056)	0
Transfers to Restricted Cash	(2,367)	(2,367)	0	(2,367)	(597)
Funded From :-					
- Operational Funds	48,522	48,522	(1,011)	47,511	8,543
- Sale of Assets	1,885	1,885	(0)	1,885	0
- Internally Restricted Cash	6,310	7,982	(0)	7,982	1,468
- Capital Grants	22,825	23,109	(0)	23,109	4,271
- Developer Contributions (Section 94)	6,834	8,903	(0)	8,903	2,082
- Other Externally Restricted Cash	0	0	0	0	26
- Other Capital Contributions	11,031	11,046	0	11,046	429
TOTAL FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(16,931)	(16,931)	(838)	(17,769)	(8,298)

Summary of Variations

Budget variations being recommended include the following material items:

Variations	Net by Type \$000's
Rates and Annual Charges No changes were proposed to the rates and annual charges budgets through the September Quarterly Review.	0
User Fees and Charges Increases in fees and charges related to Cemeteries (\$117K), Tourist Parks (\$67K) and annual charges for the occupation of Council footpaths (\$28K) partly offset by decreases in fees and charges related to credit card processing fees (\$65K), tree management fees (\$15K) and other minor variations (\$8K).	124
Interest and Investment Revenues Increased interest and investment revenues based on performance of the investment portfolio throughout the first quarter of the financial year.	270
Other Revenues The reduction in other revenues budget relates to the removal of lease income related to a Council property (\$54K) and the delayed commencement of a Building Sites Compliance trial program (\$50K) partly offset by contributions from ISJO Councils for a shared position (\$71K) and other minor variations (\$12K).	(21)
Rental Income The minor decrease in rental income relates to the removal of rental income related to a Council property (\$32K) and other minor variations (\$3K) partly offset by an increase in rental income for a community facility (\$28K).	(7)
Grants & Contributions (Operating) The increase in operating grants and contributions mainly relates to Social Support & Respite funding (\$1,476K), the Financial Assistance Grant (\$1,312K), Luminous: After Dark grant (\$436K) and additional funding for Parks & Sportsfields (\$275K), Transport Services (\$271K) and Stormwater Services (\$268K) partly offset by the earlier than anticipated payment of this year's Emergency Services Grant in 2021-2022 (\$838K), decrease in funding related to Volunteering Illawarra (\$114K) and other minor variations (\$36K).	3,151
Employee Costs Employee costs have been increased due to the introduction of external funding (\$1,075K) and movements between employee costs and materials, services and other expenses.	(1,918)
Borrowing Costs Increased borrowing costs related to the interest on the waste remediation provision.	(367)
Materials, Services & Other Expenses The increase in materials and contracts is associated with adjustments to funded projects (\$2,187K), electricity charges (\$173K), inspections on roads and bridges transferred from capital (\$173K), insurance premiums (\$13K) partly offset by movements between materials, services & other expenses and other employee costs.	(3,493)
Depreciation	220

Variations	Net by Type \$000's
Reduced depreciation expenses associated with the waste remediation asset.	
Internal Charges	75
Reduced internal charges associated with marketing and printing.	
Operating Variation (pre capital)	(1,966)
Non-cash operating transactions	541
Non-cash operating transactions include depreciation (\$220K), borrowing costs (\$369K) and adjustments to labour oncosts.	
Restricted Cash used for operations	3,307
The increase in restricted cash used for operations mainly relates to Social Support & Respite funding (\$1,382K), Luminous: After Dark grant (\$436K), additional funding for Parks & Sportsfields (\$275K), Transport Services (\$271K) and Stormwater Services (\$268K), West Dapto Assessment Process Improvement (\$350K), OneCouncil (\$201K), and other minor funding variations (\$372K) partly offset by the decrease in funding related to Volunteering Illawarra (\$108K).	
Income transferred to Restricted Cash	(2,686)
This adjustment mainly relates to Social Support & Respite funding (\$1,476K), Luminous: After Dark grant (\$436K) and additional funding for Parks & Sportsfields (\$275K), Transport Services (\$271K) and Stormwater Services (\$268K) and other minor variations (14K) partly offset by an adjustment to City Centre Parking (\$40K).	
Terminations	(208)
Adjusted for the change in payment of accrued leave entitlements associated with the increase in employee costs.	
Funds Available from Operations	(1,011)
Capital Budget*	173
\$173K is proposed to be transferred from the capital budget to the operating budget to support the inspection of roads and bridges.	
Funds Result	(838)

*Adjustments to the Capital Budget that have been adopted by Council through Monthly Financial Reports are outlined in Appendix 2.

Cash and Investments Position

The Budget Review Cash and Investments Position (Table 2) shows the original budgeted cash and investment position, the revised position and the projected year end position, and the anticipated year end available cash position.

Cash and Investment holdings forecasts have increased by \$3.6M compared to the Original Budget. This is largely due to the early payment of the Emergency Services Grant, additional grants & contributions and projects that have been deferred to future periods. The Available Funds forecast has only increased by \$1.2M as changes in grant income and deferred projects are offset by corresponding changes in restricted cash.

The following table shows the movements in the projections of available funds for the 2022-2023 financial year as a result of the proposed changes through the September Quarterly Review.

Table 2

Wollongong City Council				
Wollongong City Council September Quarter 2022				
Cash, Investments and Available Funds				
	Actual 2021/22	Original Budget 2022/23	September QR 2022/23	Actuals YTD September 2022
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
Total Cash and Investments	161.9	130.9	134.5	147.6
Less Restrictions:				
External	75.3	75.1	73.6	81.7
Internal	62.8	48.4	56.7	62.6
CivicRisk Investment	2.5			2.5
Total Restrictions	140.6	123.5	130.3	146.9
Available Cash	21.3	7.4	4.1	0.8
Adjusted for :				
Payables	(27.4)	(27.9)	(28.1)	(27.3)
Receivables	24.6	34.0	25.5	31.9
Other	13.5	0.0	13.1	17.8
Net Payables & Receivables	10.7	6.1	10.5	22.4
Available Funds	32.0	13.5	14.7	23.2

All investments held at 30 September 2022 were invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. Bank reconciliations have been completed as at 30 September 2022. Year to date cash and investments are reconciled with funds invested and cash at bank.

Table 3

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL Cash Flows and Investments as at 30 September 2022		
	YTD Actual 2022/23 \$ '000	Actual 2021/22 \$ '000
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Receipts		
Rates & Annual Charges	60,910	215,632
User Charges & Fees	15,322	31,914
Interest & Interest Received	855	1,549
Grants & Contributions	13,289	64,618
Bonds, deposits and retention amounts received	4	1,201
Other	(3,029)	21,387
Payments		
Employee Benefits & On-costs	(34,649)	(131,464)
Materials & Contracts	(23,186)	(86,914)
Borrowing Costs	(70)	(442)
Bonds, deposits and retention amounts refunded	-	(755)
Other	(7,311)	(29,477)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities	22,137	87,249
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Receipts		
Sale of Investments	6,756	54,491
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	-	2,161
Payments:		
Purchase of Investments	(296)	(59,990)
Purchase of Investment Property	-	-
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	(34,867)	(96,237)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities	(28,407)	(99,575)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Payments:		
Repayment of Borrowings & Advances	(1,413)	(5,496)
Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities	(96)	(380)
Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities	(1,508)	(5,876)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(7,779)	(18,202)
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	34,118	52,320
plus: Investments on hand - end of year	121,301	128,584
Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date	147,640	162,702

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

Cash Flows and Investments

as at 30 September 2022

	YTD Actual 2022/23 \$ '000	Actual 2021/22 \$ '000
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date	147,640	162,702
<u>Attributable to:</u>		
External Restrictions (refer below)	81,724	75,344
Internal Restrictions (refer below)	62,624	62,886
Unrestricted	3,292	24,472
	147,640	162,702
External Restrictions		
Developer Contributions	40,221	40,065
RMS Contributions	1,012	205
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	13,213	8,378
Special Rates Levy Wollongong Mall	467	407
Special Rates Levy Wollongong City Centre	84	88
Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme	-	-
Unexpended Loans	882	907
Domestic Waste Management	7,460	7,604
Private Subsidies	5,986	5,708
Housing Affordability	9,589	9,604
Stormwater Management Service Charge	2,810	2,378
Total External Restrictions	81,724	75,344
Internal Restrictions		
Property Investment Fund	9,391	9,388
Strategic Projects	33,159	34,962
Sports Priority Program	751	671
Car Parking Strategy	1,290	1,189
MacCabe Park Development	1,778	1,740
Darcy Wentworth Park	171	171
Garbage Disposal Facility	6,749	5,831
West Dapto Development Additional Rates	8,706	8,281
Southern Phone Natural Areas	173	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	456	480
Total Internal Restrictions	62,624	62,886

Key Performance Indicators

The long term forecasts presented below are indicative of our existing position. Council has a continuous budget process that revises the long term forecasts in line with quarterly changes and resets assumptions and indices annually or where new information leads to an immediate requirement to change the indices.

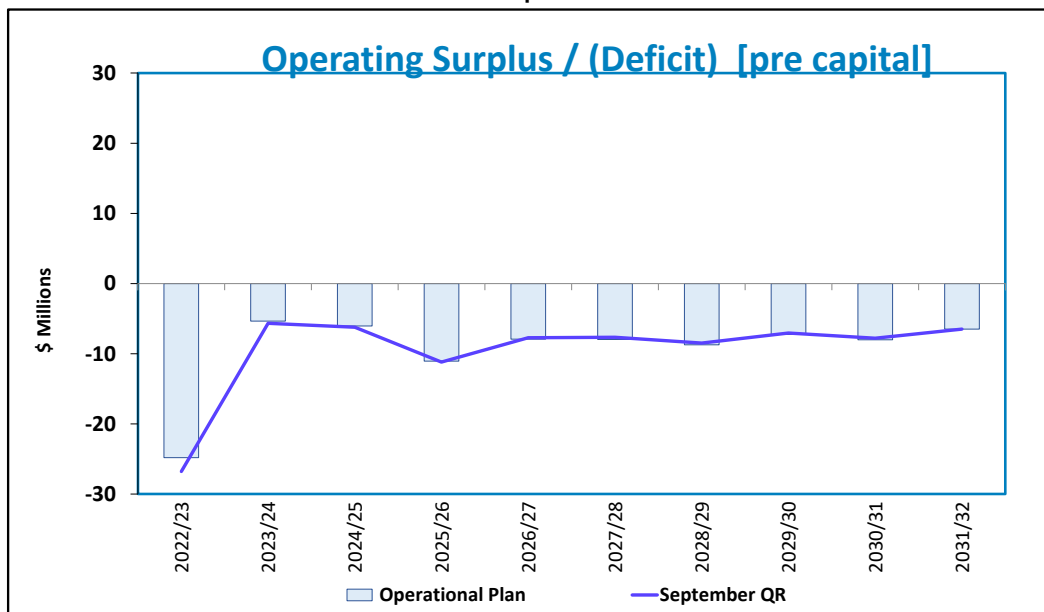
The projected long term indicators are primarily based on exiting assumptions and indices from Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Plan and Resource Strategy and the Long Term Financial Plan.

Indicator 1 - Long Term Operating Surplus/(Deficit) [pre capital]

Definition: The Operating Result [pre capital] provides an indication of the long term viability of Council. In broad terms, a deficit from operations indicates that Council is not earning sufficient revenue to fund its ongoing operations (services) and continue to renew existing assets over the longer term. While this measure is important, it does include timing issues and impacts from specific transactions and operations which make it less accurate in demonstrating current performance. The Funds Available from Operations below is a more accurate indicator of current financial performance.

Commentary on Current Result: The deterioration in the 2022-2023 result has been discussed throughout this report.

Graph 1

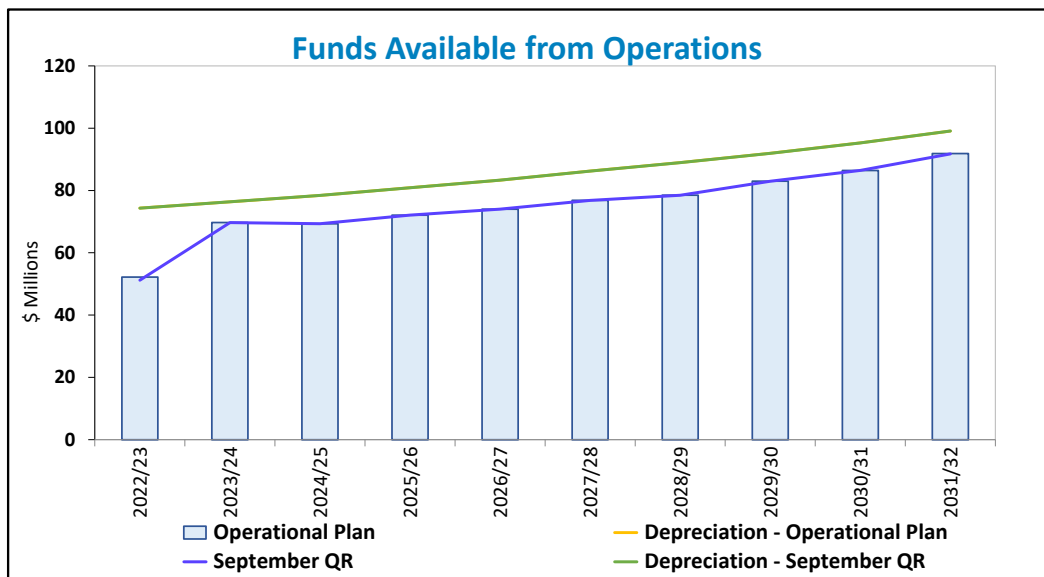


Indicator 2 - Funds Available from Operations

Definition: The matching of Funds Available from Operations with Council's asset renewal target (currently depreciation over the long term) is a primary target of Council to provide for effective renewal of assets and growth in assets.

Commentary on Current Result: The following graph shows the forecast depreciation expenses compared to Funds Available from Operations. This indicator demonstrates the capacity to generate sufficient funds from operations to meet that level of asset renewal requirement.

Graph 2



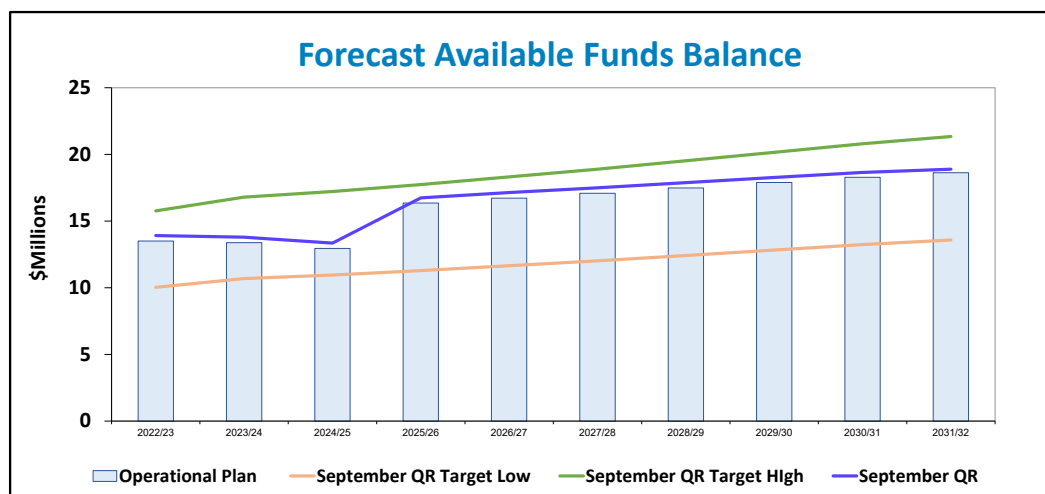
Note: The depreciation figures in the diagram above exclude the depreciation on Waste Remediation, SES & RFS vehicles, right-of-use assets and Home and Community Care vehicles that do not require funding from Council.

Indicator 3 - Available Funds

Definition: Available Funds are the uncommitted funds of an organisation that assist in meeting the short term cash requirements, provide contingency for unexpected costs or loss of revenue and provide flexibility to take advantage of opportunities that may arise from time to time.

Commentary on Current Result: Council's Financial Strategy has a target to achieve and maintain an Available Funds position between 3.5% and 5.5% of operational revenue [pre capital]. The target range for Available Funds at September 2022 is between \$10.0M and \$13.6M (lower range) and between \$18.4M and \$21.3M (upper range) over the life of the Long Term Financial Plan. The revised forecast indicates that Council remains within the target range. The current financial year has been impacted by the early payment of the 2022-2023 Emergency Services Grant in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Graph 3



Contracts and Other Expenses

The following list of contracts have been entered into during the Quarter that have yet to be fully performed. Details of contracts, other than contractors that are on a council's preferred supplier list that have a value equivalent of 1% of estimated income from continuing operations or \$50K, whichever is the lesser, are provided.

Wollongong City Council Wollongong City Council September Quarter 2022 Contract Listing					
Contractor	Contract Detail and Purpose	Contract Value \$'000	Commencement Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted Y/N
Insight Security Australia Pty Ltd Security Services	Security and After Hours Support Services - Tourist Parks	700	8-Sep-22	2022/23 -2028/29	Y
Project Coordination (Australia) Pty Ltd	Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) - Building Works	3,843	22-Aug-22	2022/23	Y
Rheln Pty Ltd	Minnegang Creek, Hospital Creek and Kully Bay FRMSP	184	23-Aug-22	2022/23 -2025/26	Y
Cadifern Pty Ltd	Port Kembla Beach Access Ramp	428	20-Jul-22	2022/23 -2023/24	Y
Asplundh Tree Expert (Australia) Pty Ltd, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council Consultant, Southern Habitat (NSW) Pty Ltd	Bushland Restoration, Ecohort Pty Ltd Bushland Restoration, Bowantz Bushfire and Environmental Bush Regeneration, Good Bush Pty Ltd Bush Regeneration, Midges Bushland Restoration Pty Ltd Bushland Restoration, Commelina Bushworks Natural Area Restoration, Adeco Environmental Bush Regeneration, Toolijooa Pty Ltd, Bushland Management				
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Natural Area Restoration & Bushfire Hazard Reduction Works	9,900*	19-Jul-22	2022/23 -2024/25	Y
	Banking Services	1,687	1-Jul-22	2022/23 -2026/27	Y
Abergeldie Contractors Pty Ltd	Harry Graham Drive: Repair of Failed Road Embankment	2,491	8-Jul-22	2022/23 -2023/24	Y
Cadifern Pty Ltd	Retaining Wall Reconstruction - Balfour Rd, Austinner	1,423	6-Jul-22	2022/23 -2023/24	Y
Worksite Training Pty Ltd	Training for Wollongong City Council	98	29-Sep-22	2022/23	Y
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre	IPAC - replacement of FSWRs	63	26-Sep-22	2022/23	Y
Plantabox Pty Ltd	Pop-Up Outdoor Dining Trail - Parklets 2	207	19-Sep-22	2022/23	Y
Hydrographic & Cadastral Survey Pty Ltd	Lake Illawarra Bathymetry Project	69	9-Sep-22	2022/23	Y
Euro Civil Pty Ltd	22/23 Unshed Guardrails - Central, North & South	70	2-Sep-22	2022/23	Y
Sullivans Constructions	Continental Pool Winter Works	55	31-Aug-22	2022/23	Y
100% Renewables Pty Ltd	Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-	82	29-Aug-22	2022/23	Y
Habitat Innovation and Management Pty Ltd	Water quality testing and reporting	80	18-Aug-22	2022/23	Y
M & A Lukin	Thirroul Pool Winter Works	57	11-Aug-22	2022/23	Y
M & A Lukin	Corrimal Pool Winter Works	160	10-Aug-22	2022/23	Y
SCT Consulting Pty Ltd	Bus Shelter Compliance Upgrades Strategy	65	9-Aug-22	2022/23	Y
Moir Landscape Architecture Pty Ltd	Green Network Master Plan	87	19-Jul-22	2022/23	Y
Phoenix Foundry Pty Ltd	Bronze plaques & accessories for WMG/Cem	75	8-Jul-22	2022/23	Y
Cundall	Globe Lane Lighting Design	56	20-Apr-22	2022/23	Y
Remedial Technology Pty Ltd	Bridge Corrosion Protection System	63	5-Apr-22	2022/23	Y

The following tenders were approved by the General Manager during the September Quarter of 2022-2023:

- T1000073 Pavement Stabilisation - Illowra Crescent, Primbee
- T1000072 Pavement Stabilisation – Hutton Avenue Bulli
- T1000063 Guest Park Sportsfield Drainage Design and Construct

The following table identifies the amount expended on consultancies and legal fees for the financial year.

Definition: Consultants are defined as a person or organisation that is engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally, it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

Wollongong City Council September Quarter 2022

Consultancy and Legal Expenses

Expense	Expenditure YTD \$ 000's	Budgeted Y/N
Consultants	369	Y
Legal Fees	123	Y

Responsible Accounting Officer Statement

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

There have been continuing and varying economic changes since the adoption of the 2022-2023 budget that have the potential to impact the delivery of the services within budget. Inflation, particularly in construction costs, energy, and fuel, will require careful monitoring into the next quarter and may require further adjustment in the December Review. It is envisaged that these costs and other delivery issues will potentially have more significant impacts into 2023-2024.

Notwithstanding the above, at this stage it is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Wollongong City Council of the quarter ended 30 September 2022 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2023 will be *satisfactory* at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
Wollongong City Council

Appendix 1 – Supporting Documents Report

Supporting Documents - Planning Studies & Investigations						
Service & Project	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	2025/2026
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s
Corporate Strategy	0	0	57	27	111	566
Centralised Studies & Plans	0	0	57	27	34	566
Community Strategic Plan Review	0	0	0	0	77	0
Infrastructure Strategy & Support	233	311	0	0	0	0
Management of Councils Water Supply & Waterwaste Infrastruct	233	311	0	0	0	0
Land Use Planning	741	893	498	500	411	79
West Dapto Flood Risk Review	27	89	0	0	0	0
West Dapto Review Structure Plan	0	3	0	0	0	0
West Dapto Review WaterCycle Masterplan	75	75	0	0	0	0
Tourism Accommodation Review Planning Controls	0	5	0	0	0	0
Industrial Land Planning Controls Review	50	60	0	0	0	0
City Centre Planning Review	40	40	0	0	0	0
City Wide Local Environment Plan Review	0	0	100	100	100	0
Mt Keira Masterplan & Plan of Mgmt.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Development of Crown Land Plans of Management	118	119	0	2	2	2
Landscape development plan for West Dapto - for riparian corridors	100	120	0	0	0	0
Battery Park, Smiths Hill & Flagstaff Hill Forts Heritage Consultant	0	0	120	120	0	0
LGA Wide Retail Centres Study	50	50	0	0	0	0
Review Riparian Corridor Management Study & Policy	82	102	0	0	0	0
West Dapto Open Space and Community Facilities Needs Assess	90	90	0	0	0	0
Western Sydney Development Impacts Study	70	70	0	0	0	0
Review Planning Controls - Wilga St, Corrimall	40	69	0	0	0	0
Planning Controls for South Wollongong	0	0	103	103	105	0
Built Form Testing DCP Ch B4 Development in Business Zones	0	0	150	150	103	0
Thirroul Village - Character and Heritage Study	0	0	0	0	75	77
West Dapto Vision Implementation - Infrastructure and Development Strategy, including Performance Indicators	0	0	25	25	26	0
Stormwater Services	674	806	265	300	397	399
Floodplain Management Studies	0	0	0	0	120	120
Review of Towradgi Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study	25	40	0	0	0	0
Review of Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study	15	31	0	0	0	0
Review of Flood Studies & Floodplain Risk Management Plans	0	2	0	2	2	2
Flood Risk Management Studies Best Practice	75	104	75	79	225	227
Review of Allans Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study	60	87	60	60	0	0
Review of Fairy Cabbage Creeks Floodplain Risk Management Stu	100	100	50	50	0	0
Community Education	0	25	0	0	0	0
Development Controls Plan Review	24	30	0	0	0	0
Flood Level Information Advice Automation	50	50	0	0	0	0
Review of Duck Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study	55	70	0	0	0	0
Review of Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study	50	53	0	0	0	0
Review of Wollongong City Floodplain Risk Management Study	50	50	30	30	0	0
Review of Brooks Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study	120	90	0	30	0	0
Review of Minnegang Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study	50	75	50	50	50	50
Environmental Services	685	810	471	471	158	0
Biodiversity Strategy	61	64	0	0	0	0
City Beach Dune Contamination Management	0	24	0	0	0	0
Climate Change Risk Assessment & Adaptation Plan	0	9	0	0	0	0
Coastal Management Program for the Open Coast	464	532	471	471	0	0
Prepare Subsequent Climate Change Mitigation Plan	81	101	0	0	0	0
Climate Change Adaptation Plan - Assessment of Heat Impact	80	80	0	0	0	0
Develop design guidelines for green roofs, green walls and facades, rain gardens and other vegetation	0	0	0	0	158	0

Appendix 1 – Supporting Documents Report Continued

Supporting Documents - Planning Studies & Investigations						
Service & Project	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	2025/2026
	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget
Natural Area Management	32	32	33	33	33	34
Vegetation Management Plans for High Priority Natural Areas	32	32	33	33	33	34
Transport Services	470	493	220	220	15	113
Accessible Car Parking and Bus Stops audit	0	22	0	0	0	0
Access and Movement Strategy Review	175	175	0	0	0	0
City Centre Parking Surveys - EMS Report	69	69	0	0	0	73
Integrated Transport Strategy	80	80	79	79	0	0
Wollongong LGA Feasibility Studies	15	17	15	15	15	15
Lake Illawarra Shared Path Masterplan	55	55	55	55	0	0
Towradgi Creek Shared Path Feasibility Investigations	56	56	0	0	0	0
Bald Hill to Stanwell Park Pathway Feasibility	0	0	0	0	0	25
Pedestrian Bridge Thurston Av - Feasibility Study	0	0	30	30	0	0
Implement Keiraville Gwynneville Access & Movement Strategy	20	20	41	41	0	0
Community Facilities	50	56	100	100	0	0
Facilities Planning Development	0	6	0	0	0	0
Social Infrastructure Planning Framework	50	50	100	100	0	0
Cultural Services	0	0	0	0	0	172
Art Gallery 2nd Entrance Design	0	0	0	0	0	120
West Dapto Vision Implementation - Cultural Strategy & Plan	0	0	0	0	0	52
Aquatic Services	44	65	0	0	100	0
Community Recreation & Aquatic Centre Concept Plan West Dapto	32	53	0	0	0	0
Coalcliff Surf Club Proposed Refurbishment Works - Feasibility	12	12	0	0	0	0
Surf Club Strategy	0	0	0	0	100	0
Botanic Garden and Annexes	0	9	0	0	60	196
Mt Keira Summit Park	0	9	0	0	0	0
Mt Keira Summit Park Interpretation Design Guide	0	0	0	0	0	50
Botanic Gardens Design Investigation for Asset Improvement	0	0	0	0	60	146
Parks and Sportsfields	470	492	253	253	0	0
Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan	140	151	51	51	0	0
Fred Finch Park - Landscape Masterplan	35	35	0	0	0	0
Hill 60 Tunnels Reopening- Detailed Concept Plans	25	25	125	125	0	0
Feasibility Study Synthetic Football Pitch in Planning Area	35	46	0	0	0	0
Stuart Park Masterplan	145	145	77	77	0	0
Fred Finch Park Lighting Feasibility	40	40	0	0	0	0
Synthetic Football Pitch in Planning Area 1 (North) - Site Investigation	50	50	0	0	0	0
Financial Services	(711)	(1,314)	0	0	0	0
Supporting Documents - Projects in Progress	(711)	(1,314)	0	0	0	0
Property Services	0	39	103	103	0	0
Bulli Showground Masterplan	0	39	0	0	0	0
Draft Bulli Showground Masterplan - Feasibility Assessment and Community Consultation Phase	0	0	103	103	0	0
Total Expenditure *	2,688	2,692	1,999	2,006	1,285	1,559
*Expenditure shown above is for full project cost. A number of projects are supported from external grant funds or internal restrictions						

Appendix 2 – Detailed Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

Wollongong City Council September 2022 Quarterly Review Capital Project Report								
Asset Class Programme	\$'000 Current Budget		\$'000 Proposed Budget		YTD Expenditure	\$'000 Variation		
	Expenditure	Other Funding	Expenditure	Other Funding		Expenditure	Other Funding	
Traffic Facilities	4,183	(3,221)	4,058	(3,097)	1,004	(124)		124
Public Transport Facilities	365	0	370	0	45	5		0
Roadworks	14,533	(5,393)	16,513	(6,168)	9,870	1,980		(775)
Bridges, Boardwalks and Jetties	2,005	(167)	1,875	(40)	626	(130)		127
TOTAL Roads And Related	21,085	(6,780)	22,816	(9,304)	11,545	1,731		(524)
West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion	5,310	(5,310)	5,724	(5,724)	1,156	414		(414)
TOTAL West Dapto	5,310	(5,310)	5,724	(5,724)	1,156	414		(414)
Footpaths	10,230	(3,020)	13,032	(4,943)	2,556	2,802		(1,923)
Cycle/Shared Paths	3,575	(2,170)	4,915	(3,290)	831	1,340		(1,120)
Commercial Centre Upgrades - Footpaths and Cycleways	3,275	(200)	2,775	(200)	611	(500)		0
TOTAL Footpaths And	17,080	(5,390)	20,721	(8,433)	3,998	3,641		(3,043)
Carpark Construction/Formalising	140	0	340	0	283	200		0
Carpark Reconstruction or Upgrading	1,060	0	1,060	0	59	0		0
TOTAL Carparks	1,200	0	1,400	0	342	200		0
Floodplain Management	2,375	(650)	2,375	(650)	8	(0)		(0)
Stormwater Management	4,100	(75)	4,500	(75)	492	400		(0)
Stormwater Treatment Devices	20	0	120	0	5	100		0
TOTAL Stormwater And Floodplain Management	6,495	(725)	6,995	(725)	504	500		(0)
Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall)	9,900	0	9,900	0	368	(0)		0
Administration Buildings	360	0	360	0	66	(0)		0
Community Buildings	5,950	(1,600)	6,500	(1,500)	1,710	550		100
Public Facilities (Shelters, Toilets etc.)	150	0	150	0	8	(0)		0
TOTAL Buildings	16,360	(1,600)	16,910	(1,500)	2,152	550		100
Tourist Park - Upgrades and Renewal	175	0	175	0	115	0		0
Crematorium/Cemetery - Upgrades and Renewal	195	0	195	0	11	0		0
Leisure Centres & RVGC	100	0	100	0	12	(0)		0
TOTAL Commercial Operations	470	0	470	0	138	0		0
Play Facilities	2,290	(1,100)	1,990	(800)	72	(300)		300
Recreation Facilities	3,330	(2,200)	2,893	(1,763)	1,298	(437)		437
Sporting Facilities	11,625	(7,390)	11,640	(7,905)	986	15		(515)
TOTAL Parks Gardens And Sportfields	17,245	(10,690)	16,522	(10,468)	2,356	(723)		222
Beach Facilities	450	(450)	600	(600)	331	150		(150)
Treated Water Pools	3,400	0	2,900	0	610	(500)		0
TOTAL Beaches And Pools	3,850	(450)	3,500	(600)	941	(350)		(150)
Whites Gully New Cells	1,525	(1,525)	1,555	(1,555)	145	30		(30)
TOTAL Waste Facilities	1,525	(1,525)	1,555	(1,555)	145	30		(30)
Motor Vehicles	1,800	(949)	1,800	(949)	230	(0)		0
TOTAL Fleet	1,800	(949)	1,800	(949)	230	(0)		0
Mobile Plant (trucks, backhoes etc.)	3,800	(937)	3,800	(937)	168	(0)		0
TOTAL Plant And Equipment	3,800	(937)	3,800	(937)	168	(0)		0
Information Technology	1,350	0	1,350	0	130	(0)		0
TOTAL Information Technology	1,350	0	1,350	0	130	(0)		0
Library Books	1,315	0	1,315	0	313	(0)		0
TOTAL Library Books	1,315	0	1,315	0	313	(0)		0
Art Gallery Acquisitions	100	0	100	0	30	0		0
TOTAL Public Art	100	0	100	0	30	0		0
Land Acquisitions	0	0	200	(200)	331	200		(200)
TOTAL Land Acquisitions	0	0	200	(200)	331	200		(200)
Capital Project Contingency	2,931	0	776	0	0	(2,155)		0
TOTAL Non-Project Allocations	2,931	0	776	0	0	(2,155)		0
GRAND TOTAL	101,916	(36,356)	105,955	(40,395)	24,481	4,039		(4,039)

Variations - Capital	Net by Type \$ 000's
Traffic Facilities *Regional Grant Funding that was expended in previous financial year removed from the Northcliffe Drive pedestrian refuge project *Reallocate unspent funding from Metropolitan Colliery for other works in the Helensburgh CBD	(119)
Roadworks *Reallocated funding from Capital Project Contingency *Funding reintroduced from 21/22 projects that did not get completed by 30 June 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather *Funding introduced from Developer Contributions to complete road widening project to support the Lindsay Mayne Criterion Track project *Funding introduced from Regional Roads Block Grant *Additional funding introduced from Transport for New South Wales Disaster Relief for slope stabilisation works on Harry Graham Drive *Additional Roads to Recovery funding introduced for road construction on Foley Rd Gwynneville	1,980
Bridges, Boardwalks & Jetties *Funding reallocated from Capital Project Contingency	50
West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion *Funding reintroduced from West Dapto Developer contributions for the Shone Avenue Shared Path project and West Dapto/Wongawilli Road bridge upgrades *Local Infrastructure funding introduced for Bong Bong Road - Station Street traffic lights	414
Footpaths *Reintroduce funding from Strategic Projects from projects that did not get completed by 30 June 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather *Funding reallocated from Capital Project Contingency to fund completion of projects that did not get completed by 30 June 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather *Funding reallocated from Commercial Centre Upgrades program and Capital Funding Contingency *Reintroduce funding from Department of Planning Industry and Environment for the North Wollongong Beach Seawall Renewal	2,622
Cycle/Shared Paths *Funding reintroduced from Strategic Projects for the implementation of NSW Coastline Cycleway line marking project *Funding reallocated from Capital Project Contingency to fund completion of designs for multiple cycle and shared path projects which did not get completed by 30 June 2022 *Funding introduced from TfNSW Active Transport for Grand Pacific Walk extension at Clifton *Funding reallocated from Developer Contributions for construction of a cycleway in Beacon Avenue and Grand Pacific Walk extension at Clifton	1,340

Variations - Capital	Net by Type \$ 000's
Commercial Centre Upgrades – Footpaths and Cycleways *Funding reallocated to Footpath and Cycleways and Capital Funding Contingency	(500)
Car Parks New *Funding reallocated from Capital Project Contingency to fund completion of multiple car park projects that were not completed by 30 June 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather	200
Stormwater Management *Funding reallocated from Capital Project Contingency to fund completion of multiple stormwater projects that were not completed by 30 June 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather	400
Stormwater Treatment Devices *Funding reallocated from Capital Project Contingency to fund Port Kembla Stormwater Quality Improvement Device project that was not completed by 30 June 2022	100
Community Buildings *Funding reallocated from Capital Project Contingency to fund completion of projects that were not completed by 30 June 2022 *Funding reallocated from Treated Water Pools	550
Play Facilities *LR&CI funding replaced with alternate funding sources	(300)
Recreation Facilities *Resources for Regions funding replaced with develop contributions for construction of the Unanderra Criterium Track	(437)
Sporting Facilities *Funding reintroduced from Strategic projects for sportsfield lighting projects that did not get completed by 30 June 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions and wet weather	15
Beach Facilities *Funding reintroduced from Developer Contributions for the construction of the Port Kembla Beach Access Ramp which did not get completed by 30 June 2022	150
Treated Water Pools *Funding reallocated to Community Building Program	(500)
Whytes Gully New Cells *Funding introduced from Garbage Disposal Facility funding	30
Land Acquisitions *Funding introduced from Strategic Projects for compulsory acquisition of properties for Warrawong Community Centre and Library	200
Contingency	(2,155)

Variations - Capital	Net by Type \$ 000's
*Funding reallocated to other programs as detailed above	
Variation	4,039

Glossary and Naming Conventions

Term	Definition or Explanation
Current Budget	Current Budget, as revised and adopted by Council.
Original Budget	Adopted Budget as at the adoption of the Operational Plan in June (adoption of Attachment 1 - Budget).
Proposed Budget	Revised budget proposed before Council at the current quarterly budget review. Once adopted by Council, this will become 'Current Budget'

ITEM 6 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Council is required to review the organisation structure of the council and senior staff positions within 12 months of an ordinary election of the council. This report proposes a minor adjustment to the existing senior staff structure to optimise the efficient and effective delivery of service and organisational performance.

RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with Section 332 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council endorse the senior staff structure as outlined in Attachment 1.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Greg Doyle, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Senior Staff Structure
- 2 Organisational Structure - function charts

BACKGROUND

Part 332 of the Local Government Act 1993 [the Act] requires the Council to determine the following:

'1 A council must, after consulting the general manager, determine the following:

- a. The senior staff positions within the organisation structure of the council,*
- b. The roles and reporting lines (for other senior staff) of holders of senior staff positions,*
- c. The resources to be allocated towards the employment of staff.*

1A The general manager must, after consulting the council, determine the positions (other than the senior staff positions) within the organisation structure of the council.

1B The positions within the organisation structure of the council are to be determined so as to give effect to the priorities set out in the strategic plans (including the community strategic plan) and delivery program of the council.'

Council last determined the senior staff structure on 31 August 2020. This structure has 19 senior staff, including the General Manager, four Directors and 14 Senior Managers.

Council commenced its current term in December 2021. Since then, a comprehensive review of the Community Strategic Plan has occurred, and a new Delivery Program and Operational Plan endorsed by Council. A review of the organisational structure has been undertaken at a senior staff level to optimise organisational performance and ensure the structure is effective in delivering on the priorities identified in the strategic plans of the Council.

PROPOSAL

The proposed senior staff structure is outlined in Attachment 1. In addition to the existing senior staff roles, the establishment of a senior staff role to oversee a People and Culture division for the organisation is proposed. The current organisational structure has two people-focused divisions, being Organisational Development and Safety and Workplace Services. The opportunity to realign these two divisions into one has been highlighted by:

- The business plan developed to support implementation of Wollongong City Council's Workforce Strategy, identifies the integrated nature of the functions of both teams.
- The events of the last two and a half years (the COVID-19 pandemic) has highlighted the importance of a people function to an organisation.

- Having two people focused divisions can create confusion about roles and responsibilities. The creation of one division will provide clarity for staff and customers.
- Opportunities for enhanced people business processes and optimised performance of a single, integrated people focused division.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

A Councillor Briefing session was held on Monday 31 October 2022. Discussions have also occurred with Union Delegates and staff whose roles will report to the new senior staff role. All were supportive of the proposal.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4 “We are a connected and engaged community”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026	
Strategy		Service	
4.7	Demonstrate responsible decision-making based on our values, collaboration, and transparent and accountable leadership.	Employee Services.	

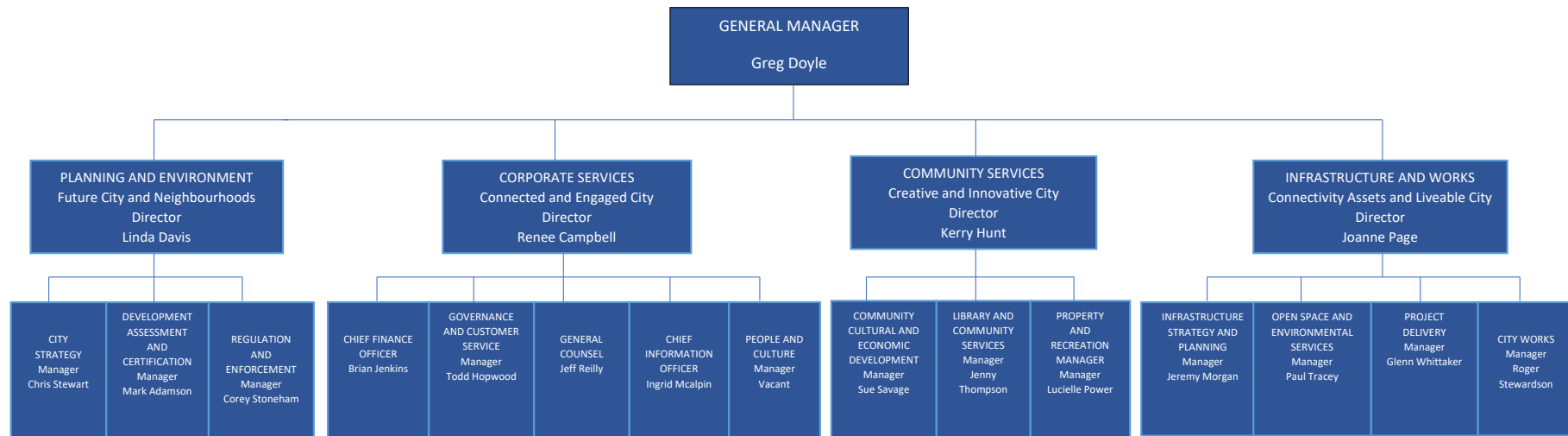
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

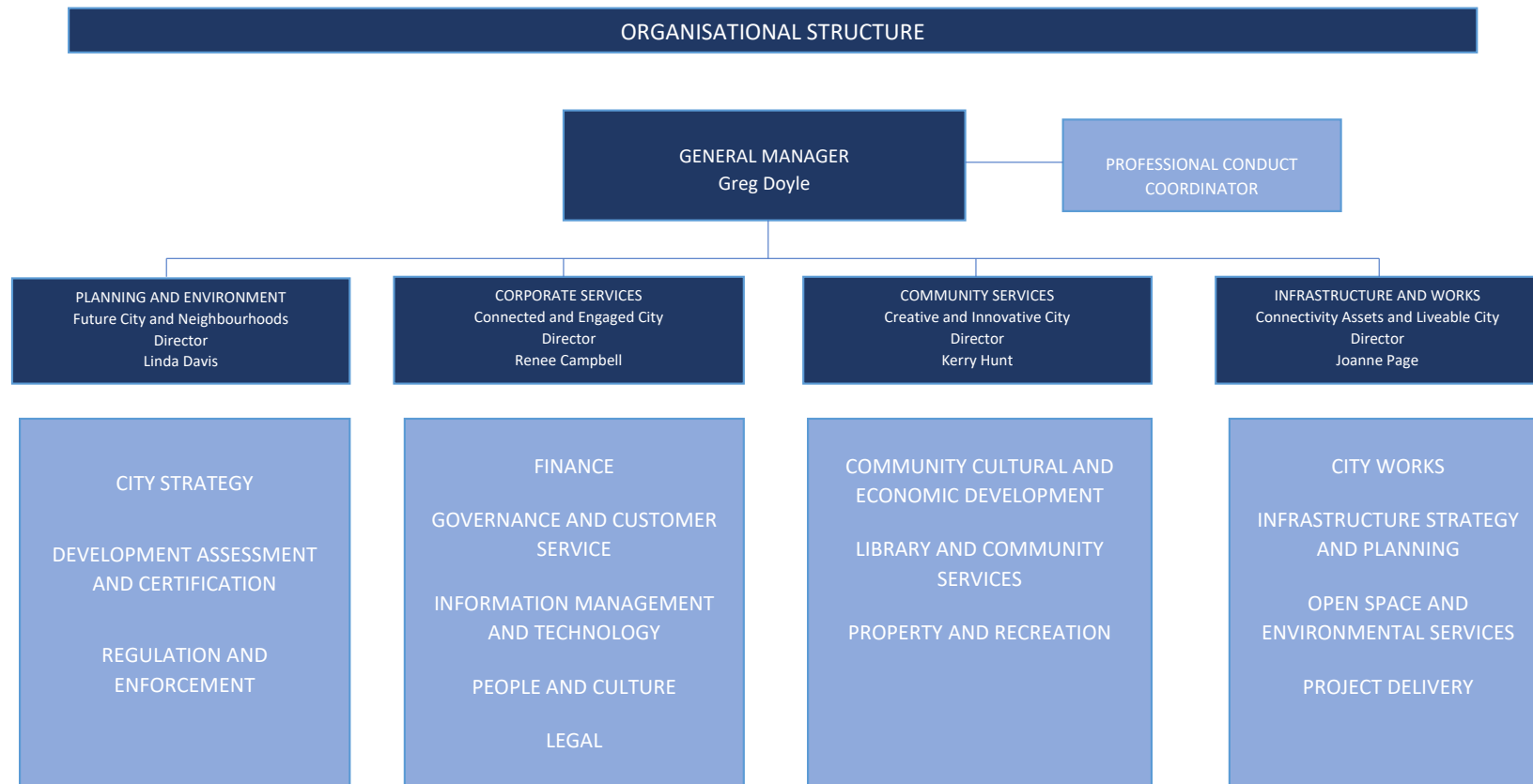
In addition to the Council determining the senior staff roles and reporting lines, Section 332 of the Act also requires the Council to determine the allocation of resources towards the employment of staff. These resources are set by the Council in the development and adoption of the Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Budget, and the structure as proposed in this report will be managed within the allocated resources.

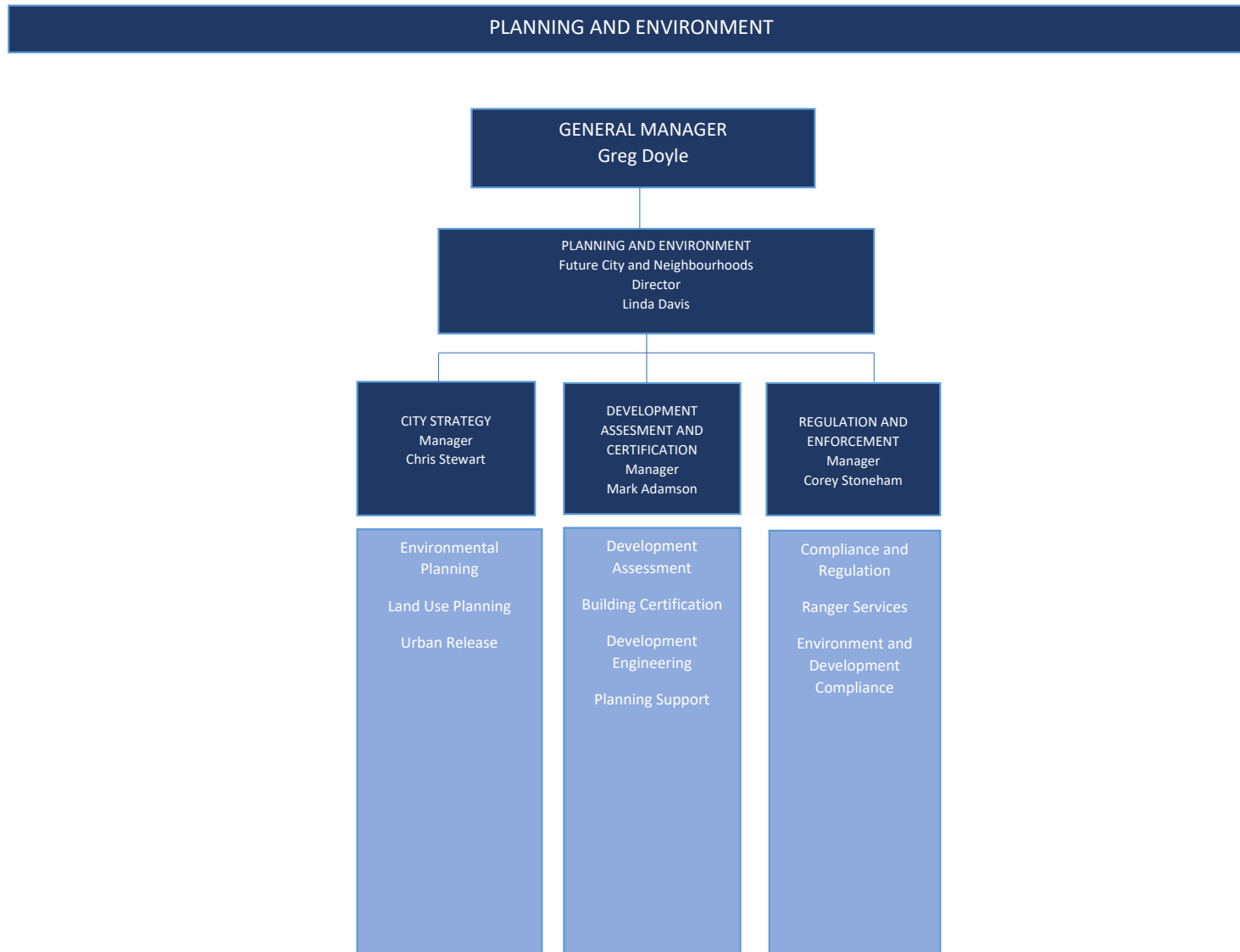
CONCLUSION

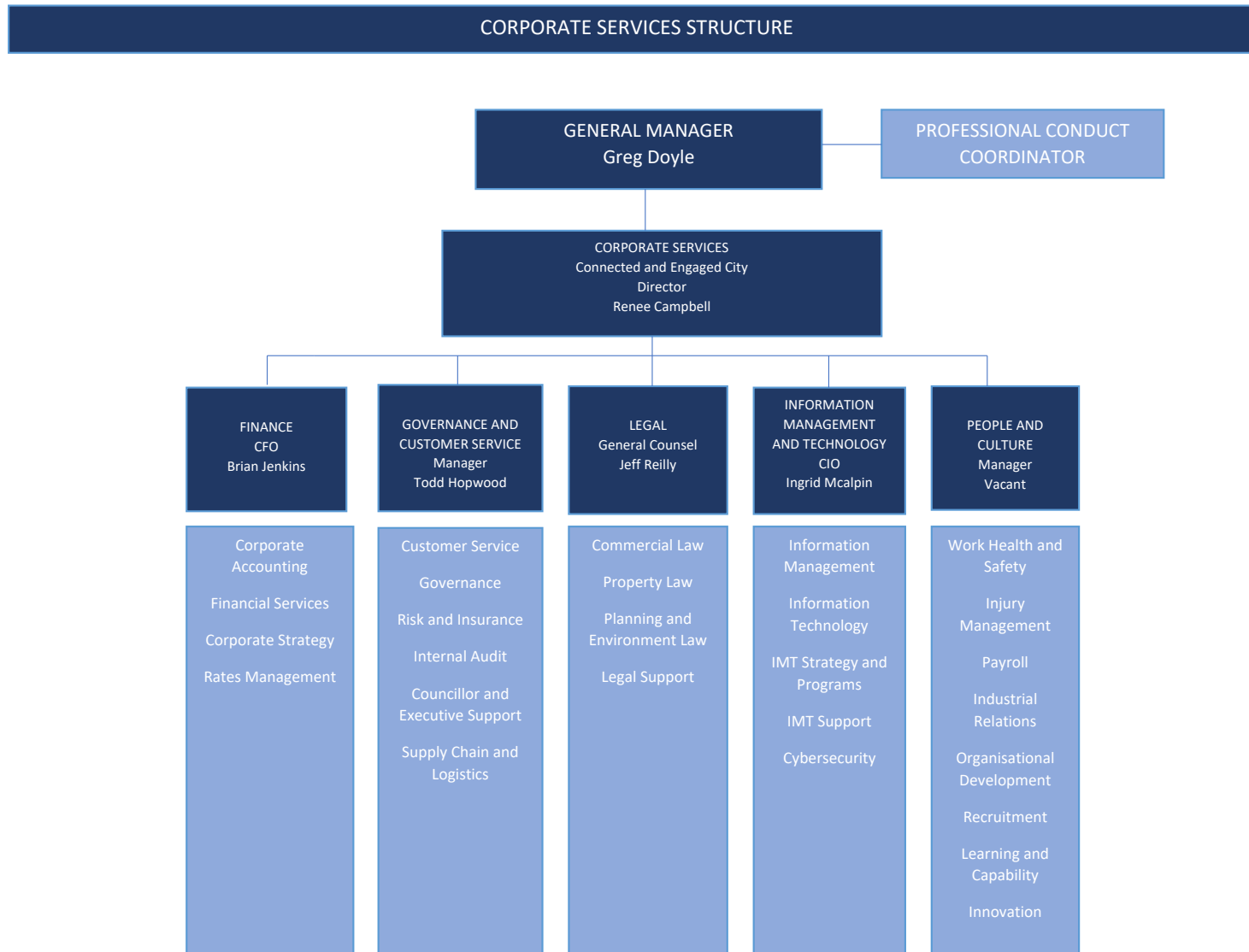
The senior staff structure proposed in this report will assist in the delivery of Council's strategic plans.

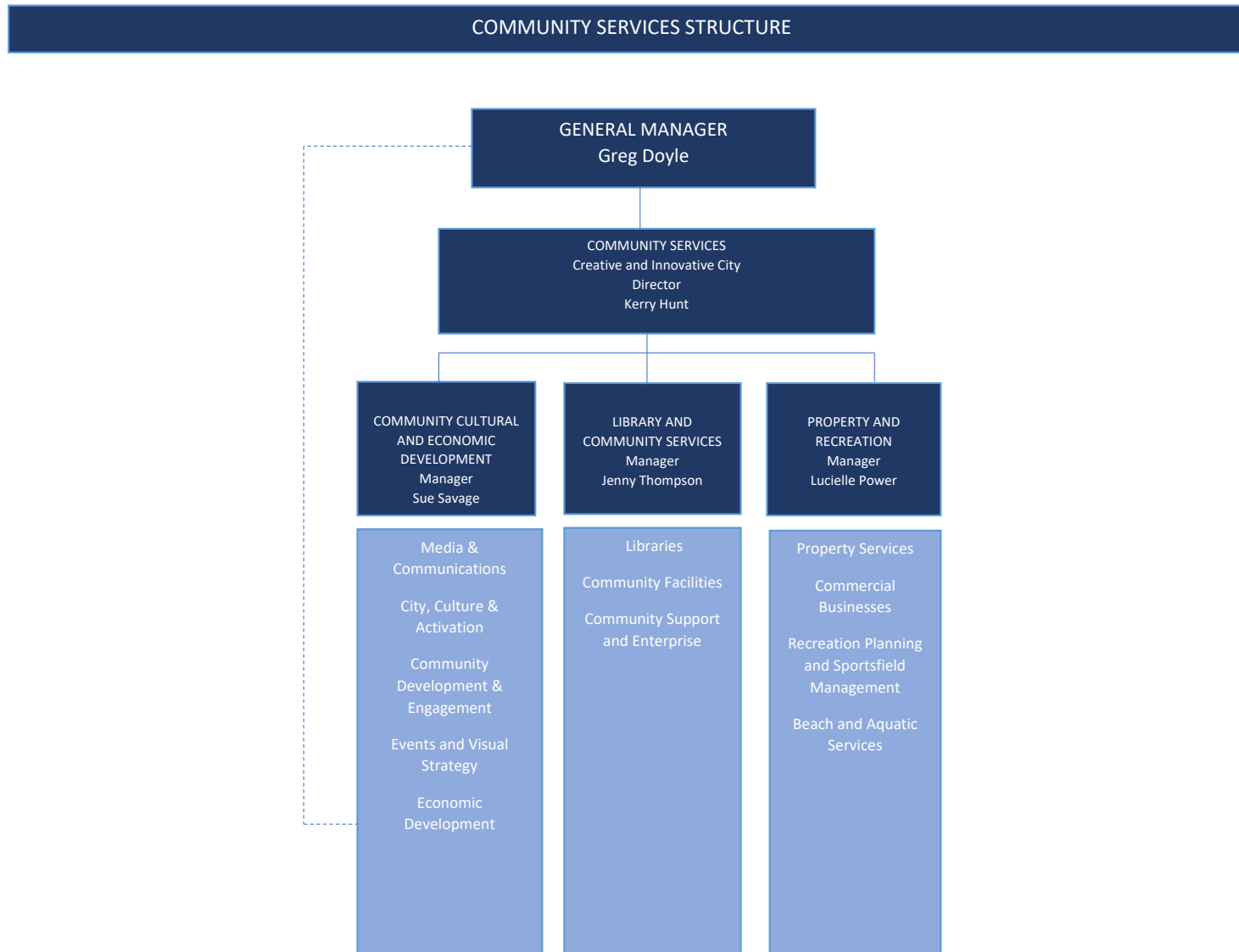
SENIOR STAFF STRUCTURE

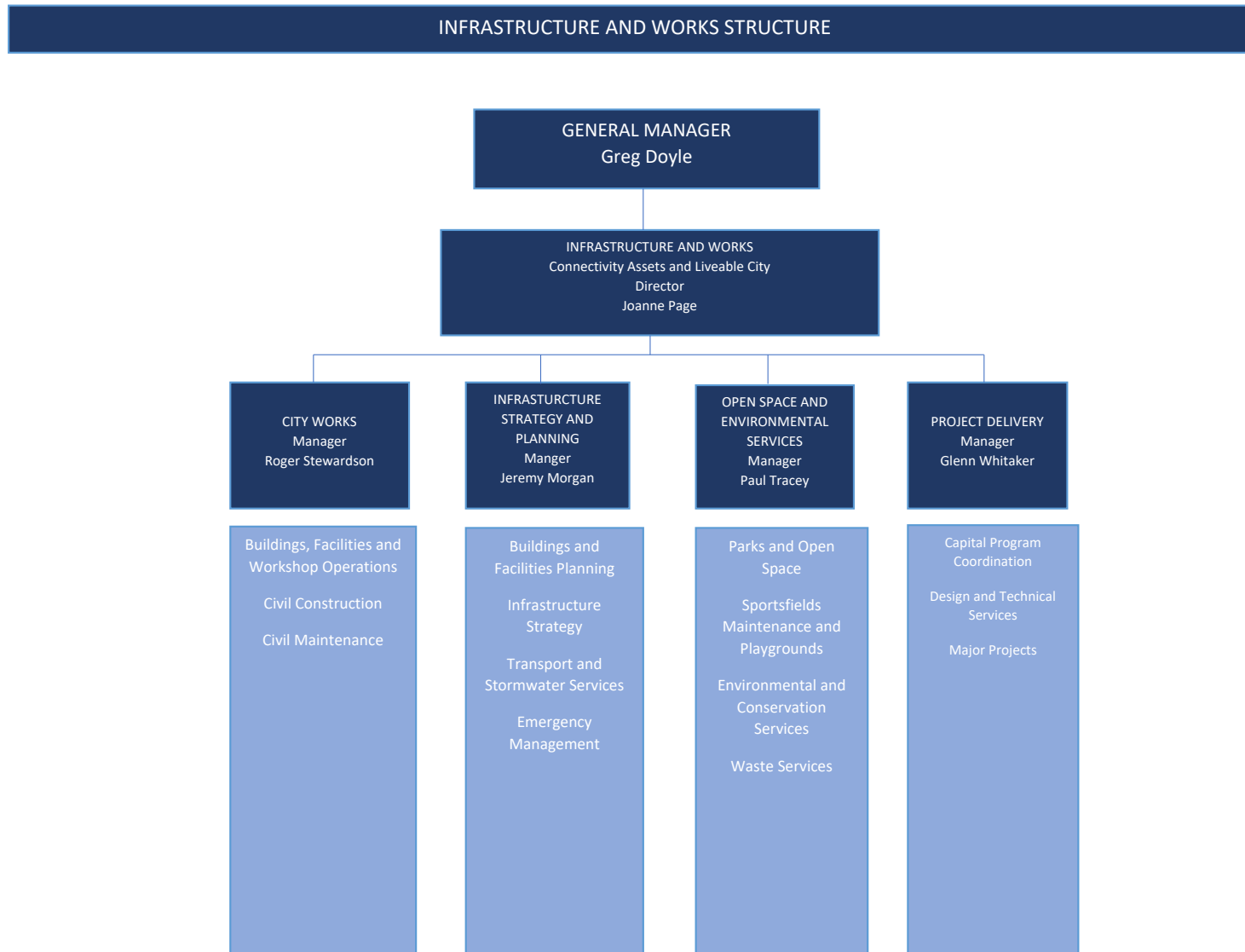












ITEM 7

GRANT OF EASEMENT OVER COUNCIL COMMUNITY LAND AT LOT 187 DP 15363 KNOWN AS HAROLD COX PARK, WOLLONGONG

As a condition of consent of DA-2022/146 relating to Lot 84 in DP 15363, 21 Jutland Avenue, Wollongong, the applicant requires an easement to drain water through the adjoining Council owned land known as Lot 187 in DP 15363, Harold Cox Park. This report seeks approval to the grant of the easement.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Pursuant to section 46 (1) (a1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council resolves to grant an easement to drain water 1.0m wide over Council land known as Lot 187 DP 15363, Harold Cox Park, in favour of Lot 84 DP 15363, 21 Jutland Avenue, Wollongong, as shown crosshatched on the attachment to this report.
- 2 Council accept payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the owner of Lot 84 DP 15363, 21 Jutland Avenue, Wollongong, as compensation for the grant of the easement.
- 3 The applicant be responsible for all costs relating to the easement including valuation, survey, plan registration and legal costs, and any other costs incurred in this matter.
- 4 Approval be granted to affix the Common Seal of Council and/or delegation pursuant to section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to the survey plan, Section 88B Instrument and any other documentation required to give effect to this resolution.
5. The General Manager be authorised to execute any documents to give effect to this resolution.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Lucielle Power, Manager Property + Recreation

Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Map of Proposed Easement to Drain Water 1.0m wide over Council land known as Lot 187 DP 15363

BACKGROUND

Deferred development consent for DA-2022/146 at 21 Jutland Avenue, Wollongong, for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a dual occupancy and subdivision was granted on 9 August 2022. Development consent shall not operate until the applicant has demonstrated that an easement to drain water has been registered over the adjoining Council land known as Lot 187 DP 15363, Harold Cox Park in favour of Lot 84 DP 15363, 21 Jutland Avenue, Wollongong.

Council land at Lot 187 DP 15363, Harold Cox Park, is classified as 'Community Land' and categorised as 'Park' pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). Council has limitations on how it can deal with Community land, in particular to the granting of leases, licences and other estates. The granting of easements is deemed another estate for the purposes of the Act.

Section 46 (1) (a1) of the Act gives Council the power to grant easements over Community Land for the following purpose: providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider.

The use of infrastructure for drainage of private land through Council owned Community Land to connect to Council's stormwater network or natural drainage/watercourses is also a permissible use and development described under Council's 2022 Community Land Plan of Management for Council Owned Land categorised as Park.

The proposed works are to install a 150mm uPVC drainage line to connect to Council's existing stormwater drainage facility located within Council's Land to connect to an existing Council stormwater pit.

The easement location is shown as crosshatched on Attachment 1. The easement will allow the applicant to construct underground drainage infrastructure which will be owned and maintained by the applicant or any subsequent owners of the land. The proposed easement will have minimal impact upon the public's current use and amenity of the land as the pipes are underground and will connect to an existing stormwater pit.

Council sought a valuation report from Walsh and Monaghan Valuers to assess the amount of compensation that would be payable by the applicant to Council for the grant of the easement. The amount of compensation was assessed at \$1,000 which has been agreed by the applicant.

By granting a drainage easement over the land, Council will receive compensation for the easement and be able to identify the exact location of the underground drainage infrastructure which will be recorded in a registered deposited plan. Council will also formalise maintenance obligations of the underground drainage infrastructure to ensure it is not responsible for future maintenance of the underground drainage infrastructure.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council approve the grant of an easement to drain water 1.0 metres wide over Lot 187 DP 15363, Harold Cox Park, in favour of Lot 84 DP 15363, 21 Jutland Avenue, Wollongong, as shown crosshatched on the attachment to this report.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- Applicant
- Walsh and Monaghan Valuers
- Development Assessment and Certification – City Wide and Development team
- Council's Finance Division

Council also gave Statutory Notice of the proposed granting of an easement over Council's Community land pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993*, with the close of submission period being 26 October 2022. No submissions were received.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report is in accordance with Council's "Land and Easement Acquisition and Disposal" policy. This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal "We are a connected and engaged community" through managing easements and other encumbrances on Council land.

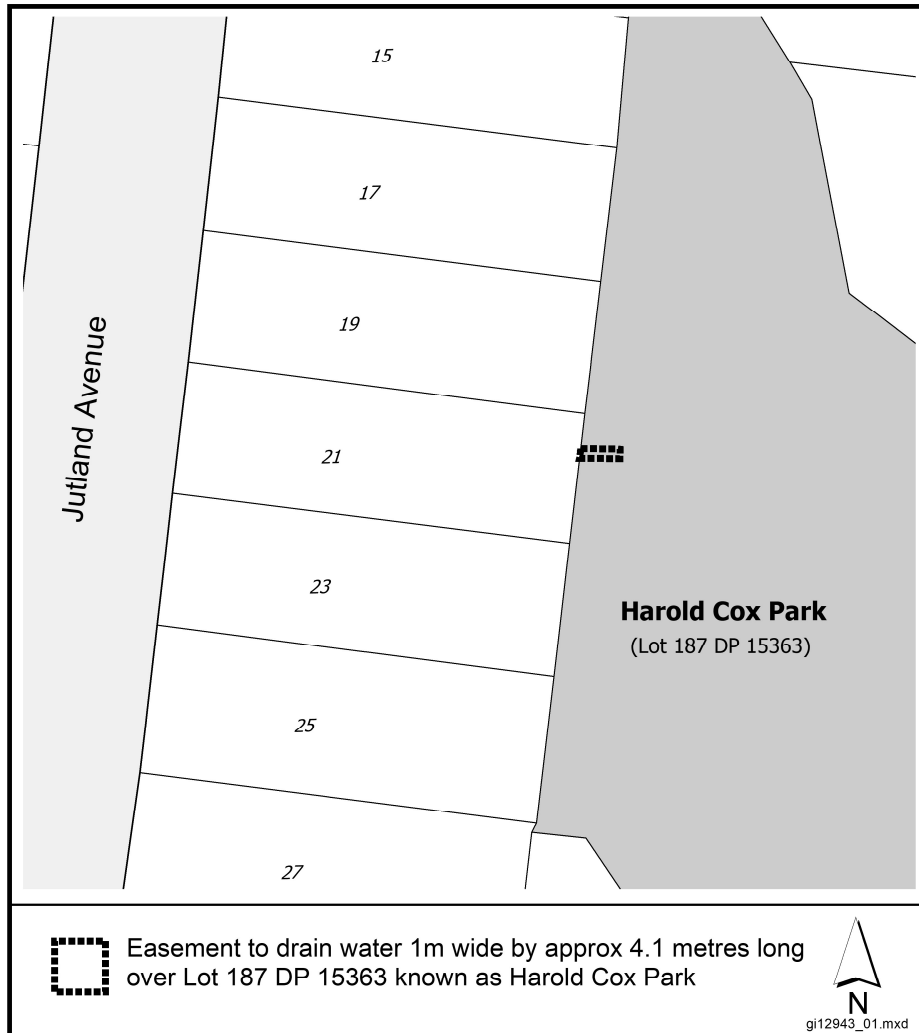
It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Property Services Service Plan 2022-23.

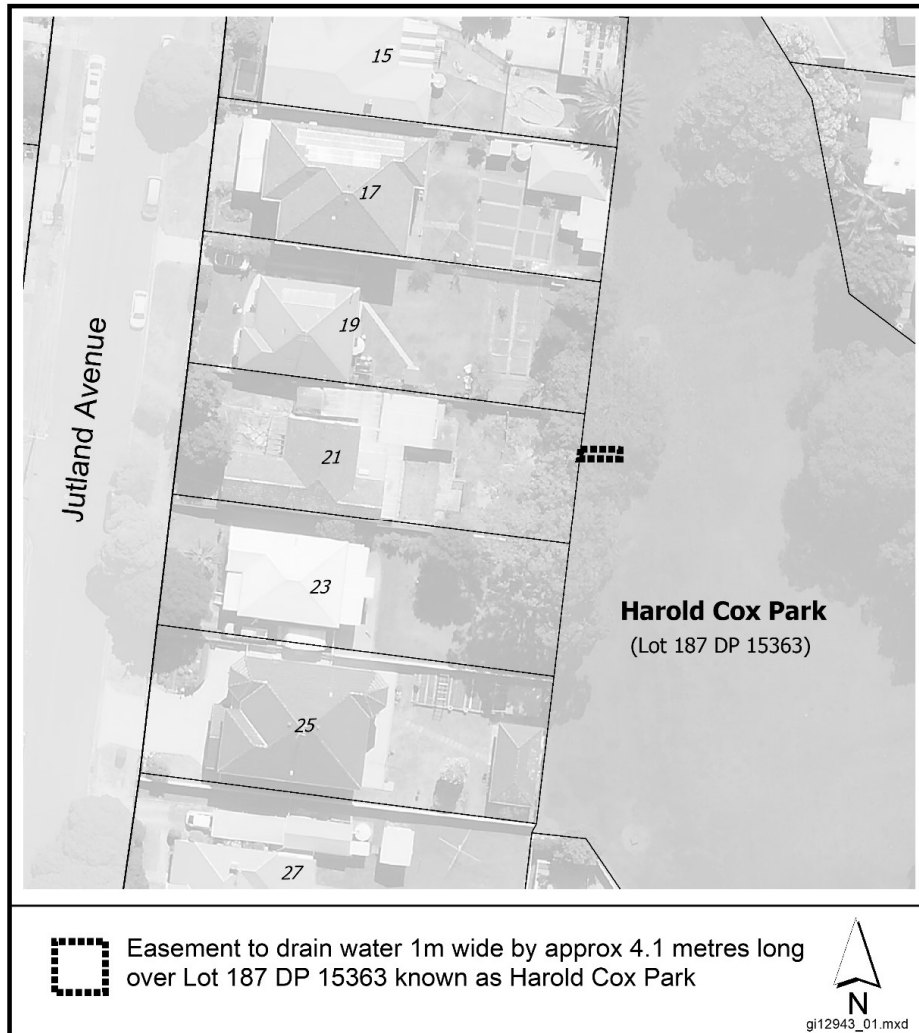
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The applicant has paid the application fee of \$2,340 for the creation of an easement over Council Owned or Managed Land. Council will receive \$1,000 as compensation for the grant of the easement which is considered to be fair and reasonable based on the valuation report obtained. The applicant will also be responsible for all costs in the creation of the easement including valuation, survey, plan lodgement and legal costs, and any other costs associated with the grant/registration of the easement.

CONCLUSION

By granting a drainage easement over the land, Council will receive compensation for the easement, be able to identify the exact location of the underground drainage infrastructure and will formalise maintenance obligations of the underground drainage infrastructure to ensure Council is not responsible for future maintenance of the underground drainage infrastructure.





ITEM 8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE - COUNCILLOR RICHARD MARTIN - 8 APRIL TO 18 APRIL 2023

Councillor R Martin has requested leave of absence for 8 April to 18 April 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor R Martin from 8 April to 18 April 2023.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance + Customer Service
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

ITEM 9 REVIEW OF CORPORATE SERVICES POLICIES

A review of Corporate Services policies has been undertaken resulting in several Council policies being recommended for revocation or reclassification as Management policies under the Council Policy Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Public Access to Documents and Information held by Council Policy be revoked
- 2 The following Council policies be reclassified as Management policies under the Policy Framework
 - a Recruitment of External Members to Committees Policy
 - b Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance Coverage for Council Delegates Policy

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance + Customer Service
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance Coverage for Council Delegates Council Policy
- 2 Recruitment of External Members to Committees Council Policy
- 3 Public Access to Documents and Information held by Council Council Policy

BACKGROUND

Council's Policy Framework was implemented to provide guidance on the development of appropriate policy and procedure documents and for the appropriate categorisation of all Council documents below the level of legislated strategy documents and consist of a hierarchy of four main types of documents:

- Council Policies
- Management Policies
- Procedures
- Work Instructions

Additionally, at times it may be appropriate for Council to develop guideline documents that provide additional information for the public on complex legislative, policy or procedural matters.

It is common for the policy registers of public authorities to grow overtime due to the inclusion of documents that should be more appropriately categorised as procedure or guideline documents. The implementation of the framework provides an opportunity to reduce the number of policies in Council's policy register by identifying genuine policy position documents as opposed to those that are more procedural by nature. There are also opportunities to merge policies that cover similar topics.

The larger a fleet of policies adopted by Council the more burdensome the administrative requirements for review, updating and adopting become.

Several Council policies were drafted and adopted prior to the recent implementation of a Policy Framework. As a result, all policy documents relating to the Corporate Services directorate of Council have been reviewed for appropriate categorisation under the framework. Similar reviews will occur across the entire suite of Council policies in all directorates as each policy falls due for review.

The review of Corporate Services policies has previously identified two Council policies for revocation

- **Councillor Access to Council Information and Staff Policy**

This policy was revoked at the Council Meeting on 21 February 2022 as relevant provisions were incorporated into the Code of Conduct

- **Payment of Lord Mayoral fee to Deputy Lord Mayor Policy**

This policy was revoked at the Council Meeting on 27 June 2022 as relevant provisions were incorporated into the Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy

PROPOSAL

Several additional policies under the administration of the Corporate Services Directorate are now recommended for revocation or reclassification as Management Policies. The details of these policies, recommended actions, and supporting reasoning are provided below.

Policy	Action	Reason
Public Access to Documents and Information held by Council	Recommended for revocation	All information in this policy is contained in Council's Agency Information Guide required to be published on the Council website in accordance with the GIPA Act.
Recruitment of External Members to Committees	Recommend reclassification as a Management Policy	This policy provides procedural and administrative guidance on the recruitment of external committee members. Whilst Council will retain the authority in terms of establishing Committees and adopting charters, it is considered more appropriate that this policy and process for recruiting members be managed under the authorisation of the General Manager and the Executive Management Committee
Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance Coverage for Council Delegates	Recommend reclassification as a Management Policy	This issue of insurance coverage for Council Delegates is an operational issue, with significant guidance from, and requirements of, Council's Insurers. It is considered more appropriate that this policy be managed under the authorisation of the General Manager and the Executive Management Committee

All policies classified as Management Policies under the framework continue to be reviewed every 2 years, similar to Council level policies. It is not proposed to change the content nor the policy direction of these policies as part of this process.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
4.7 Demonstrate responsible decision-making based on our values, collaboration, and transparent and accountable leadership	Governance and Administration

RISK MANAGEMENT

A policy is only effective if it is read and understood by those staff who are required to be involved in a process directed by that policy. There is a risk that having too many policies on the Council Policy register makes it difficult for staff to obtain clear and easy direction on the policy position of council as well as any associated procedures for the implementation of our policies.

Policies are only be recommended for removal from the Policy Register if they do not answer a genuine policy question or appropriate provisions have been incorporated into another policy or suitable council document.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications from this report however there are administrative efficiencies that can be achieved by the reduction of number of Policies adopted by Council.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of a policy framework, and subsequent review of the Policy Register allows Council, where appropriate, to reduce the size of the register, reducing the administrative burden in maintaining, reviewing, and updating the policies.



PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COUNCIL DELEGATES

COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: 26 JUNE 2017

BACKGROUND

Council regularly engages persons and entities (Other Parties) to undertake activities on behalf of Council which, through limitations on Council resources or expertise, Council itself is unable to fulfil. These Other Parties are required to secure their own Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage in order to help protect Council from exposure to financial liabilities. In cases where Other Parties cannot reasonably secure their own Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage, Council may consider extending its Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance policy to cover Other Parties for the activities they are undertaking on behalf of Council.

OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- extend Council's Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage to Other Parties which exercise Council's functions on behalf of Council in circumstances where contractual arrangements or volunteer management are not appropriate and where the Other Parties are unable to reasonably secure their own Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance coverage; and
- ensure risks associated with the delegated functions are adequately identified consistent with Council's Enterprise-wide Risk Management policy and properly managed in order to minimise Council's exposure to financial liabilities consistent with Council's civil liability obligations and insurance arrangements.

POLICY STATEMENT

- 1 Council may delegate (or the General Manager may sub-delegate) certain functions in accordance with section 355(e) of the *Local Government Act*, 1993, to Other Parties on behalf of Council.
- 2 Where those Other Parties are, after reasonable efforts, unable to secure their own Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage in accordance with Council's requirements, the action of delegation of specific Council functions by the General Manager (or sub-delegate) to those Other Parties may also extend Council's Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage to those Other Parties to the extent of the delegation.
- 3 Delegation AA32 provides authority to "Authorise a letter of sub-delegation of Council functions to a volunteer to undertake functions of Council".

PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COUNCIL DELEGATES

COUNCIL POLICY

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

Engagement

- 1 The Council officer undertaking the engagement of the Other Party must determine the most appropriate method of engaging the Other Party, whether by way of contractual arrangements, volunteer management or delegation of certain functions. Contractual arrangements or volunteer management should take precedence over delegation of certain functions.
- 2 Where the Council Officer determines that delegation of certain functions is the most appropriate method of engagement, the Other Party is required to make reasonable efforts to secure Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage at their expense and in accordance with Council's requirements.

Council considers that Other Parties such as businesses, commercial entities and incorporated associations are generally capable of securing their own Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage. Individuals and unincorporated associations can seek to secure Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage through existing personal insurances which they may hold.

Insurance

- 3 Where a Divisional Manager considers that the Other Party for which they are intending to undertake functions on behalf of Council is incapable of securing sufficient Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage in its own capacity, then the delegating of certain functions to the Other Party can, where considered appropriate, be extended to include Council's Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage.

Risk Assessment

- 4 Where it is proposed to extend a delegation to include Council's Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage, **a risk assessment must be completed** and the responsible Divisional Manager must be satisfied that the activity will be undertaken in a manner consistent with Council's Enterprise-wide Risk Management policy and properly managed in order to minimise Council's exposure to financial liabilities consistent with Council's civil liability obligations and insurance arrangements.

The Risk Assessment template is available on Council's Hub – *Support/ Corporate Governance/ Legal Services/ Templates (Category 8: Delegations – 02 Council Risk Assessment)*.

Review

- 5 In order to assess the appropriateness of extending a delegation to include Council's Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage, the Divisional Manager must submit a request to the Risk and Insurance Team who will:
 - Verify that reasonable attempts have been made by the Other Party to secure their own insurance;
 - Confirm that Council's Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage is sufficient for the proposed delegated functions;
 - Review the adequacy of the risk assessment; and
 - Ensure that appropriate declarations are submitted to Council's insurer.
- 6 Delegation of Council functions can occur by the:
 - Council adopting, by resolution, a formal recommendation to delegate Council functions to a person (including the General Manager but excluding all other employees of Council) or entity; or
 - General Manager, where exercising powers which have been delegated to him by Council, sub-delegating Council functions to any person or entity.

Supervision

- 7 The Council division whose officers liaise with persons or entities who undertake functions of Council, is the division responsible for ensuring formal sub-delegation of Council's functions to a person or entity occurs. This will ensure that persons or entities are provided with an actual delegation of Council's liability insurance coverage for the functions they undertake on behalf of Council in accordance with the functions of Council which have been sub-delegated.

PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY
INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COUNCIL DELEGATES

COUNCIL POLICY

Letter of Sub-delegation

- 8 Council employees who wish to arrange for functions of Council to be sub-delegated must prepare a letter of sub-delegation of Council authority from the General Manager (or sub-delegate). The letter provides for functions of Council to be sub-delegated and for the conditions which are applicable to the sub-delegated functions to be nominated. The letter nominally provides for the term of sub-delegation to be limited to three months but this term can be varied by the General Manager (or sub-delegate) as appropriate:

- **For volunteers only**, letters of sub-delegation of Council functions are to be submitted to the Manager Governance and Information for authorisation; and
- **All other letters of sub-delegation** of council functions are to be submitted to the General Manager for authorisation.

The letter templates are available on Council's Hub – *Support/ Corporate Governance/ Legal Services/ Templates – Category 8*.

- 9 Where the delegation is to be extended to include Council's Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage, the letter to be submitted for signature by the General Manager (or sub-delegate) **must be accompanied by a copy of the risk assessment** duly noting consultation with the Risk and Insurance Team.
- 10 In addition to submission of the General Manager's (or sub-delegate's) letter of grant of sub-delegation to the delegate(s), each division is responsible for formally advising delegates with whom its officers liaise on the nature and extent of Council's delegations to them and the corresponding delegation of Council's insurance coverage.

Records Management

- 11 Once a formal delegation has been made, each division is responsible for scanning and recording the delegation in:
- The relevant divisional Trim Container; and
 - Alternate Trim Container GI-50.02.007 (*GI - Corporate Support Compliance – Registers - Sub-Delegations to Volunteers and External Parties - From 2012 - Master File*);

using the following Title format: "Sub-Delegation - <insert name of delegate> - <insert name of location or activity> - Expires <insert expiry date>".

It is necessary to record the delegation in this manner for the purpose of assembling information for compiling Council's Annual Report on entities that exercised delegated functions of Council (section 428(o) of the *Local Government Act*).

Review Following Election

- 12 Delegations made to persons or entities must be reviewed during the first 12 months after each general local government election (section 380 of the Act).

**PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY
INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COUNCIL DELEGATES****COUNCIL POLICY****SUMMARY SHEET**

Responsible Division	Governance and Information
Date adopted by Council	26 June 2017
Date of previous adoptions	18 February 2014 (EMC), 9 September 2013, 6 November 2002, 19 June 1995
Date of next review	February 2020
Prepared by	Risk and Insurance Team Leader
Authorised by	Manager Governance and Information



RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: 20 NOVEMBER 2017

BACKGROUND

This policy has been developed in order to set out the procedures concerning appointments of external or community representatives to Council's committees or external bodies such as the Joint Regional Planning Panel, that require a nomination, application or expression of interest to be lodged as part of a merit based recruitment process and, where appropriate, Council approval.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to inform staff, Councillors, community and external bodies of the procedures that are followed during a recruitment process for the appointment of external or community members to committees, or external bodies.

Compliance with the procedures outlined in this policy will ensure consistency in the manner in which appointments are made based on the needs of individual committees and ensure Councillors are provided with the relevant information required to undertake their decision making processes.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to:

- connecting and engaging with its community by encouraging participation on committees and
- good governance of the Council, to ensure the people of Wollongong receive the services that they need in an effective and efficient manner, delivered with honesty and integrity
- maintaining integrity and earning the trust of its community
- ensuring recommendations for appointments to committees, and external bodies will be made from eligible applicants based on merit, according to the relevant needs and established selection criteria
- regular review of appointments to its committees to ensure membership retains adequate experience and knowledge.

Wherever reference is made in this policy to "committees" it can be taken to include reference groups.

POLICY REVIEW AND VARIATION

- 1 Council is to have opportunity to review and adopt, at least once during its Term, each Council policy.
- 2 A resolution of Council is required to adopt any variations to this policy, with the exception of minor administrative changes, such as updates to legislative references, which may be endorsed by the Executive Management Committee (EMC). Endorsement of administrative changes made to this policy by EMC does not alter the requirement for it to be reviewed and adopted by each Term of Council.

RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

COUNCIL POLICY

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

Purpose

The procedure covers the need to develop criteria, advertising, membership of assessment panel, reporting to Council and the provision of information on candidates to Councillors, to enable an informed decision making process.

Scope

The procedure applies to staff, Councillors, committee members and external bodies requiring Council representation.

Responsibilities

Divisional Managers are responsible and accountable to ensure that this procedure is implemented in their areas of responsibility.

Middle Management / Coordinators / Supervisors will ensure that this procedure is implemented and communicated to staff responsible for conducting the recruitment and appointment process.

PROCEDURE

Appointment Process

When starting a recruitment process for appointments, the following must be considered:

- **Tenure** The length of the appointment.
- **Urgency** How soon the position needs to be filled.
- **Selection Criteria** The level of knowledge, skills and experience required of members and which of these are these essential and which are desirable.
- **Expressions of Interest** The rules and guidelines are applicable to members and if there are any specific expectations required of applicants such as completion of an Expression of Interest form.
- **Appointment** The requirements for ratification of the appointment under the committee or external body's charter. For example whether appointments are approved by the General Manager, committee members, staff or are ratified by Council.

Criteria

It is essential that relevant selection criteria is developed, meeting the requirements of each committee.

The criteria should cover the knowledge, skills set and experience required of appointments. If appointing more than one position, consideration is to be given to whether the knowledge, skill set and experience of members should be the same or if a combination of these factors is required or preferred.

Advertising

Consideration is to be given as to where advertising is to be placed. If local applicants only are required then only local advertising is required. If local applicant location is not required as a criterion, advertising should also be placed in a Sydney metropolitan publication and/or other suitable online publications.

The procedure for placing any advertisement is to be undertaken according to procedures consistent with Council's *Placement of Newspaper Advertisements on Behalf of Council Policy*.

Transparency and accountability

Transparency and accountability throughout the recruitment process for all merit-based appointments, whether remunerated or not, is fundamental to good governance and adequate records must be maintained by assessment panel members. This contributes to building the community's trust and confidence in Council.

Panel members are accountable for their conduct and performance throughout the recruitment process and compliance with applicable Council policies and procedures will be monitored. Council staff and panel members must make and keep full and accurate records of any official recruitment activities. Good record keeping assists in

RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

COUNCIL POLICY

improving accountability and provides for transparent decision-making. Records and notes made throughout the process are maintained as evidence of this compliance.

All recruitment processes are to be carried out lawfully, fairly, reasonably and professionally.

Assessment panels

Assessment Panels should consist of at least three members, being:

- Current chair of the committee (or other Independent Member where the Chair is not able to participate or it is not appropriate for the chair to participate)
- Councillor delegates to committee
- Director, senior manager and/or other staff member from relevant division/s

Where appropriate, an external independent person may be requested to participate on a selection panel.

The final determination for the composition of the assessment panel lies with the relevant division manager. Where it is considered that less than three panel members are required, the division manager's approval must be obtained.

Conflict of interests

Panel members must sign a declaration stating they have no actual, perceived or potential conflict of interests in the assessment process prior to the initial assessment of applications, wherever possible.

Where a conflict of interests arises with a panel member at any stage in the process, they must declare the conflict and withdraw from the assessment process or declare the conflict, state how it will be managed and have this approved by their division manager or the public officer in the case of a committee member declaring the conflict.

Panel members must decline any invitation to act as a referee for any applicant.

Confidentiality

Information received from applicants during a recruitment process will be treated as confidential and will be maintained in accordance with Council's *Privacy Management Plan*. Information received from applicants is for use during the recruitment process for the purpose of assessing applications. Intended recipients of the information are assessment panel members, relevant Council staff and Councillors.

Assessment of applications

Where an assessment of applications is required, all assessment panel members should meet together to conduct the initial assessment of the applications received. Panel members must keep adequate evidence of the assessment process, either by scoring of candidates against the selection criteria and/or by recording reasons applications were either considered suitable or not suitable, for example where obvious conflict of interests exist to exclude an applicant. Notes of the reasons candidates were considered not suitable are to be made and kept as an official Council record of the process, for example if they did not meet criteria, details of conflict of interests, received low scores against criteria or other reasons.

Based on the assessment of applications and the requirements of the committee's Charter, assessment panel members may:

- Approve the appointment of independent members to the committee; or
- Conduct interviews of shortlisted applicants, where appropriate and appoint; or
- Make a recommendation on preferred applicant/s for appointment, with or without conducting interviews, to be ratified by Council.

Interviews

Where it is determined that interviews are to be held, the panel should also determine weightings for the selection criteria and develop interview questions against those criteria when they meet to conduct the initial assessment.

Adequate notes of responses made by applicants to each question must be made by panel members during interviews.

After interviews have been completed and the preferred applicant determined, the interview rating sheet is to be completed and signed by all panel members. The interview rating sheet must also nominate and rank the suitability

RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

COUNCIL POLICY

of applicants, as the recruitment process can be used if required to appoint the next most suitable applicant if a vacancy occurs on a committee within a period of 12 months from the recruitment closing date.

Referee checks

Where required as part of the assessment process, referee checks are generally to be conducted by the independent member (usually the committee chair) of the panel.

Where a formal qualification is required as part of the selection process, the assessment panel members must verify the qualification is held.

Feedback provided to applicants

Where feedback is requested by applicants, the assessment panel member/s providing feedback should make notes of what was asked and what information was given to the applicant. This forms part of the official Council record and should be entered into the appropriate records container.

Feedback received from applicants

Any feedback received from applicants forms part of the official Council record and should be entered into the appropriate container in TRIM.

Reporting recommendations for appointment to Council

Where the committee's charter requires appointments to be ratified by Council, reports are to be prepared for the consideration of the Council.

Panel members should prepare a confidential information note to Councillors to accompany the report, summarising and scoring each application against the selection criteria for each applicant. A full summary of the application of the recommended applicant/s, showing their suitability for the role, including any qualifications, experience or other (non-personal) information should be included with the confidential information note to Councillors. Where it is considered appropriate, a councillor briefing may be requested. Such information on the successful applicant remains confidential until such time as an appointment is made by Council.

Where applicants do not meet the essential criteria or the panel members believe a conflict of interests exists that would exclude the applicant from consideration, these should be listed in the confidential note with a summary of why the application did not meet the selection criteria or provide details of the conflict of interests.

The Panel's preferred applicant/s should be listed in the 'Recommendation' section of the report to Council, however the final decision on any appointment/s is at the discretion of Councillors at a meeting of the Council.

Casual vacancies

Casual vacancies may be filled by the General Manager in consultation with the chair and councillor members of the committee and advice be provided to Council.

Induction of Successful Applicant/s

The induction of new appointees to Council's Committees should include, as a minimum, copies of:

- Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interests policy
- Organisational chart
- Key contact details
- Use of Confidential Information policy
- Relevant committee charter
- Meeting timetable/next business paper (where available)
- Annual Report
- Wollongong 2022 Community Strategic Plan
- Pecuniary Interest Declaration Primary Return (where appropriate) – to be lodged within three months from appointment

RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

COUNCIL POLICY

Planning and Policy Impact

This policy contributes to the Wollongong 2022 Objective '*our local Council has the trust of the community*' under the Community Goal '*we are a connected and engaged community*'.

Associated Policies

- Codes of Conduct
- Conflict of Interests
- Privacy Management Plan
- Placement of Newspaper Advertisements on Behalf of Council Policy

RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

COUNCIL POLICY

SUMMARY SHEET	
Responsible Division	Governance and Information
Date adopted by Council	20 November 2017
Date of previous adoptions	27 May 2013, 15 December 2014
Date of next review	March 2021
Responsible Manager	Manager Governance and Information
Authorised by	Director Corporate Services



PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION HELD BY COUNCIL COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: 11 DECEMBER 2017

BACKGROUND

Wollongong City Council is committed to be an open and accessible organisation. The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA):

- authorises and encourages the proactive public release of information held by Council;
- gives members of the public an enforceable right to access information held by Council, and
- provides that access to information held by Council is restricted only when there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

The GIPA is prescriptive in relation to the making of applications for access to information, matters to be considered prior to the release of information, exempt information, timeframes for determination of applications and rights of appeal. In particular, the GIPA:

- provides access to Council information in four ways:
 - mandatory proactive release via Council's website (open access information)
 - authorised proactive release via Council's website
 - informal release subject to an informal access application
 - release subject to a formal access application
- prescribes an application fee and processing charges in relation to particular types of applications (refer to *Council's Fees and Charges*)
- requires a determination of a formal access application within 20 working days of receipt
- requires a written determination of a formal access application to address specific matters
- prescribes an internal review process
- prescribes an external review process to either the Administrative Decisions Tribunal or the Information Commissioner.

OBJECTIVE

This policy seeks to:

- provide the public with a straightforward and fully transparent process to access information held by Council at minimal cost and/or delay;
- provide access to information wherever possible via Council's website, Customer Service Centre and Council's Central and Branch Libraries;
- define information which may be restricted from public access;
- ensure customers are promptly advised of the information they are entitled to access and with clearly documented reasons if access to information is refused; and
- advise customers of their rights of review if access to information is refused.

POLICY STATEMENT

Public access to information held by Council is facilitated by GIPA subject to certain restrictions as set out in the Act and summarised in this policy.

Council is also required to comply with the Information Protection Principles prescribed by the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998* relating to the management of personal information held by Council.

This policy must therefore be read in conjunction with Council's *Privacy Management Plan* and the *Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government* which are available for inspection on Council's website.

POLICY REVIEW AND VARIATION

- 1 Council is to have opportunity to review and adopt, at least once during its Term, each Council policy.
- 2 A resolution of Council is required to adopt any variations to this policy, with the exception of minor administrative changes, such as updates to legislative references, which may be endorsed by the Executive Management Committee (EMC). Endorsement of administrative changes made to this policy by EMC does not alter the requirement for it to be reviewed and adopted by each Term of Council.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION HELD BY COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

1 Information available to be accessed under this Policy

GIPA facilitates access to Government Information. In relation to Council, Government Information is defined as information contained in a record and held by Council and includes any record of information stored in Council's paper document archive facilities or Electronic Document Management Systems including documents, files, file notes, emails, maps, plans, drawings and photographs.

There is a right of access under the GIPA to information held by Council unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. While any application will be considered on its merits, Council may refuse to deal with an application for access where dealing with the application would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of Council's resources or where the information sought has been the subject of a subpoena or court order and is available to the applicant as a result of having been produced in compliance with the subpoena or court order.

Council is required to publish open access information on its website unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure or to do so would impose an unreasonable additional cost to Council. This open access information includes:

- Council policies
- a publication guide with information about Council structure and functions, listing the type of information that is publicly available
- a disclosure log of formal access applications where in Council's opinion the information released may be of interest to other members of the public
- a register of contracts having a value of more than \$150,000 that Council has with private sector bodies
- a register of open access information that Council does not make publicly available on the basis of an overriding public interest against disclosure.

In addition, Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 requires that certain other information held by Council is to be made publicly available for inspection, free of charge. The public is entitled to inspect this information, as listed in Schedule 1, either on Council's website (unless there is an unreasonable additional cost to Council to publish this information on the website) or at the offices of the Council during ordinary office hours or at any other place as determined by the Council. Any current and previous versions of information of this type may be inspected by the public free of charge. Depending on the information sought, an appointment may be required.

Any application will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the GIPA and a determination made to release information, or refuse access, on the basis of provisions in the Act. Application fees and processing charges are in accordance with those set out in the Act.

Copies of documents provided by Council are for information purposes only and are provided by Council to meet its requirements under relevant legislation. Copyright law still applies to each document. The copyright owner's consent is required if any part of the document is used for any other purpose. Fees and charges may apply to the copying of documents in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges.

2 Information not available for Public Inspection

The GIPA provides for public access to most of Council's information however, there are some categories of information which are specifically exempt from access. This information includes information where there is an overriding public interest against disclosure and, on balance, those considerations outweigh the public interest considerations in favour of disclosure.

The GIPA provides that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of information as set out in section 14 and Schedule 1 of the Act in the following categories:

- responsible and effective government
- law enforcement and security
- individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice
- business interests of agencies and other persons
- environment, culture, economy and general matters
- secrecy provisions
- legal professional privilege
- aboriginal and environmental heritage

PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION HELD BY COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY

3 Commonly requested Documents

The following table sets out Council's position in relation to particular categories of documents to which public access is most commonly sought:

<i>Information about Development Applications</i>	These files are classified as "open access information" and Council relies upon the indemnity provided by the applicant pursuant to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to publish development applications and associated information to its website during the notification period. Residential floor plans are only published with the consent of the applicant. For access to these files outside of the notification period an informal access application is required.
<i>Development Consents</i>	Consents are 'open access information' - those determined post 1 August 2013 are available on Council's website. Consents determined prior to this date are available via Customer Service staff or by online request.
<i>Submissions</i>	Copies of submissions, including details as to the author, can be made available upon lodgement of an informal access application, particularly where Council's notification letters to affected property owners and public advertisements include advice that Council will permit public inspection of such submissions. Council's notification letters and advertisements are specifically worded accordingly.
<i>Letters of Complaint</i>	In accordance with decisions of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, Council will not reveal the identity of complainants. However, the substance of the complaint may be released in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
<i>Building Certificates</i>	View only access is available. Section 149G of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act</i> , 1979 requires the consent of the owner of the building prior to a copy being given to a member of the public. Fees Apply
<i>Development Applications lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment</i>	Applicants should apply direct to the Department of Planning and Environment for inspection of these DAs. GIPA Schedule 4 S12 defines Government Information and prescribes that even though the agency* has access to a record the information is not to be regarded as government information held by the agency if the public generally has access to the record (eg on the internet).

- Agency is defined in GIPA as: "A government department, a Minister, a public authority, a public office, a local authority, a court a person or entity that is an agency pursuant to regulations under clause 5 of schedule 4."

Authorised Council officers have strictly limited access to Roads and Maritime Service motor vehicle ownership records and the Office of Local Government's Companion Animals Register of animal ownership. Inquiries in relation to these and other government records should be directed to the relevant government agency.

4 Application Procedure

All customers are required to complete the appropriate application form when requesting access to information held by Council that has not been made available through proactive release (open access). There are two methods of seeking access to information under the GIPA: informal and formal applications.

Council retains the discretion to require a formal release application in appropriate circumstances, for example:

- searching for and retrieving the information sought would require a significant diversion of resources;
- the material contains information about a third party that cannot easily be deleted or without rendering the information useless, and consultation would need to occur;
- the material is sensitive in nature and requires public interest test considerations.

Online application forms for both informal and formal applications are available on the Council website and printed forms are available in public contact areas of Council or mailed out on request. Council will determine which cases require a formal application.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION HELD BY COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY

Council is required to acknowledge formal applications within 5 working days and make their Decision within 20 working days of receipt of the formal application. This period can be extended by up to 15 working days if consultation is required or records are required to be retrieved from archive.

Council will advise the applicant in writing of the information being made available and if any information is exempt from public access, reasons will be given for the exemption. Applicants will be advised how access will be granted; in most cases an electronic copy of the information will be provided. In some cases access may only be granted by inspection of the record. Paper files will only be made available for inspection under the supervision of a staff member. Council's Fees and Charges include relevant charges for copying of information.

In accordance with GIPA Part 4 Division 2 Council may transfer an application to another agency where the other agency is known to hold the information and the information relates more closely to the functions of that agency or where Council does not hold the information and the other agency is known to hold it.

Appeal rights will also be included in the letter of determination.

There is no legislated timeframe for the processing of informal applications; however Council has an internal performance indicator to process all applications within 30 working days. Complex requests may take longer and in these cases Council will contact the applicant and advise an expected timeframe.

5 Internal Review

If a person is dissatisfied with a determination made by Council in relation to a Formal Access application, they may apply for an internal review of the determination. An application for internal review must be made within 20 working days after the notice of the determination is given and must be accompanied by a fee of \$40.00. The internal review must be undertaken by a staff member more senior than the person who made the original determination.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION HELD BY COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY

SCHEDULE 1

Information which is available to the public in accordance with the GIPA Regulations 2009.

1 Information about Council

- The model Code of Conduct prescribed under section 440(1) of the Local Government Act
- Council's adopted Code of Conduct
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Annual Report
- Annual Financial Reports
- Auditor's Report
- Management Plan
- EEO Management Plan
- Policy concerning the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors
- Annual Reports of Bodies Exercising Functions Delegated by Council (eg Section 355/377 Committees)
- Any Codes referred to in the Local Government Act
- Agendas, Business Papers and Minutes of Council/Committee meetings (except meetings that are closed to the public)
- Office of Local Government, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Representative Reports presented at a meeting of Council
- Land Register
- Register of Investments
- Register of Delegations
- Register of Graffiti Removal Works
- Register of current Declarations of Disclosures of Political donations
- Register of Voting on Planning Matters

2 Plans and Policies

- Local Policies adopted by Council concerning approvals and orders
- Plans of Management for Community Land
- Environmental Planning Instruments, Development Control Plans and Contribution Plans

3 Information about Development Applications

Development Applications and associated documents received in relation to a proposed development, eg:

- Home Warranty Insurance documents
- Construction Certificates
- Occupation Certificates
- Structural Certification Documents
- Town Planner Reports
- Heritage Consultant Reports
- Tree Inspections Consultant Reports
- Acoustic Consultant Reports
- Land Contamination Consultant Reports
- Records of decisions on Development Applications including decisions on appeals
- Records describing the general nature of documents that Council decides to exclude from public view after application of public interest test considerations

4 Approvals and Other Documents

- Applications for approvals under part 7 of the Local Government Act
- Applications for approvals under any other act and any associated documents received
- Records of approvals granted or refused, any variation from Council policies with reasons for the variation, and decisions made on appeals concerning approvals
- Plans of land proposed to be compulsorily acquired by Council
- Compulsory Acquisition Notices
- Leases and Licences for use of Public Land classified as Community Land

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO
DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION HELD BY COUNCIL****COUNCIL
POLICY**

SUMMARY SHEET	
Responsible Division	Governance and Information
Date adopted by Council	11 December 2017
Date of previous adoptions	28 October 2013, 27 July 2010, 27 May 2008
Date of next review	October 2020
Responsible Manager	Customer Service Manager
Authorised by	Manager Governance and Information

ITEM 10 POST EXHIBITION - DRAFT CCTV CODE OF PRACTICE AND REGISTER

At its meeting on 28 August 2022, Council resolved to place an updated CCTV Code of Practice and Register (the Code) on public exhibition. This report provides the results of the public exhibition process and presents the CCTV Code of Practice for adoption by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

The updated CCTV Code of Practice be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Ingrid McAlpin, Chief Information Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 CCTV Code of Practice
- 2 CCTV Register

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on the 28 August 2022 Council considered a report to place on public exhibition, an updated CCTV Code of Practice and Register to satisfy the requirements of [NSW Government Policy Statement and Guidelines for Establishment and Implementation of Closed Circuit Television \(CCTV\) in Public Places](#). The Code of Practice had been simplified and the register of CCTV installations was removed from the existing policy document. The register will instead reside on the Council's website. The advantage of this approach is that it will facilitate near real-time update of the register based on the information in Council's corporate systems. It also provides a geographic interface allowing the Community easy access to accurate and up-to-date information.

Council noted that the use of CCTV in the LGA required an on-going means of evaluation. To satisfy this requirement a CCTV Evaluation Framework is being developed as mechanism for evaluating the on-going effectiveness of CCTV cameras in reducing crime and improving public safety.

Council resolved to endorse the draft CCTV Code of Practice and Register for public exhibition. The draft CCTV Code of Practice and Register were exhibited providing the public with an opportunity for feedback.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the updated CCTV Code of Practice, as outlined in Attachment 1, be adopted. The updated CCTV Code of Practice contains information and standards to guide the operation of Council's CCTV Program and is supplemented by Council's CCTV Management Policy and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which provides instruction on the day-to-day operation of the CCTV system specific to each CCTV site. The CCTV Register will be made available on Council's website.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Code of Practice and Register were placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, concluding on the 28 October 2022, in which time the public could view the draft document and make comment. During the exhibition period the webpage for the policy exhibition was visited 98 times, with 18 copies of the document being downloaded and 1 submission being received by the end of the exhibition period.

The submission received provided commentary on an article on the Code of Practice, in the Illawarra Mercury on 30 August 2022, but did not request any changes to the Policy or Register.

At the meeting held on the 5 October 2022, Neighbourhood Forum 5 also provided commentary in support of the CCTV Code of Practice and Register noting some community concern around the security of data and potential intrusion into privacy. Council's CCTV Management Policy and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provide instruction on the day-to-day operation of the CCTV system specific to each CCTV site and clarity around the capture, storage, and release of CCTV footage.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal "Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city".

It specifically delivers on the core business activities detailed in the 2022-23 Service Plan of the Information Management and Technology Division.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Council is committed to creating a sustainable City for future generations. The Code of Practice and Register is guided by that principle and aims to encourage the ethical, financially responsible and environmentally sustainable use of Council's resources by the Council.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The draft CCTV Code of Practice and Register is intended to reduce risks in the area of provision of CCTV cameras and routine surveillance, by following the [NSW Government Policy Statement and Guidelines for Establishment and Implementation of Closed Circuit Television \(CCTV\) in Public Places](#).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of the updated CCTV Code of Practice and placement of the Register on Council's website is not expected to create any additional financial implications to Council.

CONCLUSION

The CCTV Code of Practice is recommended for adoption.



CCTV CODE OF PRACTICE COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: : [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

This Code of Practice (policy) outlines the principles that council staff will consider to determine the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in public places.

POLICY INTENT

The main objectives of this policy are to;

1. Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime
2. Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders;
3. Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or in progress;
4. Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders and;
5. Assist with crowd control for public events.

WOLLONGONG 2032 Objectives

This policy aligns to Goal 5 of our Community Strategic Plan, *"We have a healthy community in a liveable city"* and in particular the objective that suburbs and places are liveable and safe. This policy relates to Community Strategic Plan 5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community, 5.10, Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe accessible and resilient community and 5.11 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced.

1 INTRODUCTION

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) has increasingly featured in the community as a safety and crime prevention tool. CCTV can be effective in improving perceptions of safety, deterring antisocial and criminal behaviour, protecting assets and assisting in prosecution.

This CCTV Code of Practice (policy) is to be applied to the management of the CCTV system used across the entirety of the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The CCTV system consists of cameras monitors, control panels, intelligent video software, video recording systems and supporting infrastructure.

Wollongong City Council's CCTV system is part of a layered security response that Council utilises with an aim to reduce crime. Other strategies include activating public space, appropriate lighting, natural surveillance, access control and signage.

Temporary CCTV cameras differ from Council's other CCTV cameras only in that they can be rapidly deployed to and from locations in order to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in public space. Temporary CCTV cameras are included in Council's CCTV Program and are covered by Council's CCTV Code of Practice.

It is acknowledged that CCTV cameras installed in public place locations and as part of Council infrastructure may also capture Council staff performing work tasks. The CCTV Program, the subject of this Code of Practice, is not designed to intentionally provide workplace surveillance. Where the purpose is to provide workplace surveillance and/or a record of accidents or other non-crime incidents, Council's Surveillance of Employees Policy must be complied with.

This Code applies to CCTV established, operated or managed by, or on behalf of Council with Council's express consent.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

This Code does not apply to:

- a) any CCTV installed by a third party, such as a tenant or licensee of Council land and/or facilities;
- b) mobile cameras including dash cams, safety cams (e.g. on community buses), web cams, drone footage and body worn video cameras that are primarily used for Council activities associated with enforcement by authorised officers of Council in their delegated tasks or for personal safety;
- c) Cameras capturing still images for the purposes of regulatory compliance e.g. on the weighbridge at Whyte's Gully;
- d) cameras attached to Council's garbage trucks for operational purposes
- e) where CCTV cameras are used for condition reporting for assets and;
- f) CCTV cameras operated for the purposes of Illegal Dumping Surveillance
- g) cameras used as smart sensors for the purpose of collecting data for business intelligence analytics e.g. for traffic flow monitoring or crowd density estimations etc.

Although CCTV systems installed by a community-based organisation who lease Council facilities are outside the scope of this Code, these systems will need approval from Council prior to installation. Council staff will consider how the proposed system aligns with the principles (below) prior to approving such a system. If approved, the system will be owned and operated by the organisation in accordance with appropriate legislation and guidelines.

Nothing in this policy authorises or permits in any way the use of facial recognition or any form of biometric technology. As a consequence, Council CCTV (or related technology) cannot incorporate or deploy such recognition or biometric technology.

2 KEY PRINCIPLES

Council staff will consider and determine the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in public places by Council, in accordance with applicable guiding principles as required, such as those outlined in the NSW Government CCTV Guidelines.

1. Council staff will ensure that where CCTV is established, operated and managed for crime prevention and community safety purposes, that the implementation of CCTV will be part of an integrated, multi-agency approach to crime control and community safety.

CCTV will only be considered as one part of a range of crime prevention measures, and not a stand-alone strategy, and that prior to installation, a safety and security audit will be completed. The audit will consider:

- Whether the problem is on-going or the result of a one-off event;
- Whether the perception of crime is supported by evidence and data;
- How the establishment, operation and management of CCTV fits within a broader crime prevention strategy;
- Evidence as to the effectiveness of CCTV in addressing the identified crime;
- The lawfulness of the collection of personal information via CCTV; and
- The costs associated with establishing, operating and managing the CCTV

2. Council staff will ensure that the ownership of public area CCTV system is clear and publicly known.

- Council staff will erect signs informing the public of the existence of CCTV in a public place and will take steps to ensure that the signs comply with relevant legislation such as the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act)*.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

Furthermore, Council staff will maintain a public register of all of its CCTV systems and their locations.

3. When considering establishing or significantly expanding a public area CCTV system, Council staff will ensure that the relevant concerns of all parties affected are considered through an effective consultation process. People or groups that may be affected by the proposal could include:
 - Residents;
 - Users of the public place;
 - Local businesses;
 - Police and other regulatory authorities; and
 - Council staff.

Information available through the consultation process will include the potential benefits of the system, possible costs involved, and privacy implications, including people's rights and Council's responsibilities. Consultation with Council staff will ensure compliance with the *Workplace Surveillance Act 2005* and ensure that staff are given due notice prior to the installation of a system.

4. Council staff will identify the purpose and will develop and document objectives for the establishment, operation and management of CCTV in a public place. CCTV will only be used in accordance with its established objectives and not for any other purpose. Objectives may include:
 - To assist in the investigation and/or prosecution of civil and criminal offences in relation to the security of public places and Council's facilities/assets, or crimes against the person;
 - Improving public confidence in the safety and security of public places;
 - To deter anti-social behaviours in high risk public places;
 - To assist with the safety of Council staff or authorised contractors within public places;
 - To assist with the management/operations or maintenance of public places, or monitoring their use; or
 - Identifying potential environmental safety risks.
5. Where CCTV is established in a public place for crime prevention purposes, Council staff will consult with NSW Police to ensure that the installation of CCTV fits within a broader crime prevention strategy and will meet its objectives. NSW Police have viewing access to Council's CCTV facilities under an agreed Memorandum of Understanding.
6. Council staff will ensure that its CCTV systems are open and accountable and operate with due regard for privacy and civil rights of individuals and the community, including that:
 - The recording and retention of images is undertaken lawfully;
 - The purpose for which the information is being obtained is known;
 - The information is not used for any purpose other than that stated;
 - People are made aware that they may be subject to CCTV surveillance; and
 - The owners of the system are known and accountable for its operation
7. Council staff will develop and implement an evaluation framework for each public place where CCTV is established to determine whether the CCTV is achieving its objectives.

The evaluation framework will provide guidance on appropriate mechanisms to enable Council staff to

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

assess whether the CCTV system is:

- Achieving its objectives (including an assessment of its impact upon crime and community safety, for those systems implemented for crime prevention or community safety purposes);
 - Being used in accordance with its established objectives, and not for any other purpose;
 - Impacting on any groups;
 - Providing an overall benefit (after consideration of the costs involved in operating the system); and
 - Requires changes to the extent or location of the cameras, or technology utilised.
8. Complaints in relation to Council's establishment, management or operation of CCTV may be made through Council's existing customer contact processes (in person at Council's Customer Service Centre, or via phone, letter or email).
- Complaints, except for those specified below, will be managed in accordance with Council's *Customer Feedback Handling Policy*.
- Complaints in relation to Council's handling of a person's personal information may be made and will be managed in accordance with Council's *Privacy Management Plan*.
- Complaints in relation to Council's handling of a person's personal information may also be made to the NSW Information and Privacy Commissioner.
9. Council staff will review its CCTV systems every two (2) years to assess compliance with this Code and any associated management policies and standard operating procedures. The review will examine such matters as:
- Assessment of the system and any technological problems;
 - Processes used to receive, access and process footage requests;
 - Complaints received and responses provided;
 - Compliance with relevant legislation, regulations and Australian Standards; and
 - Whether the systems and processes utilized remain good practice.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The policy reflects, relevant laws and standards including;

- *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Regulation 2019*
- *NSW Workplace Surveillance Act 2005*
- *Security Industry Act 1997 No. 157 (NSW)*
- NSW Government policy statement and guidelines for the establishment and implementation of closed circuit television (CCTV) in public places Standards Australia (2006) Closed Circuit television (CCTV) Part 1 Management and operation (AS 4806.1 – 2006)
- Standards Australia (2006) Closed Circuit television (CCTV) Part 2 Application guidelines (AS 4806.2 – 2006)

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every four (4) years or more frequent if significant legislative changes occur, or upon any changes to the *NSW Government CCTV Guidelines*.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

COUNCIL POLICY

The review will consider the results of the audits of Council's CCTV systems, to ensure that this Code is effective and has been implemented appropriately.

REPORTING

There are no reporting requirements under this Code of Practice.

RELATED PROCEDURES

Standard Operating Procedures

CCTV Management Policy

Privacy Management Plan

Customer Feedback Handling Policy

DEFINITIONS

Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) - A private television system involving one or more cameras, used to transmit images to a specific limited number of monitors on the same network or circuit

Public Places - Land and/or facilities that are owned, operated, or in the care of Council and which are considered by Council to be freely accessible to members of the public. Such areas may be defined by relevant legislation. Examples of public places, for the purposes of this Code, include Council's Customer Service Centre, libraries, parks, playgrounds, community centres, sporting fields, swimming pools, streets, footpaths

APPROVAL AND REVIEW		
Responsible Division	[Name of Division]	
Date/s adopted	EMC [updated by policy owner]	Council [To be inserted by Governance]
Date/s of previous adoptions		
Date of next review	[Not more than two years from last adoption]	

Location and Purpose of CCTV

Wollongong Memorial Gardens

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime Safe – Money Handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management
- Observing funeral services held on premises for operational purposes; that is, to assist in the safe and efficient management of casket entry, removal and related tasks

Warrawong Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Helensburgh Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Helensburgh Waste Disposal Depot

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Monitor traffic flow in and out of the site
- Assist operatives to validate the loads that are entering the site
- Assist operatives to ensure that there are no hazardous or prohibited material entering the site
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders Assist in the detection of offenders in illegal dumping Assist in identifying theft offenders

Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Monitor traffic flow in and out of the site
- Assist operatives to validate the loads that are entering the site
- Assist operatives to ensure that there are no hazardous or prohibited material entering the site

- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders Assist in the detection of offenders in illegal dumping
- Assist in identifying theft offenders

Council Administration Building and Car Park

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Safe – Money Handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Wollongong City Centre and Mall and Adjacent Streets

- Pedestrian Traffic – People Counting for marketing and display purposes Crime Prevention
- Crime Investigation and analysis
- Public Liability Claims – Proof of evidence. (Slips, Trips and Falls) Crowd Control – Public events (Australia Day, Viva La Gong) Asset Protection
- Maintain safe environment for the community

Central Store

- Observation of unauthorised access to stores area

Central Depot

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

North Depot

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Southern Works Depot

- Building and Car Park Asset Protection Crime Prevention
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Dapto Ribbonwood Centre (excluding child care centre)

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders; Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations
- Where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Thirroul District Community Centre and Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime

- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Corrimal District Library and Community Centre

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

- Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Building Asset Protection
- Public Liability Controls – Trips, slips and falls

Integral Building – 81-83 Burelli Street

- Crime Prevention
- Staff Security – Risk Management Building Asset Protection

ihub – 93 Crown Street Wollongong

- Crime Prevention Customer Service Building Asset Protection

North Wollongong Beach

- Monitoring use of Puckeys Beach (Fairy Meadow creek entrance) (see also Bathers Pavilion below)

Wollongong Youth Centre

- Crime Prevention
- Staff Security – Risk Management Building Asset Protection

Wollongong Art Gallery

- Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Building Asset Protection
- Public Liability Controls – Trips, slips and falls

Bathers Pavilion

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist in water surveillance of Puckey's Beach near Fairy Creek
- Crowd Control – Public events (Australia Day, New Years' Eve)

Marine Drive

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Crowd Control – Public events (Australia Day, New Years' Eve)

Berkeley Pool

- Staff Security – Risk Management
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Mt Keira Summit Park – toilets, carpark, telecommunications tower and kiosk

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime level by deterring potential offenders. Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime.
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.

Tramway (Blue Mile)

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders. Crowd Control – Public events.
- Asset protection.
- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime. Public liability controls.

Beaton Park Leisure Centre

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Lakeside Leisure Centre

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.

- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Unanderra Library

- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders Assist in reducing the public's fear of crime
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of a crime is imminent or is in progress
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime

Bulli Beach Tourist Park

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Corrimal Beach Tourist Park

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Windang Beach Tourist Park

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders
- Assist Police in determining the appropriate allocation of resources in situations where the commission of crime is imminent or is in progress.
- Help secure a safer environment and protect the community and property from crime.
- Safe money handling
- Staff Security – Risk Management

Geotechnical Services Soils Lab

- Crime Prevention
- Staff Security – Risk Management Building Asset Protection

Kanahooka Point

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Memorial Park Corrimal

- Assist in reducing the public fear of crime
- Assist in reducing personal and property crime levels by deterring potential offenders.
- Assist in the detection and prosecution of offenders

Wollongong Town Hall

- Crime Prevention
- Security Services Operational Quality Controls Building Asset Protection
- Public Liability Controls – Trips, slips and falls

ITEM 11

POST EXHIBITION - SWIMMING POOL BARRIER POLICY AND SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM PROCEDURE

Council's Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy has been updated and has been placed on public exhibition along with a new Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program Procedure. The Policy outlines the framework within which Council exercises its powers as an enforcement agency under the Swimming Pools Act. This report seeks Council's resolution to endorse the updated Policy and the new Inspection Program Procedure.

RECOMMENDATION

Council endorse the revised Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy and Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program Procedure.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Corey Stoneham, Manager Regulation and Enforcement

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy
- 2 Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program Procedure

BACKGROUND

Significant amendments to the Swimming Pools Act 1992 occurred in late 2012 and Council adopted a Policy response to those changes in 2014. An amendment to the Policy was endorsed by Council in April 2018 to incorporate further legislative changes that related largely to the sale and lease of properties with swimming pools.

The Policy is now due for review, which has been informed by recommendations from a recent audit of Council's Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Program. In addition to the Policy review, the audit recommended the preparation and inclusion of an Inspection Procedure, and publishing of the Policy and Procedure on Council's website.

PROPOSAL

The Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy and the related Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program Procedure has been amended to incorporate recent legislative changes and adjust how Council investigates or deals with swimming pool barriers across the Local Government Area. In summary the changes provide for the following:

- 1 The requirement for a Swimming Pool Compliance Certificate to be included in every Contract of Sale, Lease or Rent of a property with a swimming pool.
- 2 The ability for the sale of a property with a non-complying barrier on the basis that a Certificate of Non-Compliance is issued.
- 3 Definitions of "Significant" and "Non-Significant Public Risk".
- 4 Updates to website addresses and some minor wording changes.
- 5 Formulation of a risk-based Inspection Program.

No changes to the draft Policy and Procedure are proposed following the recent public exhibition.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Legal Counsel was consulted in the development of the Policy and Procedure.

The revised Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy and Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program Procedure were exhibited from Monday 17 October to Thursday 3 November 2022 via Council's Our Wollongong exhibition webpage.

Council webpage was visited 29 times, and 7 copies of the documents were downloaded.

In response to the exhibition process, Council received no submissions.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 1 "We value and protect our environment". It specifically delivers on the following action "Develop and implement an education and awareness raising program regarding swimming pool barriers".

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The inspection procedure at Attachment 2 has been designed with a risk-based focus that considers legislative responsibilities, duty of care and resourcing implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no immediate financial implication as Council's process with regard to swimming pool barrier regulation will not significantly change. However, resourcing associated with the implementation of the inspection program will be monitored and reviewed if necessary.

CONCLUSION

This review of the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy incorporates all recent legislative amendments and satisfies Council's responsibilities in regularly reviewing adopted Policies.



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER POLICY COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

[changes indicated by yellow highlight]

PURPOSE

Drowning in swimming pools is a significant cause of preventable death in children under five years of age.

Council must have a formal, planned, documented, and published program of swimming pool safety barrier inspections across its Local Government Area (LGA). Council has an important regulatory and educational role with respect to these laws which is the purpose of this policy.

Pool owners are required by law to maintain the safety of their pool area and must ensure that children are properly supervised. All pool owners need to be aware of the relevant laws.

POLICY INTENT

This Policy aims to provide a holistic approach to how Council will undertake its Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program, Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Education Program, and associated activities across the Wollongong LGA.

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- 1 Aim to reduce infant drowning and near drowning events within the Wollongong Local Government Area
- 2 Provide Council, the community and stakeholders with a strategic, consistent and comprehensive approach to managing swimming pool safety barriers across the Wollongong LGA
- 3 Provide a functional and transparent framework to direct Council's response in the management of swimming pool safety barriers (registration, certification and complaints)
- 4 Raise community awareness of the importance of swimming pool safety barriers and complying swimming pool safety barriers
- 5 Ensure Council satisfies its legal obligations under the Swimming Pool Act 1992
- 6 Ensure consistency in the application and enforcement of the Swimming Pool Act 1992
- 7 Increase pool safety awareness

WOLLONGONG 2028 OBJECTIVES

Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy links to the Council's Operational Plan and Community Strategic Plan 2022-2023 which outlines all the actions we are committed to delivering for our City and our community including specifically in relation to this policy:

- Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment
 - How - Undertake regulatory inspections of swimming pool safety barriers.
- Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a liveable city
 - How - Inspect and register places of shared accommodation (boarding houses), private swimming pools, and mortuaries

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER POLICY

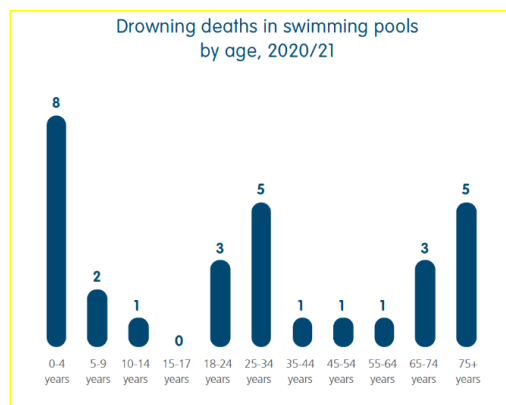
COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY

1. Introduction

Drowning is one of the major causes of death for NSW children. On average, ten children under five drown in backyard swimming pools and many more suffer brain damage and other serious injuries associated with near-drowning experiences each year in Australia.

Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2021 identified that during the 12-month period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 294 people lost their lives to drowning in Australian waterways, from which 30 deaths were reported in swimming pools, one thirds of these deaths were children under the age of ten.



2. Legislative Arrangements

In 1992 the *Swimming Pools Act* (Act) was enacted, to curb the number of child related fatalities in swimming pools.

The purpose of the Act was to ensure that swimming pools and spa pools were adequately fenced with compliant safety barriers and to prevent further drownings. Some other safety requirements are prescribed, including the requirement for a warning notice to be displayed near the swimming pool.

On 29 October 2012, additional amendments were made to the Act. The following key responsibilities for Council's were introduced:

- Develop and implement a Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program in consultation with the community
- Inspect swimming pool safety barriers at three (3) year intervals associated with tourist and visitor accommodation and multi-occupancy residential developments with swimming pools in communal areas
- Inspect swimming pool safety barriers at the request of a pool owner, prior to sale or lease of the property
- Issue Compliance Certificates after an inspection which finds a pool safety barrier compliant with the requirements of the legislation. Compliance Certificates are valid for three (3) years.
- Report annually on the number of pool safety barrier inspections undertaken and the level of compliance with the requirements including signage

From 29 April 2016 further amendments were made which required all premises that are to be sold, leased or rented to have a valid Swimming Pool Certificate of Compliance within the contract. The issuing of a Certificate of Non-Compliance would allow a property with a swimming pool to be sold without the barrier being compliant.

In addition to the Act, a number of legislative instruments also exist in NSW to guide backyard swimming pool safety, such as the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018, Conveyancing (Sale of Land) Regulation 2010, Residential Tenancies Act 2013, State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008, Australian Standard 1926.1 (Fencing for Swimming Pools), National Construction Code of Australia and the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Guideline.

From 1 January 2018 the NSW Government transferred the swimming pool regulatory scheme from the office of Local Government (OLG) to the Department of Finance, Service & Innovation (DFSI). Therefore, the administrative responsibility for the *Swimming Pool Act 1992* and *Swimming Pool Regulation 2018*, has been transferred to a wider Government program.

2.1. Swimming Pool Laws

The *Swimming Pools Act 1992* applies to swimming pools and spa pools that are located (or being built) on sites with a residential building, movable dwelling or tourist and visitor accommodation.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY

These laws apply to the owner of a property with a swimming pool or spa pool.

In a strata or community scheme, all of the lot owners jointly own any swimming pool or spa pool that is on common property. The owner's corporation (or body corporate) is responsible for ensuring such pools are compliant with the Swimming Pools Act 1992.

The law applies to any excavation, structure or vessel including swimming pools and spa pools that are:

- capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 30cm, and
- used, designed, manufactured or adapted for swimming, wading, paddling or any other human aquatic activity.

2.2. Owner Responsibilities

2.2.1. Swimming Pool Registration

Importantly, pool owners must register their pools online on the NSW Swimming Pool Register. Owners may pay a fee to Council to do this on their behalf.

A certificate of registration will be issued to the pool owner. Owners can go to the NSW Swimming Pool Register website to check that their pool has been registered.

2.2.2. Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Fencing

Owners of properties with swimming pools must at all times:

- ensure that pools are surrounded with a child-resistant safety barrier that separates the swimming pool(s) from any residential building and any place adjoining the property
- keep closed the doors and gates that provide access to the swimming pool
- ensure that fences surrounding pools are designed, constructed, installed and maintained to comply with the relevant Australian Standards.

Visit the pool safety checklists page on the NSW Government's Swimming Pool Register for more information.

Note that portable and inflatable pools that are capable of being filled to a depth of 30cm (300mm) or more must also be surrounded by a swimming pool safety barrier and meet the requirements listed above.

2.2.3. Swimming Pool CPR Signage

In case of an emergency the law requires that a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) sign is displayed near the pool.

From 1 September 2019, new CPR signs came into effect. From this time, all new pools must use the updated signage.

Owners of existing pools aren't required to update their signage unless the pool barrier is substantially altered or rebuilt.

CPR signs are available from local pool shops or community organisations such as St John Ambulance, the Australian Red Cross or Royal Life Saving.

The sign must be in good condition and able to be read easily from 3 metres.

2.2.4. Signage for pools under construction or renovation

For pools under construction a sign must be displayed that states:

"This swimming pool isn't to be occupied or used".

The sign must be displayed at all times while the pool is under construction and only removed once a *Certificate of Compliance* or *Occupation Certificate* has been issued.

2.3. Council responsibilities

According to NSW Government's swimming pool register (NSW register), there are more than 10,000 swimming pools registered within Wollongong City Council Local Government Area (LGA).

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY

Wollongong City Council is required to:

- develop and implement a swimming pool safety barrier inspection program in consultation with their communities
- investigate complaints about breaches of the Swimming Pools Act 1992
- inspect pools associated with tourist and visitor accommodation at three-year intervals
- at the request of a pool owner prior to the sale or lease of the property, inspect a swimming pool or spa pool for compliance
- issue either a Certificate of Compliance or Non-compliance after an inspection
- where necessary, direct pool owners to take action to ensure that legislated pool barrier requirements are met
- make publicly available a relevant extract of the National Construction Code of Australia, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Guideline, and applicable Australian Standards
- report annually on the number of pool inspections undertaken and the level of compliance with the requirements.

2.4. NSW Fair Trading - Private Certifier responsibilities

NSW Fair Trading registers professionals to inspect and certify private swimming pools under NSW swimming pool laws.

Registered swimming pool inspectors (certifiers) are required to:

- at the request of a pool owner, inspect a swimming pool or spa pool prior to the sale or lease of the property
- issue either a Certificate of Compliance or Non-compliance after an inspection
- provide written Notice to owners and council when a pool does not comply.
- Registered swimming pool inspectors may only certify existing (not new) pools and cannot certify any pool that achieves compliance with the National Construction Code of Australia by means of a 'performance solution'.

Minor Repairs by Registered Certifiers

Some certifiers may do minor repairs (up to \$1,000 including materials and labour) to enable them to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

To do so, those Certifiers must have an endorsed contractor's licence or qualified supervisor's certificate under the Home Building Act, authorising them to build a swimming pool or structural landscaping. However, the pool owner is free to hire another tradesperson to do the work.

2.5. Certification

2.5.1. Certificate of Compliance

Council pool inspectors and registered swimming pool inspectors (certifiers) can inspect swimming pool and spa pool safety barriers and issue a *Certificate of Compliance* if the barrier meets requirements.

Pool owners should contact Council or a private certifier early, to allow time to organise an inspection before renting or selling a property.

A certificate of compliance is valid for three (3) years.

Pool owners can visit the NSW Swimming Pool Register website to check if a certificate of compliance has been issued for their particular property.

2.5.2. Selling a property with a swimming pool or spa pool

Owners who are selling a property with a swimming pool or spa pool must ensure the contract for sale includes a registration certificate issued from the Swimming Pool Register, and one of the following:

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY

- a valid swimming pool certificate of compliance, or
- a relevant occupation certificate issued within the last 3 years, or
- a certificate of non-compliance.

If one of the above isn't included, the purchaser may rescind the contract within 14 days of exchange, unless settlement has already occurred.

If a certificate of non-compliance is attached to the contract, the purchaser takes on the obligation to obtain a certificate of compliance. They will have 90 days from settlement to rectify defects listed in the certificate of non-compliance and obtain a certificate of compliance.

This requirement does not apply to a lot in a strata scheme or in a community scheme if that strata or community scheme has more than two lots, or if the sales contract is for an off-the-plan property.

2.5.3. Renting a property with a swimming pool or spa pool

When a residential tenancy agreement is entered into for a property with a swimming pool or spa pool, the landlord or real estate agent must provide the tenant with a copy of the certificate of compliance or Occupation Certificate.

A certificate of non-compliance cannot be used to rent a property.

If a certificate of non-compliance is issued, Council is obligated to issue a written directions notice to remedy the non-compliance before the premises may be rented.

If you have any concerns about the actions of a real estate agent, contact Fair Trading.

3. Education and Awareness Program

Council has over the years implemented swimming pool safety barrier education campaigns aimed at increasing the awareness of the community regarding pool safety and legislative requirements. Swimming pool safety and awareness continues to be part of Council Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program.

Education materials, information brochures, multimedia advertisements and website information will continue to be developed

and used by Council, the State government and the Royal Lifesaving Society.

Section 5 of the Act requires Council to promote awareness of the requirements of Swimming Pools Act and associated Australian Standards.

Clause 21 of the Regulation requires Council to ensure that certain swimming pool related documents are made available and accessible to the community.

These include the following:

- Australian Standard AS1926.1-2007 "Swimming pool safety – Location of safety barriers for swimming pools" (Hardcopy only)
- The National Construction Code of Australia (Hardcopy Only)
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Guideline (Hardcopy and electronic on Council's website at www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au).

These documents are available for free public viewing at Council administration offices during normal business hours. Due to copyright laws, Council will not allow these documents to be taken away from the building, printed or copied. The Australian Standards are available for purchase from SAI Global at www.saiglobal.com.

The Building Code of Australia is available for purchase from the Australian Building Codes Board at www.abcb.gov.au

The Australian Resuscitation Council have the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Guideline (Guideline 8) available for viewing at www.resus.org.au. By registering at the website visitors can access and print the guideline free of charge.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY

4. More information

Owners can search the NSW Swimming Pool Register to check if a pool has been registered and whether a Certificate of Compliance (valid for three years) has been issued.

Visit the Royal Life Saving NSW website or contact council for more information, fact sheets and water safety requirements.

5. Other resources

- [Royal Life Saving NSW website](#) - Information on swimming pool/spa and water safety requirements.
- [Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Australia](#)
- [Spa Pools](#) - Safety guidelines for spa pools.
- [Inflatable Swimming Pools](#) - Safety guidelines for inflatable or portable pools.
- [Office Of Local Government Website](#) - Search for your local council contact details.
- [Find A Private Certifier](#) - NSW Swimming Pool Register authorised swimming pool inspectors

REPORTING

It is a requirement of Section 22F of the Act that Council includes in its annual report under Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 information in relation to swimming pool inspections undertaken by Council.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Wollongong City Council first developed the "Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy" in April 2018.

Swimming pool compliance activities at WCC are administered by specially trained Development Compliance Officers trained as Pool Safety Barrier Specialists, who are appointed on a full-time basis.

NSW Fair Trading registers professionals to inspect and certify private swimming pools under NSW swimming pool laws.

RELATED PROCEDURES

- Wollongong City Council - Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Swimming Pool Safety Barrier – Inspection Program Procedure
- Swimming Pool Safety Barrier– Education Program Procedure

APPROVAL AND REVIEW		
Responsible Division	Regulation and Enforcement Division	
Date/s adopted:	<i>Executive Management Committee</i> April 2018	<i>Council</i> April 2018
Date/s of previous adoptions	[Dates of previous adoptions]	
Date of next review	[Two years from last adoption]	



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM PROCEDURE

APPROVED BY: [DIVISIONAL MANAGER] DATE: [DATE ADOPTED]

CONTEXT

These procedures are intended to outline how the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program operates in conjunction with Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy and the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy 2022 to meet the requirements for Council to have an inspection program under Section 22B of the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*, it should be noted that the owner of the premises on which a swimming pool is situated must ensure that the swimming pool is at all times surrounded by a child resistant barrier or otherwise fully complies with any exemptions granted under historical swimming pool safety standards.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM PROCEDURE

1. PURPOSE

The need to implement a Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program is found within *Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan* and the associated *Delivery Program 2022-2026* and *Operational Plan* at Goal 1 - *We value and protect our environment*, and Goal 5 - *We have a healthy community in a liveable city*, both of which include the requirement to:

- Undertake regulatory inspections of swimming pool safety barriers; and
- Inspect and register places of shared accommodation (boarding houses), private swimming pools, and mortuaries.

The purpose of these procedures is to document and to increase compliance and improve swimming pool safety through the safety barrier inspections carried out by Council. This program also reflects the provisions of the Swimming Pool Regulation 2018 and has a risk management focus in prioritising the inspections in the context of available resources.

These Procedures are to be read in conjunction with the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy 2022 (the parent policy).

2. BACKGROUND

Councils in New South Wales must develop and adopt a swimming pool safety barrier inspection program in consultation with their local communities.

This document outlines Council's Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program procedure, which aims to lower the risk of drowning in swimming pools in the Wollongong City Council local government area (particularly children), by improving the level of compliance with pool safety barriers and other design features.

While fencing and barriers may help reduce drowning of young children in swimming pools, there is no protection or safety equipment that can replace adequate supervision of children by a parent or another responsible adult.

Research on child drownings in backyard swimming pools shows that the most common contributing factors are inadequately fenced pools and human error (for example, people leaving the gate open, or fences not being kept in good condition).

It is the responsibility of the owner/occupier to keep the pool fence in a state of good repair and ensure all gates providing access to the swimming area are maintained so they are self-closing and self-latching.

Early in 2013 the NSW government introduced new laws affecting swimming pools which emphasize owners' responsibilities to improve safety. The new laws resulted in several changes to the Act including the creation of a state-wide web-based swimming pool register and increasing the roles and responsibilities of Council in relation to swimming pool inspections and the issue of Compliance Certificates.

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM**PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

Pool users and owners should be aware that if there is a death or injury in a pool, legal liability may fall on the person responsible for the pool, even if a safety fence is installed.

Under the legislation local government has a regulatory responsibility for swimming pool safety.

3. SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Swimming pools offer a social amenity that is of great benefit to those who have use and access to them. With this, however, goes an obligation outlined in legislation for the owner/occupier of the premises to maintain the pool in a safe manner.

A local council swimming pool safety barrier inspection program aims to increase the level of swimming pool safety barrier compliance with standards and the design of pools and pool barriers. Of course, along with an effective pool barrier, the most critical element in reducing the incidence of young children drowning in backyard swimming pools is constant adult supervision when at properties with swimming pools.

Each council area must develop a program and consult the community on the development of the swimming pool safety barrier inspection program.

3.1. The Importance of Pool Safety

Children aged 4 years of age and under are the most vulnerable. They are completely dependent on their parents or carers for their safety. The personal and social cost associated with the death of a vulnerable child is enormous and cannot be described. The death of a young child in circumstances that could have been prevented is a tragedy for all.

The New South Wales State Coroner has made recommendations to the government on several occasions about a pool inspection program requiring an ongoing inspection regime of pool safety barriers. This has been endorsed by organisations such as Royal Life Saving Society, Australian Resuscitation Council, Westmead Children's Hospital - Kids Safe, NSW Commission for Children and Young Adults.

In his commentary the coroner said:

"I have no doubt that the children involved in this inquest, if they were able to have their say, would ask that all efforts be taken to ensure that the numbers of children who follow them be reduced. The loss of even one innocent life is too many."

3.2. State-wide Swimming Pool Register

The New South Wales Division of Local Government, in accordance with the Act, has introduced an "on-line" State-wide Swimming Pool Register.

All swimming pool owners must register their swimming pool on the NSW state-wide web-based swimming pool register (www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au).

Swimming pool owners are required to register, free of charge, their pools on the register.

A swimming pool compliance self-assessment forms part of the on-line registration process completed by the pool owner. Councils are provided with access to the register which will be used to help with the administration of councils' swimming pool inspection programs.

Self-registration of your swimming pool is free via the internet. Council will also register swimming pools for the statutory limited fee of \$10 on behalf of owners who do not have access to the internet. A swimming pool registration application form is available from Council's website (www.wollonong.nsw.gov.au) or Council's administration building.

When registering a swimming pool, the property owner must identify the address of the property where the pool is located, the type of premises (e.g. residential or tourist accommodation etc) and the type of pool (e.g. inground or aboveground).

It is an offence under the Act to have an unregistered swimming pool, and there are provisions in the legislation to fine owners who do not register their swimming pool (Penalty Notice of \$220).

3.3. General Requirements and Responsibilities of the Pool Owner

The owner of the premises on which a swimming pool is situated must ensure that the swimming pool is at all times surrounded by a child resistant barrier:

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

- a) That separates the swimming pool from any residential building situated on the premises and from any place (whether public or private) adjoining the premises; and
- b) That is designed, constructed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the standards prescribed by the regulations.

Note: Some older pools have variations (exemptions) under the legislation below.

3.4. Relevant Legislation and Standards

The legislation, regulation and standards that apply to this Swimming Pool Inspection Program include

- Swimming Pools Act 1992
- Swimming Pools Regulation 1998 (repealed)
- Swimming Pools Regulations 2008
- Swimming Pools Amendment Act 2012
- Swimming Pools Amendment (Consequential Amendments) Regulation 2013
- Australian Standards AS1926.1
- Australian Standards AS1926.2
- National Construction Code of Australia

3.4.1. Swimming Pools Act 1992

The *Swimming Pools Act 1992*, Section 22B requires the development and adoption by Councils of a program for the inspection of swimming pools in its local government area to ensure compliance with the requirements of Part 2 – Access to swimming pools of the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*.

The amendments to the Act also introduced staged commencement provisions including a state-wide on-line register of all private swimming pools in New South Wales and the requirement that all pool owners register, free of charge, and certify to the best of their knowledge that their pool complies with the relevant requirements.

This program applies to all swimming pools within the Wollongong City Local Government Area.

Under Section 22B of the Act, Council must develop and implement a swimming pool inspection program in consultation with the community.

Under section 5 of the Act Council must also promote the registration of swimming pools within its area; and to promote awareness of the Act in relation to swimming pools; and to investigate complaints about breaches.

Importantly, portable and/or inflatable swimming pools or children wading pools that are capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 300 millimetres meet the definition of "swimming pool" under the Act and therefore temporary pool owners are subject to the same legislative requirements and obligations as those who have permanently installed pools.

3.4.2. Relevant Date of Standards

Each legislative article and standard specifically relate to a swimming pool dependant on when the pool was installed or constructed. It is important to note the relevant standard is when the swimming pool was constructed.

The following table shows what standard applies to which pools:

Date Constructed	Legislative Reference	Aspect Controlled	Applicable Standard
Prior to 1 August 1990	Act: s8(1)(a) and 8(2) Reg: cl 22 and 6	Child Resistant Barrier <u>not required</u> to separate pool from residential building (restricted access applies)	AS1926-1986

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

Date Constructed	Legislative Reference	Aspect Controlled	Applicable Standard
1 August 1990 to 31 August 2008	Act: s7(1)(a) and (b)	Child Resistant Barrier <u>not required</u> to separate pool from residential building (restricted access applies)	AS1926-1986
1 September 2008 to 30 April 2013	Act: s7(1)(a) and (b)	Child Resistant Barrier required to separate pool from residential building	AS1926.1-2007
1 May 2013 to date	Act: s7(1)(a) and (b) Reg: cl 5	Child Resistant Barrier required to separate pool from residential building	National Construction Code

It is also important to note that the Act provides exemptions in certain circumstances for existing swimming pools situated on small or large rural properties.

These exemptions continue to apply unless the relevant pool safety standards are not continuously maintained from when the exception was granted to the present, or the swimming pool has undergone significant alteration or rebuilding. Council, however, can still require the upgrading of these pools if the requirements of the Act are not being followed.

3.4.3. Definitions

To help with the interpretation of this procedure, the following definitions apply:

Accredited Certifier means an accredited certifier within the meaning of the Building Professionals Act 2005 holding:

- Category A1, category A2 or category A3 accredited under that Act, or
- If the regulations prescribe alternative qualifications, those alternative qualifications.

The Act means the NSW Swimming Pools Act 1992.

Certificate of Compliance (in respect of swimming pools) means a certificate issued under section 22D of the Swimming Pools Act.

Multi-occupancy Development means a building or buildings that is, or are, situated on a premises that consists of more than two dwellings with a shared swimming pool located within the common property.

The Regulation means the Swimming Pool Regulation 2018.

Relevant Occupation Certificate (in respect of a swimming pool), which means an Occupation Certificate issued under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 that is less than three years old and that authorises the use of the swimming pool.

Relevant Standard is the standards applying to the swimming pool at the time it was constructed

Spa Pool means any excavation, structure or vessel in the nature of a spa pool, floatation tank, tub or the like. A typical spa pool has only seating and water jets.

Swimming Pool means an excavation, structure or vessel:

- That is capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 300 mm, and
- That is solely or principally used, or that is designed, manufactured, or adapted to be solely or principally used, for the purpose of swimming, wading, paddling or any other human aquatic activity, and includes a spa pool but does not include a spa bath, anything that is situated within a bathroom, or anything declared by regulations not to be a swimming pool for the purposes of this Act.

Swim Spa means any excavation, structure or vessel that may include a combination of seating, water jets and an area for swimming and/or water play. Swim spas may include jets designed to swim against, an attachment to aid in swimming or an area that does not have seating, that may be used for water play. Swim spas may be used in the same manner as a pool and therefore are to be surrounded by a

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM**PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

compliant pool fence. 'Attachment' may include but is not limited to swim pole, harness, and floatation devices.

Tourist and Visitor Accommodation means a building or place that provides temporary or short-term accommodation on a commercial basis and includes backpacker's accommodation, bed and breakfast accommodation, farm stay accommodation and serviced apartments.

3.4.4. Penalties and enforcement

The Act provides that failing to comply with the swimming pool safety requirements may constitute an offence under the Act.

There are several offences under the Act which attract fines, as follows:

Offence under the Act	Penalty Notice (issued by Council)	Court Maximum penalty
Section 7 (1): Failure to comply with general requirements for outdoor pools associated with dwelling	\$550	50 penalty units = \$5,500
Section 12: Failure to comply with general requirements for outdoor pools associated with movable dwelling and tourist and visitor accommodation	\$550	50 penalty units = \$5,500
Section 14: Failure to comply with general requirements for indoor pools	\$550	50 penalty units = \$5,500
Section 15 (1): Failure to maintain child-resistant barrier	\$550	50 penalty units = \$5,500
Section 16: Failure of Occupier to keep access to pool securely closed	\$550	50 penalty units = \$5,500

4. THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Councils must have in place and to implement a program of swimming pool inspections.

It is estimated that there are more than 10,000 swimming pools located within the boundaries of the Wollongong City local government area. . Given the high number of pools in the Local Government Area, a risk-based inspection program is required to make effective use of available resources.

The purpose of the inspections is to ensure that pool barriers are in place and comply with pool safety requirements.

4.1. Swimming Pool Inspection Program - Community Engagement

Clause 16 of the Swimming Pool Regulation requires Council to set up and implement a strategy for engagement with the local community when developing a program for the inspection of swimming pools in its area.

This has been and will continue to be done on an ongoing basis as part of the integrated Wollongong City community strategic planning process which is based on social justice principles of equity, access, participation, and rights.

Additionally, the associated Swimming Pool Barrier Policy and the Inspection Program and Procedure documents have been publicly exhibited, with consideration of submissions prior to their adoption by Council.

4.2. Primary Objectives

The primary aims of the Wollongong City Council Swimming Pool Inspection Program are:

- 1 In accordance with Section 22B of the Act, to develop an inspection program based on statutory obligations, Council affordability, community consultation and risk.
- 2 The inspection program shall include mandatory, reactive, and pro-active components.

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

- 3 Council swimming pool inspections will be carried out by trained Council Development Compliance Officers that are specialised in swimming pool barrier assessment duly authorised by the General Manager in accordance with the Swimming Pools Act and Regulation.
- 4 Council must promptly investigate any complaint made to it in writing that alleges a contravention of the Swimming Pools Act 1992.
- 5 Council must carry out an inspections of swimming pool safety barriers in its area under Section 22C of the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and must carry out that inspection within a reasonable time, if the request to Council is in writing, and states that the inspection is required to enable the sale or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the swimming pool is situated.
- 6 Council will carry out an inspection of a swimming pool under Section 22C of the Swimming Pools Act 1992 where the owner of the premises on which a swimming pool is situated in Council's area requests Council to inspect the swimming pool.
- 7 Council must determine applications for any Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Certificate of Compliance under the provisions of the section 22D. Swimming Pool Compliance Certificates are compulsory for all pools associated with property for sale and lease.
- 8 Where a swimming pool complies with relevant pool safety requirements, a Certificate of Compliance will be issued which remains valid for a period of three (3) years. The re-inspection of a swimming pool, with a compliance certificate, is not required within 3 years from the date of issue of a valid Certificate of Compliance in respect of the swimming pool or a relevant Occupation Certificate that authorises the use of the swimming pool.
- 9 The inspection program must make provision for inspections every three years of swimming pools associated with tourist and visitor accommodation, as well as other multi-occupancy developments (this includes pools in hotels, motels, serviced apartments, backpacker accommodation and unit complexes where a pool exists in communal property within developments having more than 2 dwellings). A three yearly inspection regime is required as pools co-located with these types of activities are perceived as having a higher risk associated with them due to more frequent use by a wider range of people.
- 10 Council shall make provision for the pro-active inspection of other swimming pool safety barriers where Council reasonably suspects that the risks warrant their inspection having regard to resource capacity when compared with the demand for higher risk programmed inspections.

4.3. Risk Management of the Inspection Program

A risk-based implementation of the inspection program is set out below to reduce the incidence of non-compliant swimming pools within the limits of resourcing swimming pool barrier inspections.

The different inspection prompts and the frequency of inspection (calendar days) are set out below in descending order based on statutory requirements and risk:

Risk	Inspection Requirement	Inspection Timeframe
1	Complaints received about pools or spas with non-compliant barriers	Within 3 days of complaint (Risk-based timeframe)
2	Notice of Failed Pool Inspection – Compliance Certificate failed by Registered Certifier and referred – considered significant risk by Council	Within 7 days of referral (Risk-based timeframe)
3	Pool Barrier Compliance Certificate Application – Mandatory with Sale or Lease of premises with swimming pool or spa	Within 10 days of application (Statutory timeframe)
4	Pool Barrier Compliance Certificate Application – Voluntary application by owner to have barriers checked	Within 21 days of application (Risk-based timeframe)
5	Notice of Failed Pool Inspection – Compliance Certificate failed by Registered Certifier and referred – otherwise considered non-significant or lower risk by Council	Within 28 days of referral (Risk-based timeframe)

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

Risk	Inspection Requirement	Inspection Timeframe
6	Re-inspections of pool barrier under Notice or Direction issued by Council N.B. Council letter immediately issued to owner with 28 day time frame for rectification	Timeframe on Notice or Direction (i.e. 90 days) (Statutory timeframe)
7	Tourist and Visitor Accommodation and multi-unit developments with pools in common areas – High Risk Pools	Every 3 years (Statutory timeframe)
Risk	Non-statutory Inspection Requirement	Inspection Timeframe
8	Pools with no record of Certificate of Compliance or Occupation Certificate	As resources permit (Risk-based timeframe)
9	Pools found using Council's GIS (Geographical Information System) as <u>not</u> registered or approved	As resources permit (Risk-based timeframe)
10	Pools with development consent granted but are <u>not</u> listed on the NSW pool register	As resources permit (Risk-based timeframe)
11	Historical Pools that have <u>not</u> been inspected or that have variations (exemptions) under earlier pool legislation	As resources permit (Risk-based timeframe)
12	Pools listed on the NSW Swimming Pool Register with self-assessment compliance check <u>not</u> completed	As resources permit (Risk-based timeframe)

The circumstances and risk assessment of each of the above inspections are discussed further below:

4.3.1. Swimming Pool Complaints

Pools the subject of a complaint made, verbally or in writing, are considered the highest risk to the Council and the community and necessitate that an investigation must ideally commence within 72 hours (or 3 days) as specified in Section 29A of the Act.

Under Section 29A of the Act, Council must respond to complaints. All complaints received in writing must be actioned within 3 days of the complaint being received.

All complaints received verbally are investigated based on the information available.

This requirement for swimming pool complaint investigation is a continuation of Council's current functions under the Act and Council's current Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy and the current Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

4.3.2. Notice of Failed Pool Inspections – considered significant risk

Inspection of swimming pool barriers on properties when a notice is received from a registered certifier who has inspected the pool and is not satisfied that the requirements of the Act have been met (Section 22E of the Act). Pools the subject of a Notice of Failed Pool Inspection, are considered the second highest risk to the Council and the community.

Council will investigate all rectification notices for swimming pool compliance matters that pose a significant risk to public safety. Rectification notices for matters comprising a significant risk to public safety will be investigated following Council's current compliance policy within 5 days of it being received.

4.3.3. Compliance Certificate Applications

Inspection of swimming pool barriers on properties that are being sold or leased and the pool owner lodges an application with the Council for the issue of a pool Certificate of Compliance. The inspection must be carried out within 10 business days of receipt of the request – see Section 17 of the *Swimming Pools Regulation 2012*), subject to suitable access being provided.

A certificate of compliance issued by Council certifies that the pool is registered and complies with the requirements of the Act, Regulations and relevant Australian Standard.

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM**PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

A certificate of compliance is valid for 3 years. It is important to note, however, that the swimming pool owner can be subject to Council inspection and legal action where the swimming pool safety barrier is not maintained during the 3-year validity period.

What happens if a pool Certificate of Compliance cannot be issued?

A swimming pool Certificate of Compliance cannot be issued if the pool is not assessed at the inspection as meeting the various requirements under the applicable standards. In such a case either the Council or an accredited certifier must issue a notice specifying the works required to be completed.

If the works are not undertaken, or the pool cannot pass a subsequent inspection, then a Penalty Infringement Notice will likely be issued. Continuing refusal to comply will result in further enforcement action comprising commencement or proceedings in a court of proper jurisdiction.

Application forms for a certificate of compliance are available from Council's website (www.wollonong.nsw.gov.au) or administration office.

A completed application form is submitted to Council and the required fee paid (statutory limited fee of \$150).

Council officers will undertake an inspection of the swimming pool and supply a written notice as to the result of the inspection. In the case of defective matters requiring a reinspection, a fee applies (statutory limited fee of \$100).

4.3.4. Notice of Failed Pool Inspections – considered lower risk

Inspection of swimming pool barriers on properties when a notice is received from a registered certifier who has inspected the pool and is not satisfied that the requirements of the Act have been met (Section 22E of the Act), but not identified the failure as a significant risk will also be inspected.

However, Council will investigate pools with a Notice of Failed Pool Inspections that pose a lower risk to public safety will be investigated within 90 days due to limited resource capacity. However, Council will immediately issue a letter to the owner with 28 day time frame for rectification of the identified non-compliances.

4.3.5. Re-inspections of pool barrier under Notice or Direction issued by Council

Inspection of swimming pool barriers on properties when a pool barrier is under Notice or Direction issued by Council will occur in the time frame specified for completion of the rectification works.

Tourist/Visitor accommodation and multi-unit developments

The inspection program must make provision for inspections every three (3) years of swimming pools associated with tourist and visitor accommodation, as well as other multi-occupancy developments (this includes pools in hotels, motels, serviced apartments, backpacker accommodation and unit complexes)

This includes inspection of swimming pool barriers on properties with pools associated with hotels, motels, serviced apartments, bed and breakfast accommodation, and backpackers' accommodation, and other tourist/visitor accommodation such as caravan parks and eco-tourist facilities.

Alternatively, premises that have a current swimming pool compliance certificate will not require an additional inspection but will remain subject to an inspection if complaint is received about a potential non-compliance.

4.3.6. Swimming Pool Barrier Exemptions Inspections

In certain, very limited circumstances an older pool may be exempted from the current pool safety standards. The rules around exemptions are many and can be quite complex. An exemption may apply to a swimming pool provided the owner can prove that the pool has continuously complied with the swimming pool standard at the time the pool was installed.

The exemption is lost if the pool has not continuously been maintained to the standard at the time of installation or if significant building works have taken place elsewhere on the site. In such cases the pool must be upgraded to the current standard which would require the installation of a swimming pool safety barrier around the pool.

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM**PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

The inspection of these pools will occur as resources permit, or if Council has information that would reasonably indicate the pool may no longer comply with the exemptions.

4.3.7. Other Swimming Pool Barrier Inspections

This program also makes provision for the inspection of other swimming pool barriers where Council reasonably suspects that the risks warrant inspection and resourcing of the program allows inspection at the time in consideration of the risk context when compared with higher risk inspection demands.

This includes the inspection of historical swimming pools where it is reasonably considered that legislative requirements may no longer be met such as with pools constructed prior to 1990 that may benefit from exemptions to comply with current standards provided certain other precautions are continually maintained in lieu of a pool safety barrier such locks on windows, self-closing doors, and doors with non-climbable screens designed to prevent a child accessing the pool unsupervised, and pools constructed prior to 2013 when the installation of pool safety barriers became a mandatory requirement.

Site specific exemptions issued by Council under Section 22 of the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* may have conditions requiring more frequent inspections.

These inspections are not mandated under the Act and will therefore be implemented subject to available resources.

These inspections include:

- When the Council reasonably suspects a pool contravenes the Act (for example, pools constructed without approval or pools which are not registered on the government's pool register).
- Childcare centre/ family day care or premises with swimming pools accessed regularly by children for other than domestic purposes.
- Pools with no record of Certificate of Compliance or Occupation Certificate
- Pools listed on the NSW Swimming Pool Register with self-assessment compliance check not completed
- Pools found using Council's GIS (Geographical Information System) as not registered or approved
- Historical Pools that have not been inspected and have variations (exemptions) under earlier pool legislation
- Pools with development consent granted but are not listed on the NSW pool register

The following criteria may be relevant in deciding that a pool contravenes the Act and requires inspection:

- Pools that have been found by Council staff during another inspection as having non-compliant barriers
- Pools that have been assessed as "high risk" by Council staff.
- Pools with no record of having a valid Certificate of Compliance or Occupation Certificate
- Pools that have an exemption under Section 22 of the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*.
- When the Council reasonably suspects a pool contravenes the Act (for example, pools constructed without approval or pools which are not registered on the government's pool register).

5. FEES

A registration fee is payable for those pool owners unable to register their pool themselves on the New South Wales Swimming Pools Register and who request help from the Council to do so.

A pool inspection fee applies in the conducting of inspections under the pool inspection program. The fee is limited under the legislation. The first fee is payable within twenty-one (21) days of the inspection with a subsequent inspection fee (one fee covers all later inspections) payable at the time of booking the first reinspection.

14.1 Registration Fee

POOL SAFETY BARRIER INSPECTION PROGRAM

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The *Swimming Pool Regulation* prescribes a maximum fee of \$10 is payable where a pool owner requests a council to update the register on their behalf.

The Wollongong City Council sets out and updates the fees payable for pool registration in its annual Schedule of Fees and Charges.

14.2 Inspection Fee

The *Swimming Pool Regulation* prescribes a maximum initial inspection fee of \$150, with a second inspection fee of \$100 payable should a re-inspection of the pool be necessary. No fee may be charged for further inspections, however continuing non-compliance with the required standards may result in the issuing of a Penalty Infringement Notice in appropriate circumstances.

Wollongong City Council sets out and updates the fee payable for pool inspections in its annual Schedule of Fees and Charges.

6. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Pool owner education and awareness is an important contributing factor in lifting swimming pool compliance rates.

An on-going community education and awareness program will be delivered through community publications, media releases, Web-based information, owner self-assessment checklists and interaction with Council officers during the inspection cycle. The importance of pool barrier maintenance and adult supervision are the core pool safety messages.

The overall rate of pool barrier compliance is expected to progressively rise because of the inspection program and because of greater community awareness of swimming pool safety requirements.

7. PROGRAM REVIEW

These Procedures will be reviewed every two years or in-line with the review of the parent policy and at other times as needed. Changes to the Procedure that are consistent with the parent policy can be approved by the Manager Regulation and Enforcement.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW	
Responsible Division	Regulation and Enforcement Division
Date adopted	[#Adopted Date#]
Date of previous adoptions	Nil
Date of next review	[#Review Date#]
Responsible Manager	Environment and Development Compliance Manager
Parent Policy	Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy

ITEM 12

TENDER T1000036 - PROPOSED FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH HEAD START HOMES (AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM)

An open tender process was undertaken between November 2021 and May 2022 for Round 2 of the Housing Affordability Tender to deliver affordable housing (rental or ownership) within Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). Following this process, Council resolved to accept in principle the tender of Head Start Homes for the delivery of an affordable housing scheme.

This report recommends Council enter into a proposed funding agreement with Head Start Homes for the provision of an affordable housing scheme in the Wollongong LGA in accordance with the Council Resolution of 27 June 2022 (Minute 697).

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council resolve to enter into a proposed funding agreement with Head Start Homes.
- 2 Council authorise the General Manager to execute the agreement between Wollongong City Council and Head Start Homes.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Sue Savage, Manager Community Cultural + Economic Development
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

On 27 June 2022, Council resolved to accept in principle the tender of Head Start Homes for the delivery of an affordable housing scheme in the sum of \$1,300,000 excluding GST. Council further resolved:

- (i) To delegate the power to finalise contract terms to the General Manager being terms consistent with the items identified in the T1000036 Invitation to Tender; and
- (ii) Following completion of the contract negotiation process, that Council be provided with a further report for its consideration prior to execution of any contract.

Following negotiations throughout 2022, the terms of the proposed funding agreement (Proposed Agreement) have now been settled between Council and Head Start Homes.

PROPOSAL

The Proposed Agreement identifies funding in the amount of \$1,300,000 (excluding GST) to cover the delivery of an affordable housing scheme. The funds will be paid in one lump sum. The Proposed Agreement also contains financial reporting obligations and the provision to Council of annual data in relation to the number of people assisted with the affordable housing scheme and their status.

In order to protect Council against possible non-performance, a failure to expend funds in accordance with the terms of the Proposed Agreement and other risks, the Proposed Agreement contains a number of protective mechanisms including:

- The repayment of funds in the event of funding being expended other than in accordance with the terms of the agreement.
- Target of households assisted and timeframes with which to achieve outcomes.

For the reasons set out above, it is recommended that Council resolve to enter into the proposed funding agreement.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- General Manager
- Office of Legal Counsel
- Chief Financial Officer
- Members of the Tender Assessment Panel
- Head Start Homes CEO and Legal Representative

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 5 “We have a healthy community in a liveable city”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program	Operational Plan
Strategy	4 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
5.3.1 Housing choice in the Wollongong Local Government Area is improved, taking into account population growth, community needs and affordability.	5.3.1.1 Prepare a Housing Study and Strategy incorporating affordable housing issues.	Deliver the Council Resolution for affordable housing (targeting of commonwealth funding).

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Head Start Homes is an accredited not-for-profit, tax-exempt Community Service Organisation. Head Start Homes is experienced in establishing home ownership programs in NSW, QLD and SA. The Wollongong Recycling Home Ownership Program (WRHOP) removes the need for a deposit and mortgage insurance.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The funding agreement has been prepared by Council’s Office of Legal Counsel and is the culmination of ongoing negotiation. The contract contains protective mechanisms, described in this report, which are designed to minimise Council’s exposure to legal or financial risk.

On this basis, the risk in accepting the recommendation of this report is considered low.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding will be delivered from the identified budget of the Housing Affordability Program Restricted Asset. The balance of the program will be directed to a third round for which planning has already commenced.

CONCLUSION

In executing the agreement, Council will be facilitating the delivery of affordable housing in the region in fulfilment of its obligation under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Government.

ITEM 13 TENDER T1000075 - BELLAMBI BOAT RAMP AMENITIES

Council called tenders for the replacement of the amenities building located at the Bellambi Boat Ramp. This report recommends that Council decline to accept the tender submitted for these works in accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

The Tender Assessment Panel has concluded that the tender be declined as the submission received was non-conforming and it is anticipated that negotiations with the tenderer or any other party in relation to a revised scope of works will result in a satisfactory outcome being achieved.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 a In accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council decline to accept the tender received for the Bellambi Boat Ramp Amenities and resolve to enter into negotiations with the tenderer or any other party with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.
- b In accordance with Section 178(4) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the reason for Council hereby resolving to enter into negotiations with the tenderer or any other party and not inviting fresh tenders is that it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved with one of those parties who demonstrate a capacity and ability to undertake the works.
- 2 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to undertake and finalise the negotiations, firstly with the tenderer, and, in the event of failure of negotiations with that tenderer, any other party, with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.
- 3 Council grant authority for the use of the Common seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.
- 4 A report describing the outcome of the procurement process be submitted to the next available Council meeting following the successful engagement of contractor or contractors.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Glenn Whittaker, Manager Project Delivery

Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works - Connectivity Assets + Liveable City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Location Plan

BACKGROUND

The existing amenities located adjacent to the Bellambi Boat Ramp were constructed in the early eighties, is located in a harsh coastal environment, does not include accessible amenities and has reached its end of life.

Tenders were required to be invited for the construction of the new amenities block located at Bellambi Boat Ramp, Robert Cram Drive, Bellambi 2518. The main purpose of this work is to replace the existing amenities block with a prefabricated toilet block, comprising two accessible cubicles. Associated works include the installation of a larger septic system, installation of associated services, regrading of asphalt adjacent to the amenities building, carpark line marking and other minor infrastructure works.

Tenders were invited by the open tender method with a close of tenders of 10.00 am on Wednesday, 28 September 2022.

One (1) tender was received by the close of tenders and has been scrutinised and assessed by a Tender Assessment Panel constituted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and comprising representatives of the Project Delivery, Infrastructure Strategy and Planning and Governance and Customer Service Divisions.

The Tender Assessment Panel assessed the tender in accordance with the following assessment criteria and weightings as set out in the formal tender documents:

Mandatory Criteria

- 1 Provision of satisfactory references from referees for previous projects of similar size and scope
- 2 Financial assessment acceptable to Council which demonstrates the tenderer's financial capacity to undertake the works
- 3 Tenders have as a minimum a Health and Safety Policy and Work Health and Safety Management System Manual or Plan
- 4 Tenderers have as a minimum an Environmental Management System Manual or Plan

Assessable Criteria

- 1 Cost to Council – 40%
- 2 Appreciation of scope of works and construction methodology – 10%
- 3 Experience and satisfactory performance in undertaking projects of similar size, scope and risk profile, including staff qualifications and experience – 20%
- 4 Project Schedule – 5%
- 5 Environmental Management System – 5%
- 6 Workplace Health and Safety System – 5%
- 7 Proposed Subcontractors – 5%
- 8 Demonstrated strengthening of local economic capacity – 10%

PROPOSAL

The Tender Assessment Panel has concluded that the tender as submitted is non-conforming and exceeds the allocated budget for this project. The panel has recommended that the tender be declined, and negotiations be undertaken with the tenderer, or any other party, with a view to entering into a contract for the subject matter of the tender.

The Panel anticipates that a satisfactory outcome will be achieved through a negotiation process conducted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 1 Members of the Tender Assessment Panel

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 5 "We have a healthy community in a liveable city". It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy		Service
5.7	Provide an appropriate range of active and passive open spaces and facilities to cater for traditional and emerging recreational pursuits.	Public Health and Safety

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk in accepting the recommendation of this report is considered low on the basis that the tender process has fully complied with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and the Local Government Act 1993.

The risk of the project works or services is considered moderate based upon Council's risk assessment matrix and appropriate risk management strategies will be implemented.

There are a number of community impacts along with environmental, safety, financial and reputational risks that should be considered if Council does not undertake the replacement of the Bellambi Boat Ramp amenities block and septic tank system.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic sustainability implications are considered relevant to the amenities block and septic tank system at Bellambi Boat Ramp to reduce the ongoing maintenance costs and to improve the amenity of the area. This would lead to increased use by both local and out of area users, thereby increasing the health and wellbeing of our community.

The design for the new facilities includes the installation of a vandal-proof amenities block and a septic tank system with an increased capacity over the existing unit. These will provide a long-term, low maintenance finished product that also enhances the aesthetic appearance of the area and surrounding facilities.

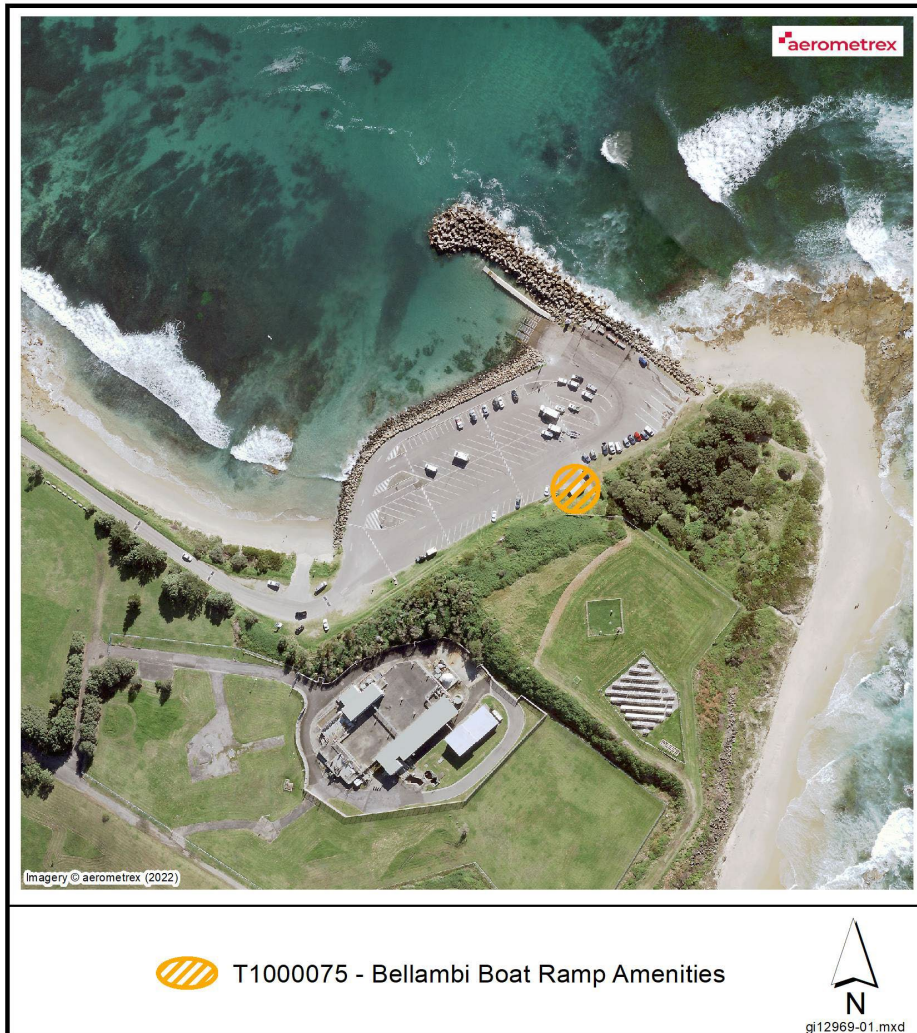
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the total project be funded from the following source/s as identified in the Operational Plan –

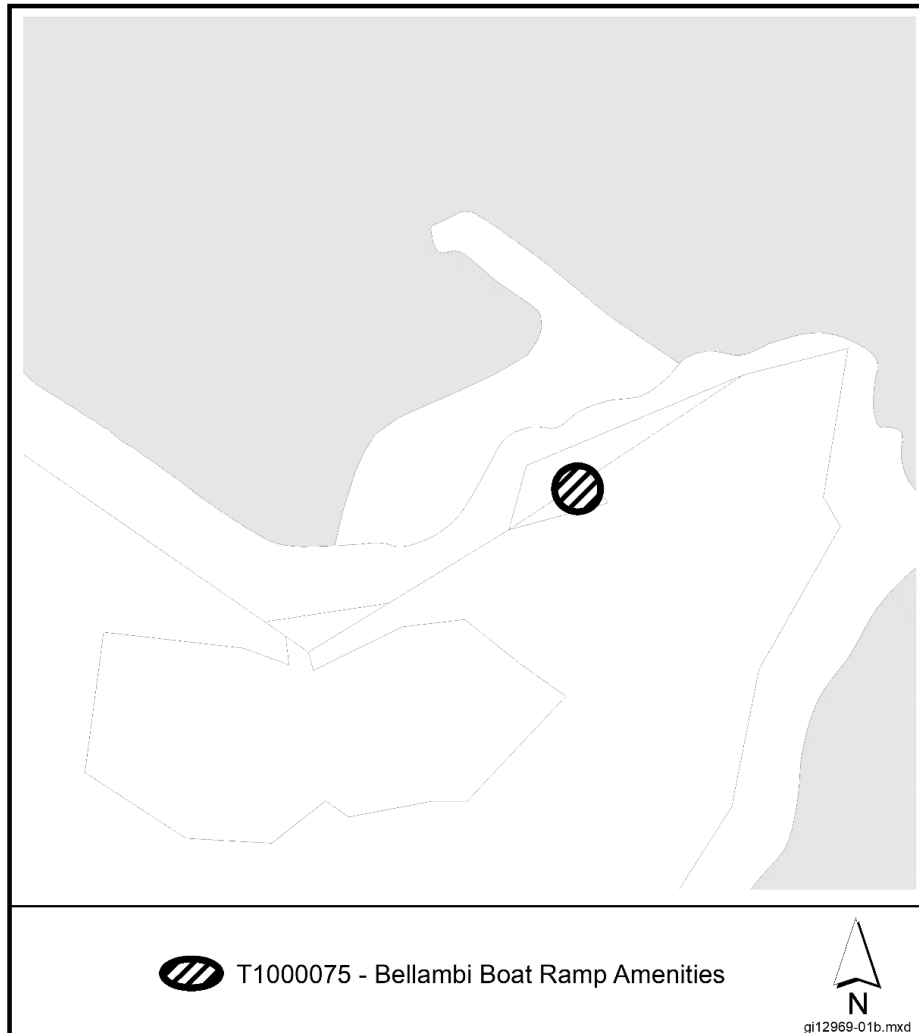
2022/23 Capital Budget

CONCLUSION

It is anticipated that the best value outcome can be achieved via a direct negotiation with the tendering party, or any other party who has demonstrated a capacity and ability to undertake the works. Council should endorse the recommendations of this report.



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ITEM 14

LATE REPORT: TENDER T1000078 - BEATON PARK TENNIS COURTS, GWYNNEVILLE
- RELOCATION AND UPGRADE WORKS

Council called tenders for the relocation and upgrade of the existing tennis courts at Beaton Park, Gwynneville. This report recommends that Council decline to accept any of the tenders submitted for these works in accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

During the tender assessment process, it was identified that a more satisfactory result could be achieved, with a better value outcome for the community, by not accepting any tenders and undertaking negotiations with the tenderers or any other party in relation to a revised scope of works that will result in these outcomes being achieved.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 a In accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council decline to accept any of the tenders received for Beaton Park Tennis Courts Relocation and Upgrade Works and resolve to enter into negotiations with one or all of the tenderers or any other party with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.
- b In accordance with Section 178(4) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the reason for Council hereby resolving to enter into negotiations with one or all of the tenderers or any other party and not inviting fresh tenders is that it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved with one of those parties who demonstrate a capacity and ability to undertake the works.
- 2 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to undertake and finalise the negotiations, firstly with the tenderers, and, in the event of failure of negotiations with those tenderers, any other party, with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.
- 3 Council grant authority for the use of the Common seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.
- 4 A report describing the outcome of the procurement process be submitted to the next available Council meeting following the successful engagement of contractor or contractors.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Glenn Whittaker, Manager Project Delivery
Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

Tenders were required to be invited for the above works as part of the overall Beaton Park Master Plan endorsed by Council in 2018. The ageing tennis facility will be demolished and expanded with new international standard courts, community courts, hot shot and multi-purpose court which cater to other sports. The scope of works also includes associated infrastructure such as fencing, LED floodlighting complying with international and Australian standards, shade structures, clubhouse and player amenities, as well as civil and hydraulic packages including the construction of a temporary car park and access road.

Tenders were invited by the open tender method with a close of tenders of 10.00 am on Thursday, 17 November 2022.

Three (3) tenders were received by the close of tenders and all tenders have been scrutinised and assessed by a Tender Assessment Panel constituted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and comprising representatives of the Project Delivery, Property and Recreation and Governance and Customer Service Divisions.

The Tender Assessment Panel assessed all tenders in accordance with the following assessment criteria and weightings as set out in the formal tender documents:

Mandatory Criteria

- 1 Provision of satisfactory references from referees for previous projects of similar size and scope.
- 2 Financial assessment acceptable to Council which demonstrates the tenderer's financial capacity to undertake the works.
- 3 Tenderers have as a minimum a third-party accredited Work Health & Safety Management System to AS4801 or equivalent.
- 4 Tenderers have as a minimum a third-party accredited Environmental Management System to ISO 14001 or equivalent.
- 5 Tenderers attend at least one of the mandatory site inspections.

Assessable Criteria

- 1 Cost to Council – 40%
- 2 Appreciation of scope of works and construction methodology – 15%
- 3 Experience and satisfactory performance in undertaking projects of similar size, scope and risk profile, including staff qualifications and experience – 15%
- 4 Proposed sub-contractors – 10%
- 5 Project Schedule – 10%
- 6 Demonstrated strengthening of local economic capacity – 10%

PROPOSAL

The Tender Assessment Panel has concluded that none of the tenders are acceptable as all tenders have exceeded the allocated budget for the project. The panel has recommended that all tenders be declined, and negotiations be undertaken with one or all of the tenderers, or any other party, with a view to entering into a contract for the subject matter of the tender.

The Panel anticipates that a satisfactory outcome will be achieved through a negotiation process conducted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 1 Members of the Tender Assessment Panel
- 2 Nominated Referees
- 3 External Consultants – Tennis NSW

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 5 "We have a healthy community in a liveable city".

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Infrastructure Planning and Support Service Plan 2022-23.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk in accepting the recommendation of this report is considered low on the basis that the tender process has fully complied with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and the Local Government Act 1993.

The risk of the project works is considered high based upon Council's risk assessment matrix and appropriate risk management strategies will be implemented.

There are several significant community impact risks including operational and reputational risks that should be considered if Council does not undertake the reconstruction and upgrade of the tennis facility. This includes loss of grant funding, loss of opportunity to host international tennis events and failure to deliver a key item in the endorsed Master Plan for the site.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The following sustainability implications have been considered:

- Sustainable procurement by providing open tender to give local companies the opportunity to tender for the work.
- Weighting in tender assessment provided for using local services, labour and materials.
- The lighting component of the works will incorporate energy efficient LED technology, with wireless control systems to optimise energy consumption and lower maintenance costs.
- Material from the excavation will be reused on site where appropriate to minimise the costs and environmental impacts of waste disposal.
- Compensatory planting at a 2:1 ratio has also been undertaken to replace affected vegetation in accordance with our Public Tree Management Policy and project specific Review of Environmental Factors.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the total project be funded from the following source/s as identified in the Operational Plan –

2022/23 Capital Budget

2023/24 Capital Budget

The project is also supported by the following infrastructure grants:

- Greater Cities Sport Facility Fund - \$1,000,000 (ex GST)
- Tennis Legacy Fund - \$1,100,000 (ex GST)
- Building Better Regions Fund (in conjunction with Tennis NSW - \$1,000,000 (ex GST)
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (Round 3) - \$1,800,000 (ex GST)

CONCLUSION

It is anticipated that an outcome providing best value to the community can be achieved via a direct negotiation with the tenderers, or any other party who has demonstrated a capacity and ability to undertake the works. Council should endorse the recommendations of this report.

ITEM 15 ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2024 ELECTION OF LORD MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

The *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act") provides that, at least 18 months before each ordinary election, Council must resolve to engage either the New South Wales Electoral Commissioner, or an election services provider, to administer the ordinary election of Lord Mayor and Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Pursuant to s. 296(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) ("the Act") Council enter into an election arrangement by contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer the election for Lord Mayor and Councillors of Wollongong City Council scheduled for September 2024.
- 2 Such contract to include the administration of council polls (if any) or constitutional referenda (if any) of the Council conducted as part of the September 2024 elections.
- 3 Authority be granted to affix the Common Seal of Council to the contract document and any other documentation, should it be required to give effect to this resolution.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance + Customer Service
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The Act requires the Council to either engage a commercial electoral services provider or to resolve to engage the Electoral Commissioner to administer each election.

If Council does not engage the Commissioner by 13 March 2023 to administer its September 2024 elections and decides to engage a commercial election service provider, a tender process will be required, as the estimated cost of the administration of the elections will exceed the tender value threshold of \$250,000 as prescribed by the Act. The direct engagement of the Electoral Commissioner to administer Council elections has been included in the Act as one of the exemptions to tender requirements.

If Council resolves to engage the NSWEC to administer its elections, polls and referenda, the election arrangement with the NSWEC will apply to the 2024 ordinary election and every election, poll and referendum including any by-election or countback election until the contract is automatically terminated 18 months before the following ordinary election of Councillors.

The election arrangement is a standardised contract for all councils. The service schedule and costs schedule of the standardised contract will vary between councils and are made by the NSWEC in consultation with each council.

PROPOSAL

Any potential cost saving by engaging a commercial election service provider are not considered to be significant enough to justify a move away from the Electoral Commissioner, particularly when the additional project and contract management responsibilities required by Council staff are taken into account.

The benefits to Council of the engagement of the Electoral Commissioner to administer the elections include:

- the integrity of the Electoral Commission's systems and processes including its vote counting software

- the experience of the Commissioner and their staff in conducting State and Council elections including the resolution of complaints and disputes
- the “arm’s length” probity principle of not having the General Manager or Council’s administrative staff directly or indirectly involved in the administration of the election process, and
- certainty of the availability of polling places, polling staff and election materials such as voting screens, ballot boxes and stationery.

The 2021 elections in Wollongong were conducted efficiently. There was a high level of co-operation between operational staff of Council, the Returning Officer appointed by the Commissioner and the Commissioner’s staff in administrative and housekeeping matters connected with the elections to reduce costs wherever possible.

It is proposed that Council resolve to engage the Electoral Commissioner of New South Wales to administer the 2024 elections of Lord Mayor and Councillors.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4.8 *“Council’s resources are managed effectively to ensure long term financial sustainability”*.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Customer Service, Service Plan 2022-23.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has requested a quote from the NSW Electoral Commission for the administration of the 2024 ordinary election which, at the date of this report, had not yet been received.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the General Manager be authorised to enter into an agreement with the Electoral Commissioner to administer the 2024 Elections of Lord Mayor and Councillors, and any future Council polls of electors and constitutional referenda. It is also proposed that the General Manager be authorised to finalise the terms of the engagement and to enter into a contract with the Commissioner on behalf of Council for the conduct of the elections, Council polls and referenda.

ITEM 16

CITY OF WOLLONGONG TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON VARIOUS DATES IN 2022

The City of Wollongong Traffic Committee meeting has been held on various dates throughout 2022. The recommendations on items listed in Section 3 of the Traffic Committee Minutes, relating to temporary road closures, are referred to Council for consideration. Temporary road closures, in accordance with the Regulations on public roads for works or events by independent parties, must be considered by Council. Road closures are not considered under delegated authority to the General Manager.

The items in Sections 2 and 4 to 6 of Local Traffic Committee Minutes are endorsed under delegated authority to the General Manager and do not require referral to Council. Items that appear in sections 2 and 4 to 6 of previous Wollongong Traffic Committee will form part of the published minutes.

RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with the delegated authority to Council, the Minutes and Recommendations of the Wollongong Traffic Committee held on various dates in 2022 in relation to Regulation of Traffic as outlined within this report, be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Jeremy Morgan, Manager Infrastructure, Strategy + Planning
Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Council - 30 August 2022 - Crown Lane, Wollongong
- 2 Council - 27 September 2022 - Augusta Street East Corrimal
- 3 Council - 27 September 2022 - Yallah Bay Road
- 4 Council - 25 October 2022 - WIN Stadium TLTCP
- 5 Council - 25 October 2022 - Freedom of Entry
- 6 Council - 25 October 2022 - TCP_2023 Australia Day Aquathon_Elliots Rd and Cliff Rd_V2
- 7 Council - 25 October 2022 - Aquathon TCP Cliff Road_001
- 8 Council - 25 October 2022 - Australia Day Aquathon 001 Detour
- 9 Council - 25 October 2022 - Australia Day Aquathon TCP Elliots Road 002
- 10 Council - 25 October 2022 - Belmore Street Wollongong TCP

1. WOLLONGONG, CROWN LANE – OUTDOOR DINING

BACKGROUND

Wollongong Council is committed to supporting local business through COVID 19 economic recovery. One of the initiatives to support the hospitality industry is extended outdoor dining opportunities within our streets. Council delivered outdoor dining in Crown Lane. The closure has been in effect since 24 November 2021 with approval until 4 October 2022.

Council has received positive feedback from the closure of Crown Lane for extended outdoor dining activities when we went out to consultation to the 500+ surrounding residents. We are seeking the approval of extending the closure due to its recent success and review opportunities for a permanent closure.

The impact of closing the lane will have minimal effect to the road network function, with pedestrian safety improved in this high pedestrian area, through the temporary removal of vehicles through the lane. While not all businesses will be able to have outdoor dining due to the slope of the road, all will benefit from improved pedestrian access and amenity to their businesses. Emergency vehicles will still be able to access the area via Rawson Street and Crown Street, if required. This item was previously reported to the City of Wollongong Traffic Committee as an e-meeting on 1 November 2021 and was supported by the Committee.

PROPOSAL

Extend the November 2021 Local Traffic Committee recommendation of the Crown Lane closure (vehicle traffic) until 12 April 2024.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Another round of consultation has been completed, with positive feedback for the closure from both residents and business owners.

2. EAST CORRIMAL, AUGUSTA STREET – CHRISTMAS CAROLS

BACKGROUND

Council has received a request from the Corrimal Community Church for a street party including carols on the lawn to be held on Sunday 11 December 2022 from 4pm to 9pm. The Church has also provided evidence from adjoining residents that there is no objection to the road closure taking place for this event.

Detour signs are required on both approaches. Vehicle mitigation is also proposed in the provided plan.

PROPOSAL

1. The road closures be approved in accordance with the submitted Traffic Control Plan and [Council's Standard Conditions for Road Closures](#).
2. Barrier boards (soft closure) are to be placed at the intersection of Augusta Street and Pioneer Road, allowing residents only between the intersection and the closure. U-turns should not be permitted.
3. Vehicles are to be parked on the road like in past years (parking on the grass is not permitted).
4. Residents impacted by the closure are to be notified, noting this event has been taking place for approximately five (5) years and the church has a good relationship with the residents.
5. Road rules to be adhered to.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation with the surrounding community has been carried out.

3. DAPTO, YALLAH BAY ROAD – UPGRADE TO TALLAWARRA POWER STATION

BACKGROUND

Clough Group made application for a road closure of Yallah Bay Road, Dapto, to upgrade the existing Power Station. The original application was to close the road from 1 December 2021 to 1 November 2022. This proposal was previously discussed at the Traffic Committee meeting of 12 October 2021, with the committee's recommendation that a detour footpath around the footbridge be constructed prior to closing the road. This approval will shortly lapse.

Clough Group has requested this proposal be extended for a further 12 months up to 1 November 2023.

A shared path around the road closure has been provided to ensure the continuation of the pathway network at this location.

PROPOSAL

The extension to the road closure be approved subject to the submitted Traffic Control Plan and [Council's Standard Conditions for Road Closures](#).

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation with affected property owners is a condition of approval.

4. BULLI, OWEN STREET – CHRISTMAS STREET PARTY

BACKGROUND

Council has received a request from residents in Owen Street for a street party to be held on Saturday 3 December 2022 from 2pm to 7pm. The request is for a full road closure of Owen Street between Franklin Avenue and Waterloo Street, Bulli. Diversion of traffic around the closure is expected to have minimal inconvenience upon drivers.

PROPOSAL

1. The proposed road closure be approved subject to [Council's Standard Conditions for Street Parties](#) and the submitted Plan.
2. Within the footprint of the road closure, there are to be no vehicle movements during the closure – any vehicles movements are to take place prior/post the closure.
3. There is to be a nominated (non-intoxicated) person who will be available to move the posted "hostile mitigation" vehicles to ensure access for emergency vehicles.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Residents in the affected area have indicated their support of the road closure via signed consent, which was submitted with the Application for Road Closure.

5. EAST CORRIMAL, STATION STREET – CHRISTMAS STREET PARTY

BACKGROUND

Council has received a request from residents in Station Street for a street party to be held on Saturday 3 December 2022 from 6:30pm to 11pm. The request is for a full road closure of Station Street between No 5 and No 13 Station Street. This will be the seventh time this street party has taken place, with any residents that needed to exit or enter Station Street being able to do so safely. Diversion of traffic around the closure is expected to have minimal inconvenience upon drivers.

PROPOSAL

1. The proposed road closure be approved subject to [Council's Standard Conditions for Street Parties](#) and the submitted Plan.
2. Within the footprint of the road closure, there are to be no vehicle movements during the closure – any vehicles movements are to take place prior/post the closure.
3. There is to be a nominated (non-intoxicated) person who will be available to move the posted "hostile mitigation" vehicles to ensure access for emergency vehicles.
4. Detour signage to be put in place, as an advance warning of the road closure on the side road.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Residents in the affected street have been notified of the proposed closure.

6. WOLLONGONG, WIN STADIUM – WELLINGTON PHOENIX A-LEAGUE EVENT

BACKGROUND

The Venue Manager at WIN Sports and Entertainment Centres (WEC) is seeking approval for a Wellington Phoenix A League game occurring at WIN Stadium, which includes temporary road closures of the southern lanes of Harbour Street between Crown and Burelli Streets and full road closure of Harbour Street from Burelli to Stewart Street. The event is proposed for Saturday 10 December 2022, with the following timings:

- Road closure: 3pm
- Gates: 4pm
- Kick Off: 5pm
- Full Time: 7pm

The patronage for the game is anticipated at 4,000 to 6,000. They will not be accessing Gate D for this game, therefore Quilkey Place will not be required. The applicant also advises that there will be two events at the WIN Entertainment Centre on the same day, with an anticipated audience of approximately 1,000 each and with the following timings:

Breanna Academy of Dance

Doors: 2pm

Concert: 3pm

Conclude: 5.15pm

TJS Dance Academy

Doors: 6.30pm

Concert: 7.30pm

Conclude: 10pm

The scale of traffic management will vary based on forecast attendance and venue configuration. The game will be played using the 10-15,000 scale Traffic Control Plan. Some games will have a lower anticipated attendance and based on a risk assessment the same plan will be implemented without the 5 x truck mounted attenuators.

PROPOSAL

1. The proposed road closure be approved subject to [Council's Standard Conditions for Road Closures](#) and the submitted Traffic Control Plan.
2. The plan must also include a temporary bus layover on Harbour Street, north of Crown Street outside the cathedral. This must include provision of traffic controllers by WIN Stadium to ensure that drivers do not park in the temporary zone.
3. Approved by TfNSW, pending updated plan as provided by WIN Stadium.
4. Until the plan is received, the WEC does not have approval to close any roads for this event.
5. Updated plan requested by Council after Traffic Committee meeting, but not yet received.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation with affected residents and businesses is a condition of approval for this road closure.

7. WOLLONGONG, BURELLI, STEWART AND CHURCH STREETS – FREEDOM OF ENTRY 2022

BACKGROUND

The proposed road closure is for the purpose of hosting the Freedom of Entry March which is coordinated by Wollongong City Council, with the ceremonial components conducted by No 314 (City of Wollongong) Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets. The march is to occur safely and to comply with hostile vehicle mitigation measures.

The event was previously considered and approved by the Traffic Committee at its meeting of 25 January 2022, with the condition that the local bus companies are to be notified of the time and duration that the march will cross Burelli Street. The event was cancelled due to COVID.

Road closures are proposed to be implemented by authorised traffic controllers from 9:30am to 11:00am on Saturday 26 November 2022. Should it be safe to do so, the roads will be reopened earlier. The march will commence from 10am starting on the corner of Church Street and Stewart Street. The participants will head north on Church Street, turn left onto Globe Lane and right into Crown Street Mall, where the march will conclude at the eastern end before the Crown Street/Kembla Street intersection.

Road closures include:

- Burelli Street between Kembla and Keira Streets
- Stewart Street between Kembla and Church Street
- Church Street between Crown Street and George Street

PROPOSAL

1. The proposed road closure is approved subject to the provided Traffic Control Plan and [Council's Standard Conditions for Road Closures](#). Local bus companies are to be notified of the time and duration that the march will cross Burelli Street.
2. Approved, pending updated plan that allows for bus movement.
3. The road is to be closed to all traffic while the march is taking place. Once the march has cleared Burelli Street, NSW Police will provide an all-clear to re-open Burelli Street.
4. Council's Events Team is to notify the Traffic Control Company to provide detour signs on Burelli Street westbound via Kenny Street, then to Keira Street southbound.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Council's Events team has contacted bus operators, taxi operators and NSW Police, to notify them of the proposed road closure. Community consultation will be managed by Council's Events Team.

8. WOLLONGONG/FAIRY MEADOW, CLIFF ROAD AND ELLIOTTS ROAD – AUSTRALIA DAY AQUATHON 2023

BACKGROUND

Activate Events have applied to hold an Australia Day Aquathon event on Thursday 26 January 2023. The event requires the road closure of Cliff Road from 6:30am to 12:30pm to allow participants to enter (northbound) from the Blue Mile at Wollongong Harbour (bottom of Cliff Road) onto Cliff Road for 200m. The event also requires the road closure of Elliotts Road between 8:30am to 10am, with runners arriving southbound cycle path parallel to Squires Way, North Wollongong (heading north) from 8:30am to 9:45am. Runners are to keep to the right side of Elliotts Road and barriers will be placed to close off Fairy Meadow Surf Club car park.

The event was previously approved by the Traffic Committee at its meeting of 12 October 2021.

Emergency access will be provided if necessary.

PROPOSAL

1. The proposed road closure be approved subject to [Council's Standard Conditions for Road Closures](#) and the submitted Plan.
2. While the race is underway, the road is to be closed to vehicles except for those of competitors.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

It is a condition of approval that the applicant consult with residents and businesses who may be affected by the road closure. NSW Police and Premier Illawarra have been consulted by the applicant.

9. WOLLONGONG, BELMORE STREET – CLOSURE BETWEEN RAILWAY PARADE AND VICTORIA STREET

BACKGROUND

Three construction companies working on large projects in Belmore Street have previously approached Council to close Belmore Street between Railway Parade and Victoria Street. The reason for the closure is to reduce the risk to the general public created by having three construction sites in close proximity. Local access is still allowed for residents, businesses and their visitors by way of traffic control.

The current road closure will continue until 19 April 2022 to 19 October 2022. The applicant has requested an extension for an additional 6 months to 19 April 2023.

PROPOSAL

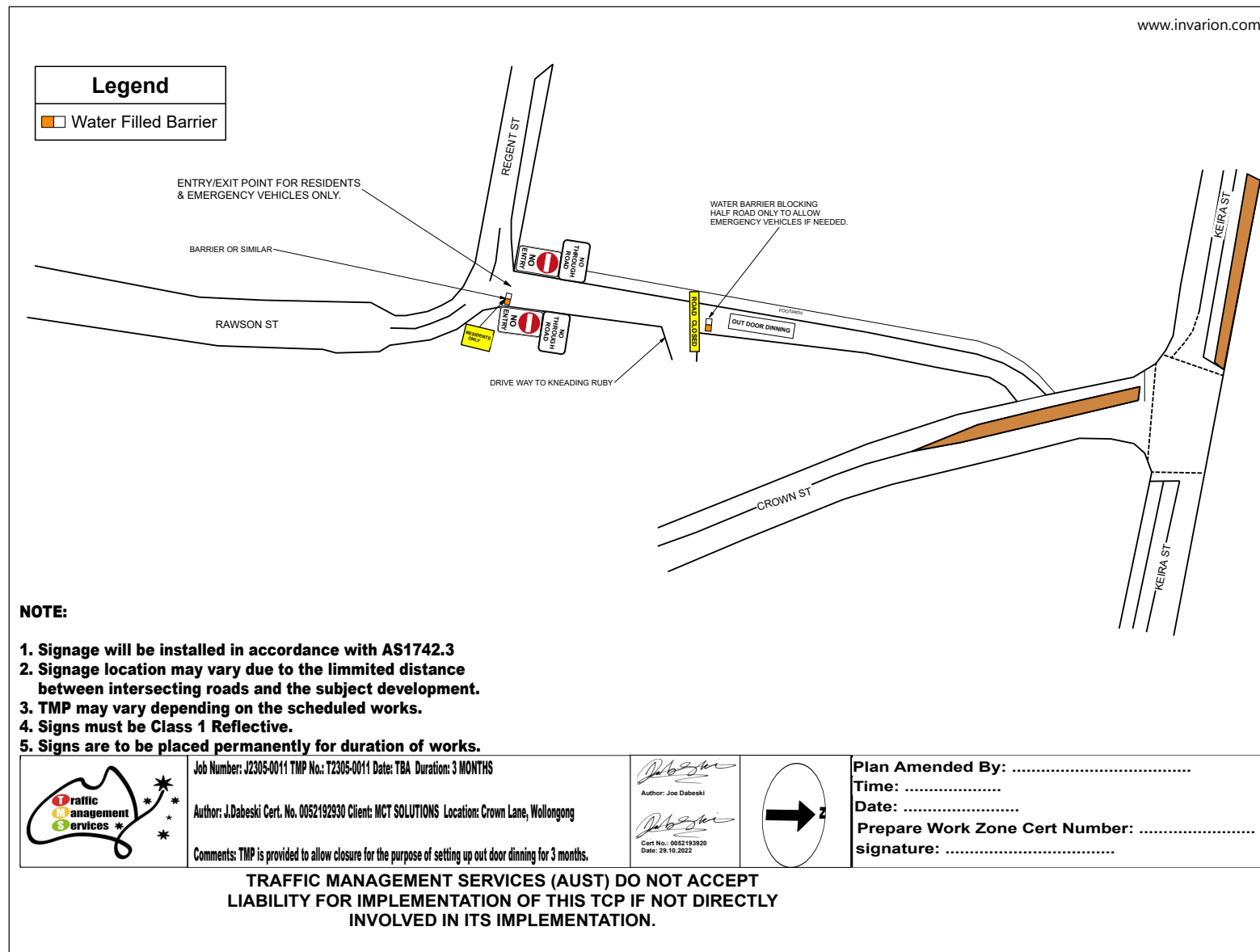
The proposed six month extension until 19 April 2023 of the road closure between 28 Belmore Street and Railway Parade, Wollongong, be approved subject to [Council's Standard Conditions for Road Closures](#) and the submitted Traffic Control Plans.

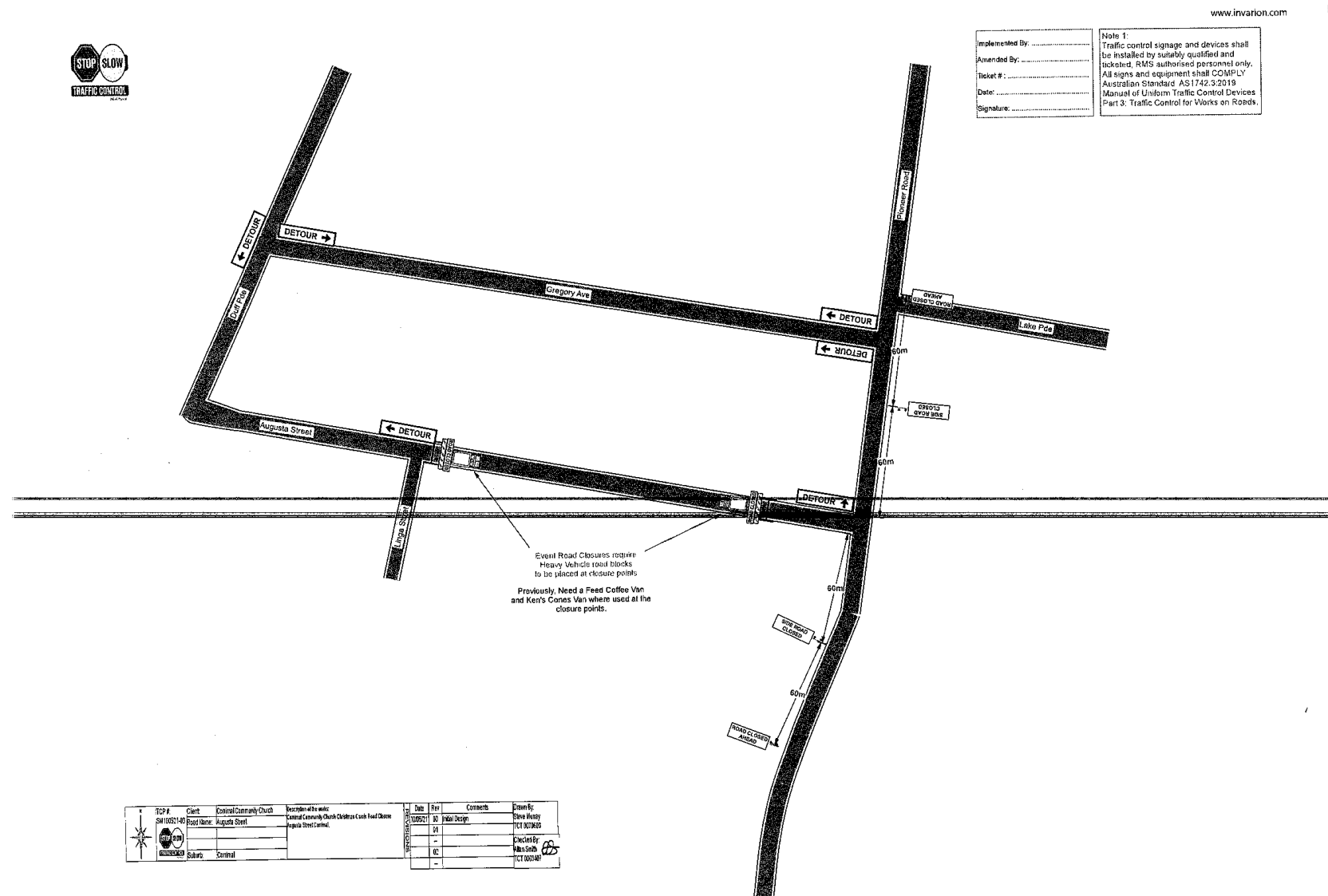
CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

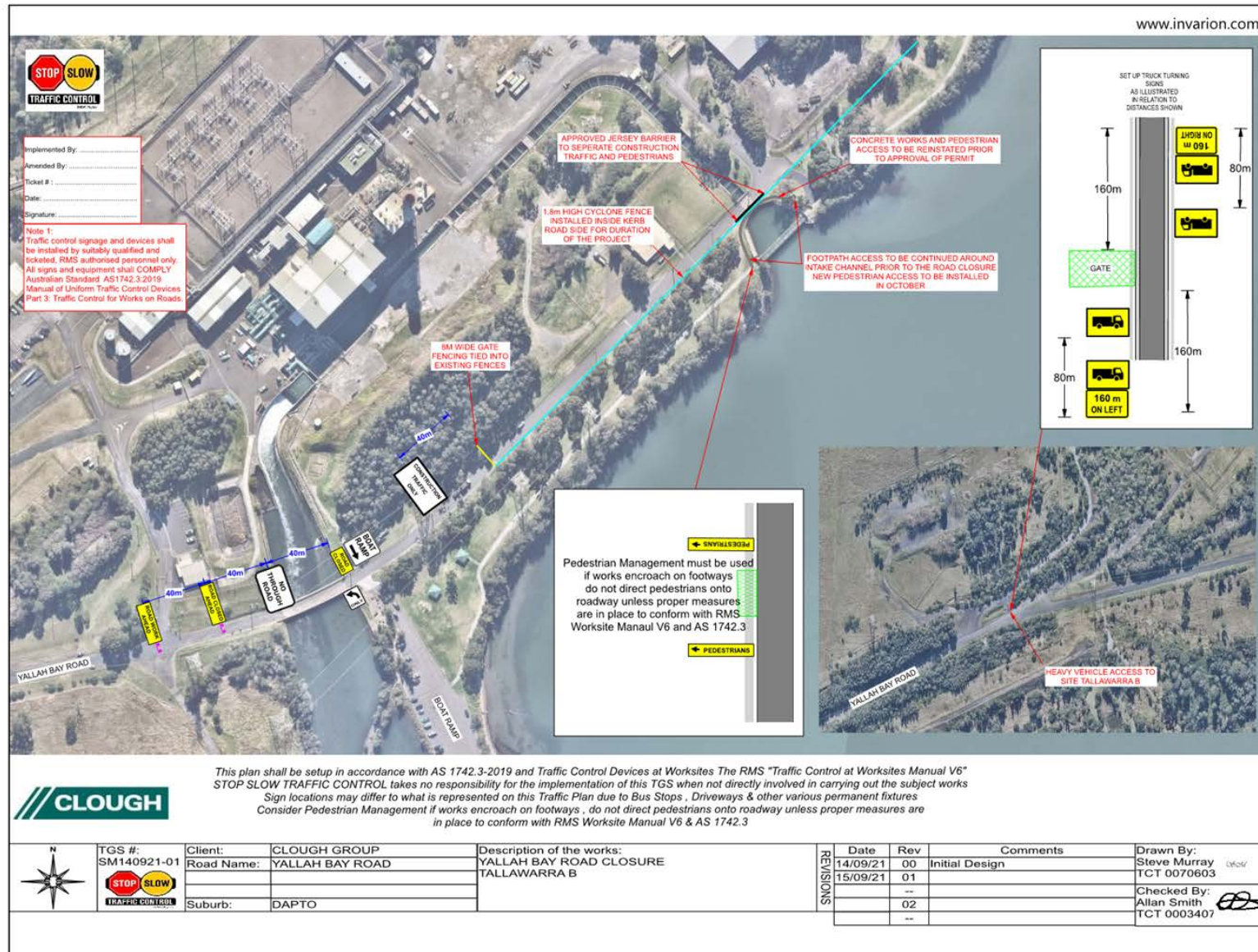
The applicant must contact surrounding residences and businesses again to notify them of the extension. Council can revoke this approval if fair and reasonable consultation has not occurred.

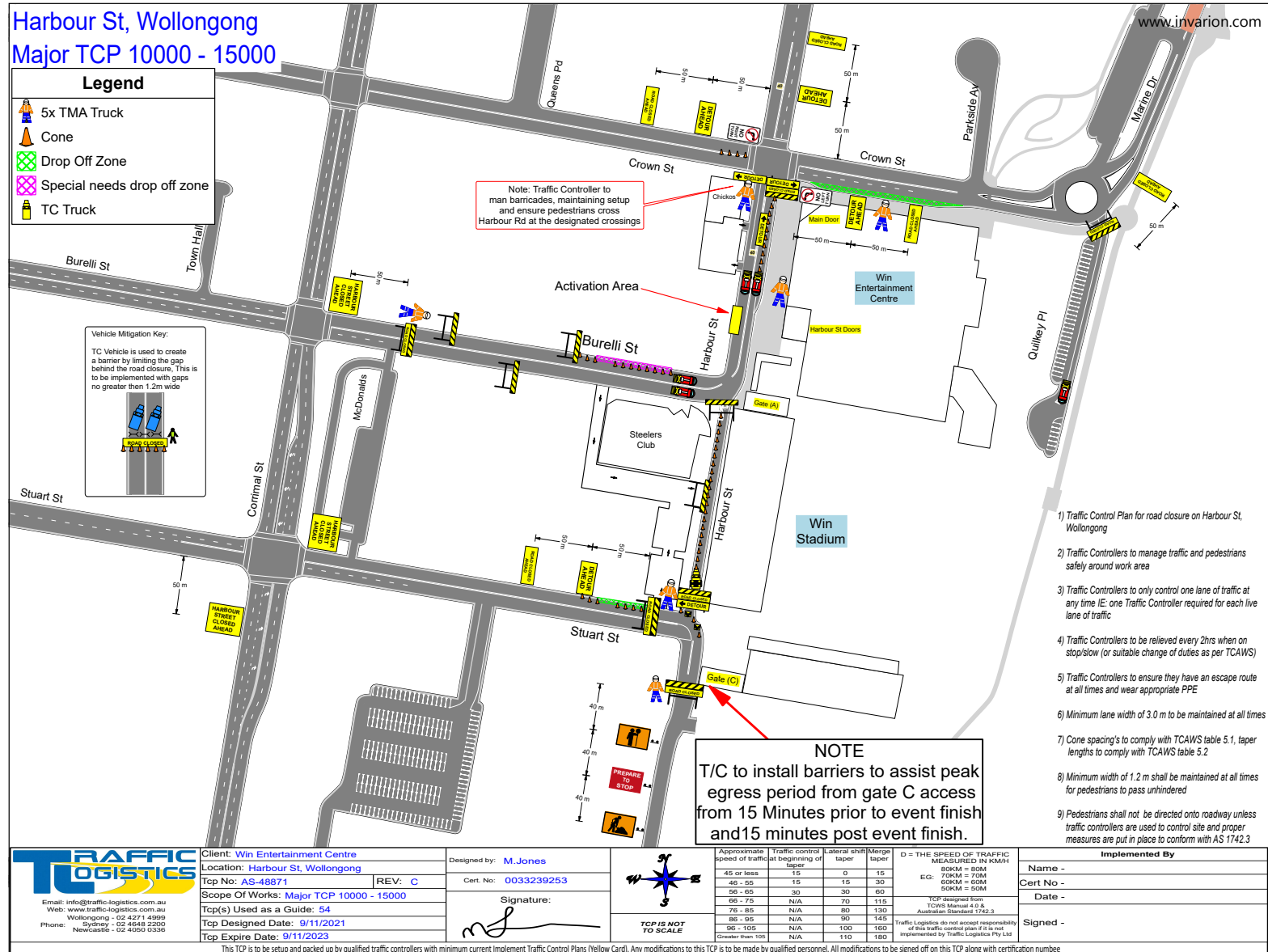
PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

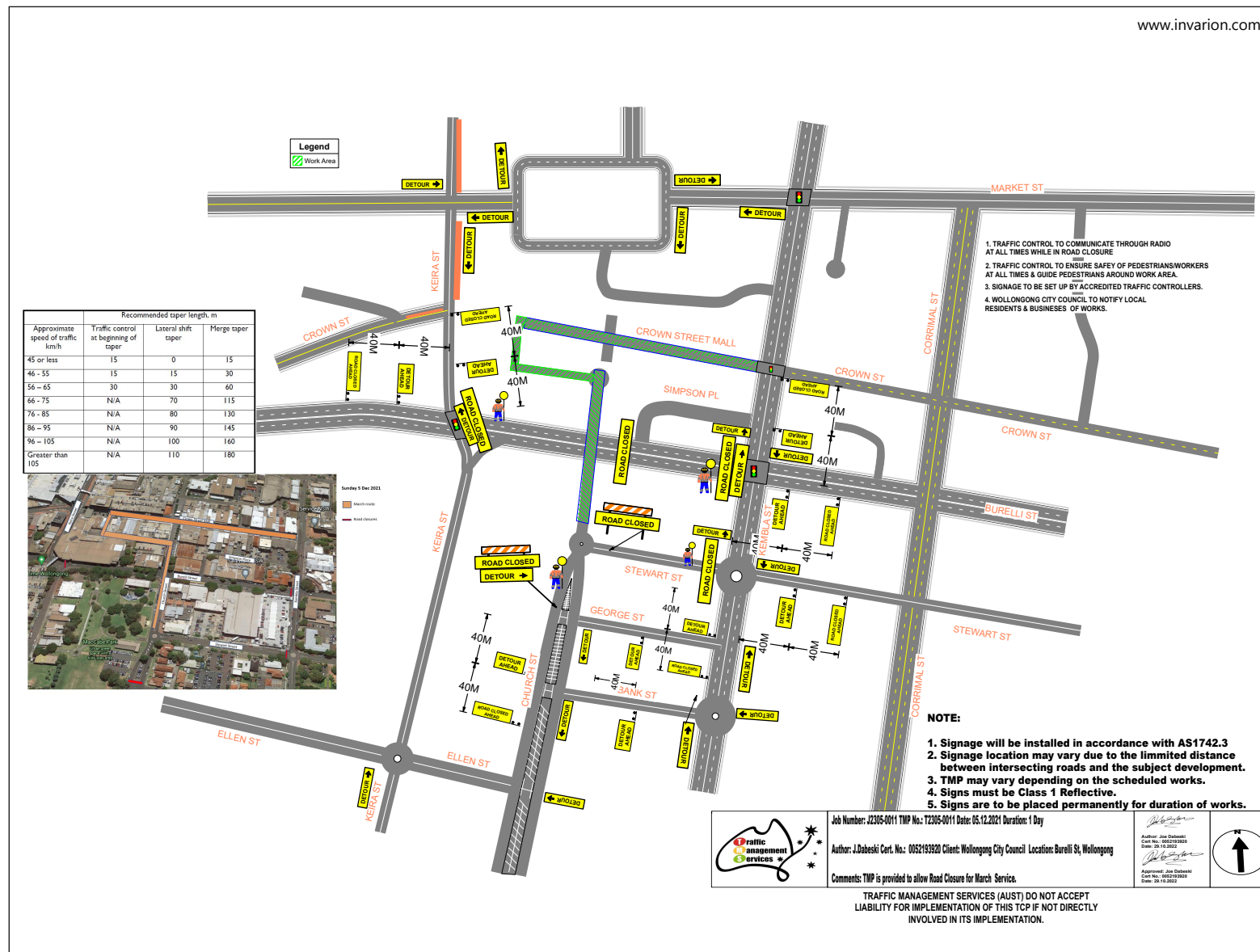
This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal “We have affordable and accessible transport”. It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Transport Services.











AUSTRALIA DAY AQUATHON

THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2023

Proposed TCP

Cliff road and Elliots Road



About

- Aquathon is a major summer event for Illawarra attaining national recognition
- Inception 1999
- The event includes Aquathon's (swim and run) of varying distances and a fun run/walk.
- 1200-1500 participants and 1000+ spectators expected from wider Illawarra and across NSW
- Over \$455,000 has been provided or fund raised to charities and non-for-profits since inception
- Ages range from 6 years to over 70.
- Operates successfully with a near perfect incident record
- Comprehensive risk planning, with appropriate event insurance, approvals and permits as WCC event licence, NSW Maritime Aquatic licence.
- Proposed road closure timing
- Cliff Road 6.30am-12.30pm
- Elliot's Road: 8.30am-10am

Traffic Considerations

- Australia Day and Aquathon are well known events with public aware of general road closures and activities that occur at Wollongong Harbour.
- Aquathon proposes a short 500m road closure on Cliff Road as per TCP
- 2022 Event operated under the same TCP with no incidents recorded
- Event organisers will liaise closely with local Traffic control group on road closures, and approval from Transport NSW (Traffic light signal) and Police
- Event organisers will liaise with local business and residents to provide early notice and communicate impact and work on any concerns.
- The closure will only (partly) directly affect one business (levendi)
- The closure will allow for all residents within affected closure on Cliff Road access for exit and entry (under TC guidance)
- Access to Osborne park is maintained for public (walkers, cyclists) and emergency
- Local resident and business notifications Minimal 14 days prior
- Gong Shuttle: Affected times 9.40am-11am (public holiday schedule)
- Delayed start to 11am or re-route* TBC with Premier Illawarra
- Emergency lane will be created on western side of cliff road pending no stalls (WCC Australia Day event manager to confirm)

Request for WCC closure of 5-6 parking bays along cliff road

- In prior years WCC staff have closed off the parking bays along east side of Cliff road, parallel to Belmore Basin in the morning of the day prior to the event 25th January.
- This is allow's Aquathon to place part of the finish shute along the gutter in readiness to complete on event morning.
- **Given the short lead in time on event day is critical to begin the finish shute CCB placement the day prior.**
- Aquathon staff can assist placement of barriers and will have security on site the evening of 25/1/23 to 6am on 26/1/23
- Image attached for reference



Section 1: Cliff Road Closure Point

6.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday 26 January 2023





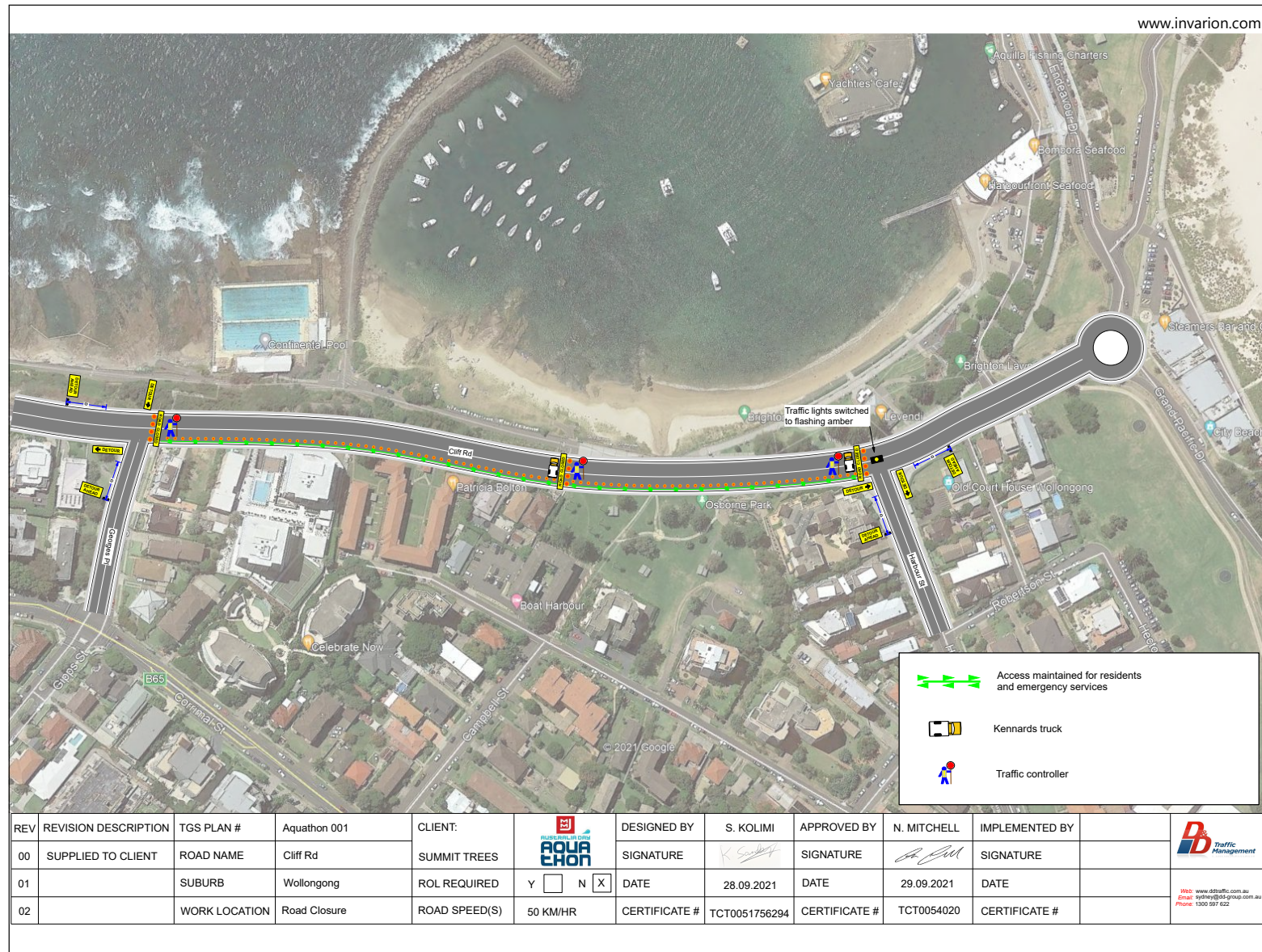
Elliot's Road Fairy Meadow

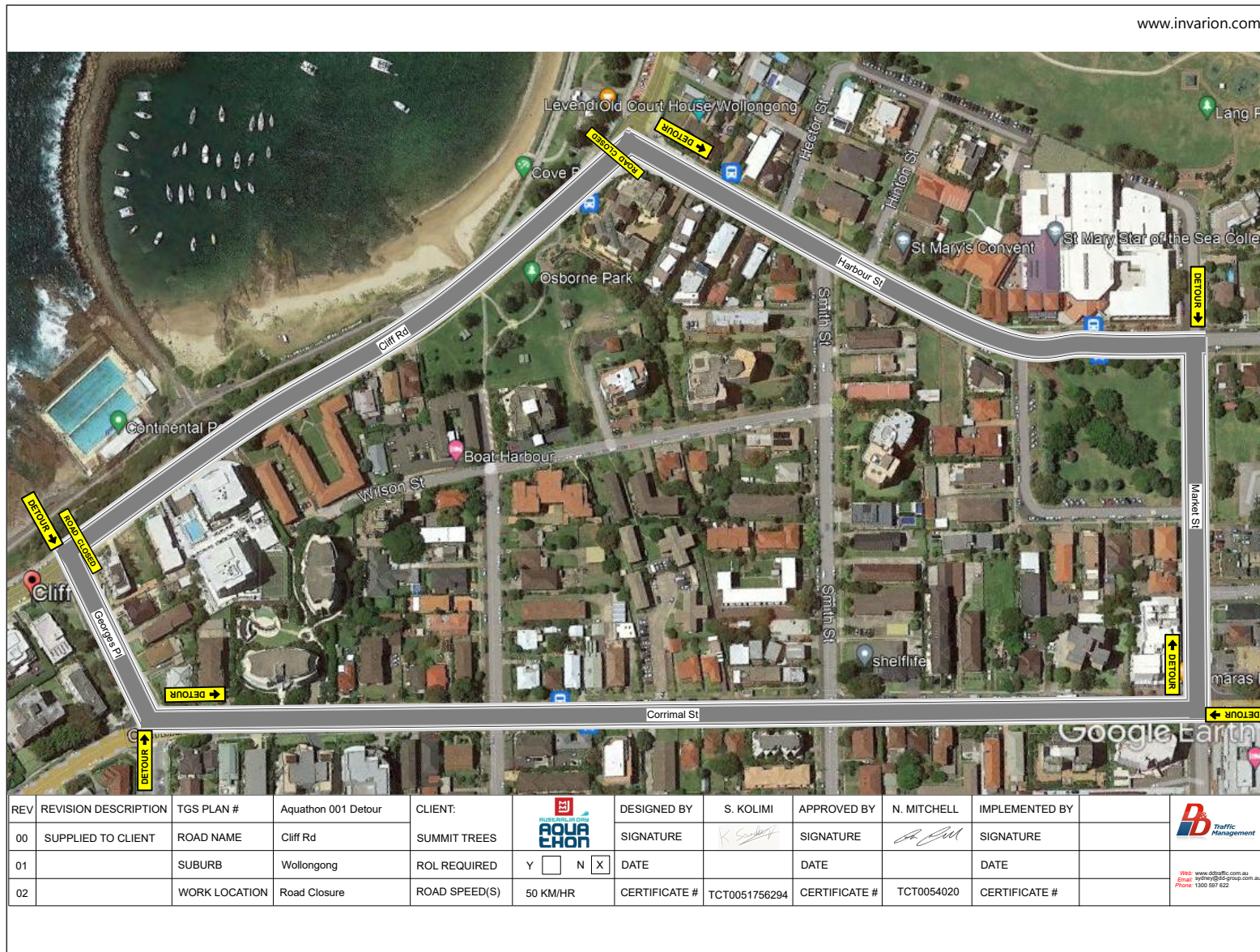
- 8.30am – 10am
- Thursday 26 January 2023

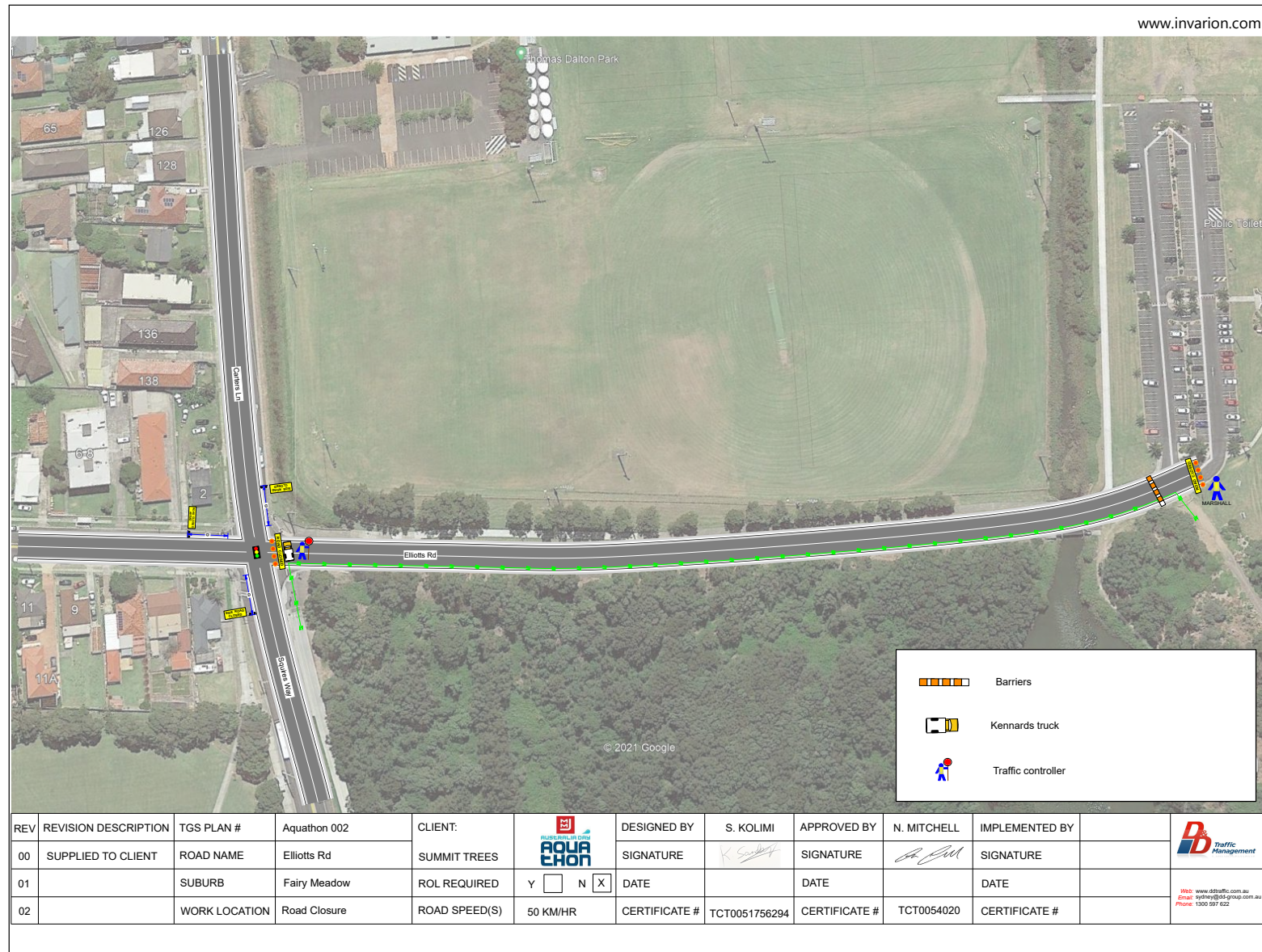
Traffic Considerations

- Closure 8.30am-10am
- Runners will arrive southbound on the cycle path parallel to Squires Road (heading north) from 8.30am – 9.45am.
- Runners keeping to right side of the road (Elliot's road)
- Bunting/witches hats to ensure runners keep to right of lane
- Pedestrian access will be maintained on exiting pathway.
- Signage and course marshals to advise of event in progress.
- Barriers/vehicle to close off fairy meadow surf club car park (public) during closure period
- Fairy Meadow surf club will be consulted to ensure appropriate access for patrol members and emergency is maintained
- Emergency access maintained
- Slip lane open (emergency only) on northern side
- Warning signs for public car park exit not allowed in place

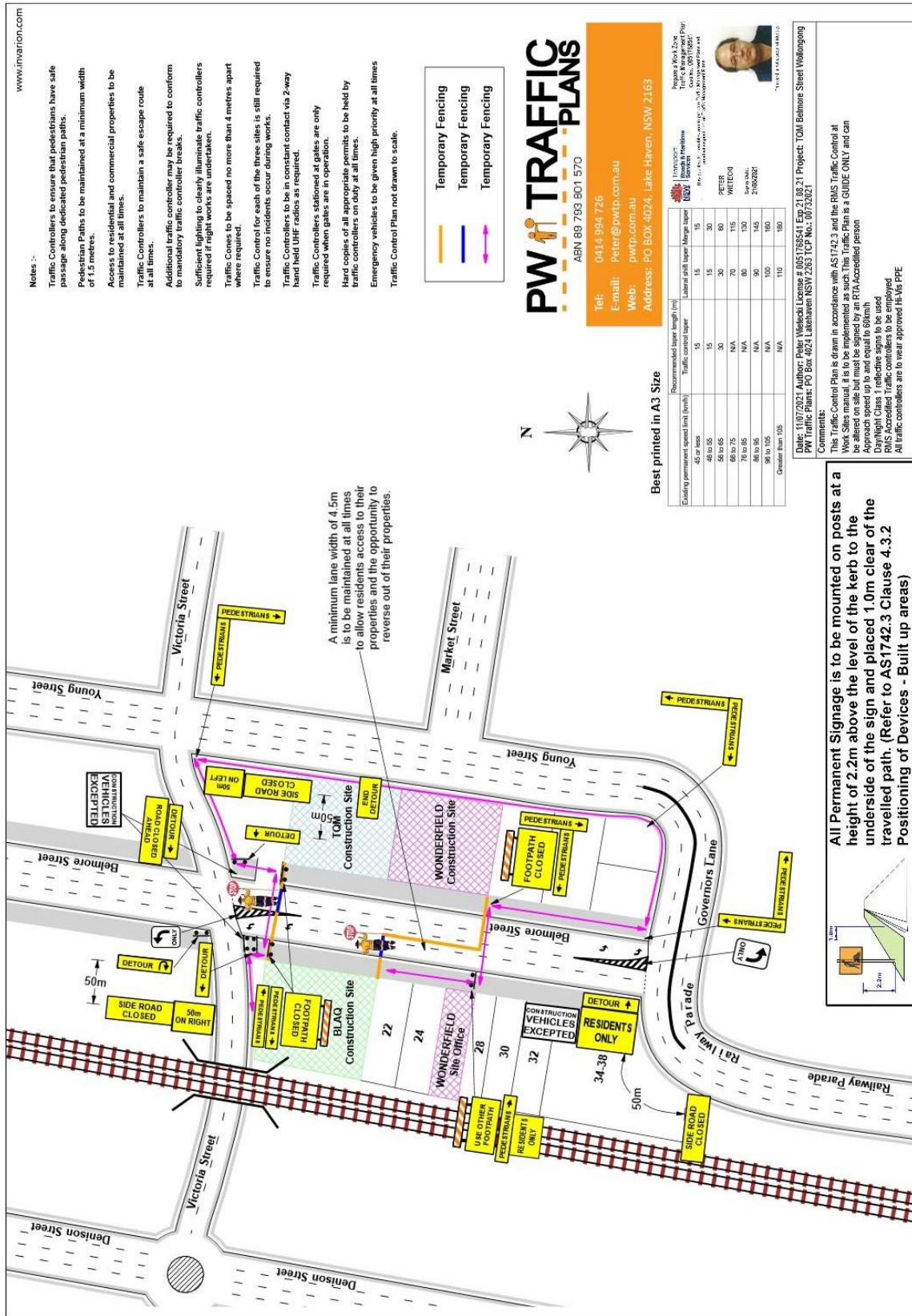




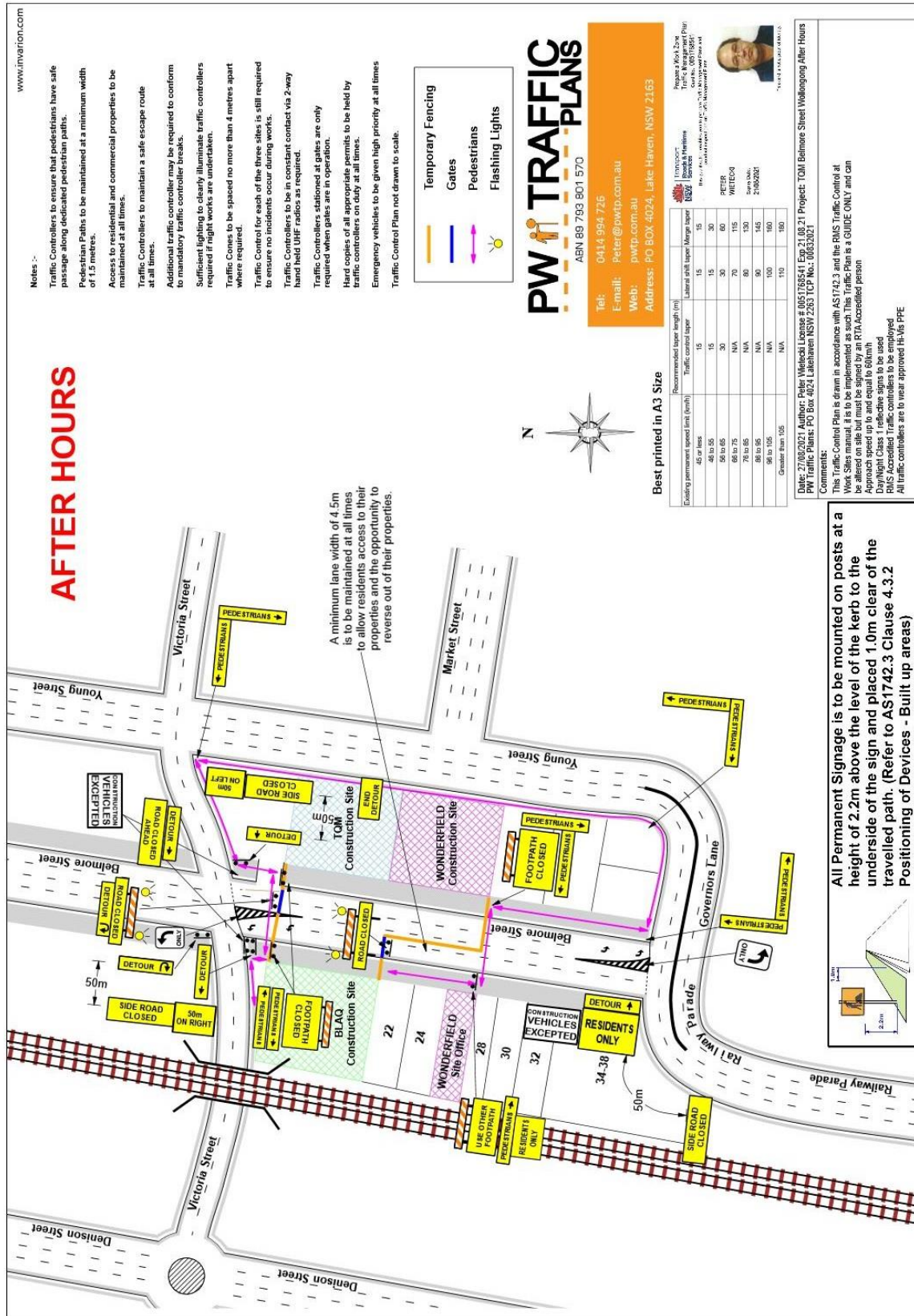




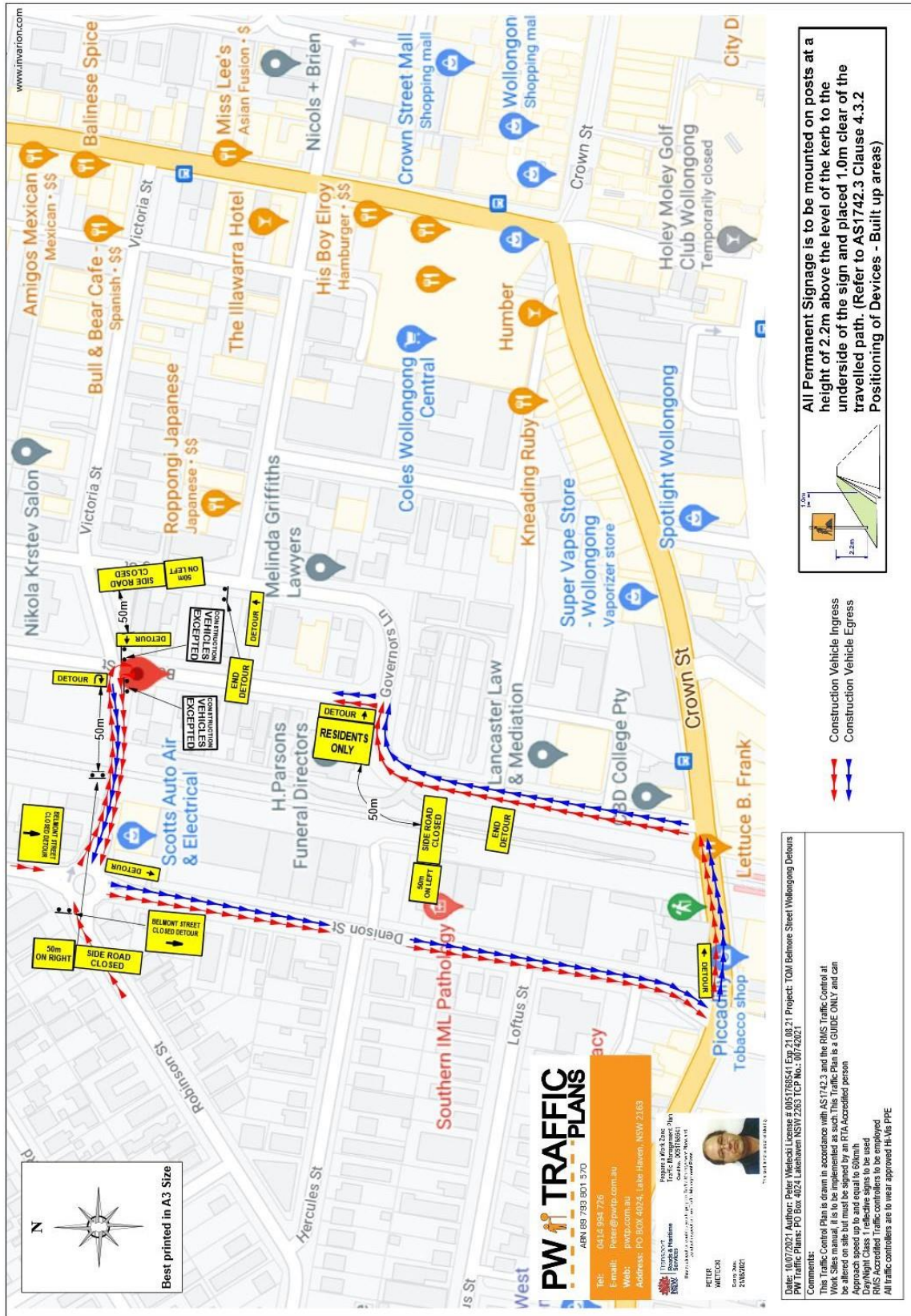
Belmore Street Wollongong TCP - Page 1 of 3



Belmore Street Wollongong TCP - Page 2 of 3



Belmore Street Wollongong TCP - Page 3 of 3



ITEM 17 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR LINDA CAMPBELL - LAKE ILLAWARRA

Councillor Linda Campbell has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council officers engage the Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing, and Paul Scully MP, to continue to develop effective plans in conjunction with State government agencies consistent with the Adopted Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan for short and medium-term works on the foreshore park at Windang with a view to work being completed prior to summer 2023.
- 2 Council continue to work through the implementation plan and priorities of the 2021 adopted and certified Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan, including actions that relate to investigating options to manage erosion in and around the lake entrance (EC1), monitoring changes in the entrance channel (EC4), and undertaking small scale emergency action to manage site specific erosion if required (EC3).
- 3 Regular updates be provided to residents residing in suburbs adjoining Lake foreshore areas and that these include, but are not limited to, on site information stalls.
- 4 Updated information on funds received, works already undertaken and priorities for projects planned for the Lake is made available to residents and the link to online information is promoted to residents.
- 5 Information be provided to Councillors about the Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study when the information is available.
- 6 As part of the next scheduled review of the Lake Illawarra CMP the investigation of potential safe swimming areas be considered as an action. This may include Windang, Kanahooka, or other Lake side suburbs.
- 7 When sites are identified for future trails of hot coal bins Windang be considered as a potential site.

Background provided by Councillor Linda Campbell:

The concerns of Windang residents have been expressed through a variety of forums and avenues and suggest that we need to improve the information available about the complexities of the dynamic coastal environment of Lake Illawarra.

Providing updates on the resources and planning that have been invested into the management of this important natural resource by Council, our neighbour Council and the myriad of state bodies who have responsibility for the Lake will provide residents with clarity.

Events like the “Luv the Lake” event staff attended recently to discuss the CMP and progress on the implementation of the plan are one example of how information can be shared.

The importance of the Lake to residents is clear. Their concerns, participation and support of this asset are valued, valid and vital. It is important that we make accurate and current information available so that people are aware of the range of activity and works undertaken and planned for Lake Illawarra and how to find new information.

ITEM 18

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR RICHARD MARTIN - BULLI AND THIRROUL TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS

Councillor Richard Martin has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 An information note be delivered to Councillors to enable them to update the community appropriately on traffic issues in Thirroul. The information note should include communication from Transport for NSW responding to Council’s submissions on:
 - a Alternative local road connections
 - b Alternative intersection improvements
 - c Reducing speed limits
 - d Improvement to existing public car parks
 - e Improved on-street parking, formalising King Street Reserve into a car park
 - f Reconfigure Station Street parking
 - g Improve beach parking (Mary Street / The Esplanade)
- 2 Council writes to Transport for NSW for an update and status on each of the above points for providing a solution to the traffic issues in Thirroul.”

Background provided by Councillor Richard Martin:

Transport for NSW has been developing options to improve the traffic efficiency and reliability of the Princes Highway at Bulli and Lawrence Hargrave Drive at Thirroul.

The community consultation was started by Transport for NSW in late 2019 and extended to July 2021, raising expectation that the traffic issues would be addressed. There were 821 submissions made on the Bulli proposal and 903 submissions on the Thirroul proposals.

The Feedback Summary Report for Bulli was released in December 2021 with works commencing in February 2022.

A Project Update for Thirroul was released in December 2021 to advise the community that Transport for NSW will not be progressing with either of the options as the community did not believe that either of the proposed options would meet their needs.

The full Thirroul Feedback Summary Report was released in April 2022. The report makes a mention of working with Wollongong Council in 13 suggestions, and a further 5 references where suggestions were referred to Wollongong City Council for comment.