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ITEM 5 POST EXHIBITION - SUSTAINABLE WOLLONGONG 2030: A CLIMATE HEALTHY CITY STRATEGY

The inaugural Environmental Sustainability Strategy was adopted by Council in 2014 and to date has guided the development and delivery of various plans, strategies and programs.

More recently Council has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote the long-term environmental sustainability of the city, including membership of the Global Covenant of Mayors and Cities Power Partnership Program, declaration of a Climate Emergency and adoption of emissions reduction targets for the city and Council's operations.

Given Council is committed to creating a sustainable and climate resilient city, a review of its Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2022 was undertaken. The result was the development of the draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy (draft Strategy) which aimed to provide high-level strategic direction for Council's activities and programs.

At its meeting of 29 June 2020, Council endorsed the draft Strategy for public exhibition. The draft document was exhibited from 1 July to 12 August 2020. The exhibition resulted in 41 submissions from the community, which included 33 online feedback forms and 8 written submissions.

In response to the submissions, an updated draft Strategy has been prepared, which includes the addition of one new sustainability outcome, four new actions to address issues such as vertebrate pest and weed management, food security and content additions to several priority areas. Minor wording and formatting changes have also been made throughout the document.

This report recommends that the updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy be adopted by Council to supersede the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2022 and that the Environmental Sustainability Policy be repealed.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy, as attached in this report, be adopted by Council.
- 2 The existing Environmental Sustainability Policy be repealed.

### **REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of:Chris Stewart, Manager City StrategyAuthorised by:Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Sustainable Wollongong 2030: Submissions in Reply Report
- 2 Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy

### BACKGROUND

### **Development of the draft Strategy**

Council's inaugural Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2022 (2014 Strategy) has guided the development and delivery of various plans, strategies and programs, to promote the environmental sustainability of Council's operations and the city since its adoption.

In August 2017, Council became a signatory to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), which commits Council to a series of activities to achieve a resilient and low-emission society.

Subsequently, Council has completed an inventory of the city's emissions sources and set emissions reduction targets for the community and Council's own operations. Council has also declared that we are in a state of climate emergency which requires urgent action from all levels of government. To support this and our GCoM commitments Council has also joined the Cities Power Partnership (CPP).



At its meeting on 25 June 2018, Council considered a report on the Environmental Sustainability Policy review and resolved -

That the item stand deferred until it can be reviewed in conjunction with the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

In completing a review of the 2014 Strategy and associated policy, Council staff undertook a comprehensive engagement process throughout 2019 and in early 2020, further information on this process is provided in the consultation and communication section of this report. Based on the outcomes of this process the draft Strategy was prepared, which aimed to address and respond to community issues, priorities and sentiment.

The draft Strategy provided a high-level strategic direction for Council's activities and programs. It prescribed a suite of high-level actions to be delivered through the supporting documents, plans and programs across six priority areas and associated goals, in addition to actions to address gaps in Council's current programs.

### Public Exhibition

At its meeting on 29 June 2020, Council considered a report on the draft Strategy and resolved -

- 1 The draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 42 days.
- 2 Following public exhibition, a further report be provided to Council on the submissions received and any amendments proposed, seeking adoption of the Strategy.

Engagement and promotion of the Strategy through the public exhibition process included the following -

- A community engagement webpage and information sent to customer service -
  - Copy of draft Strategy
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - Online feedback form
  - Open Q&A which allowed participants to ask questions and receive a response.
- Media promotion -
  - Facebook
  - Media releases
- Email to 178 external stakeholders
- Email to persons on the register of interest
- Internal consultation through the Climate Action Working Groups and specific technical staff.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions no community sessions were able to be conducted and access to information through Council's libraries was not possible.

### Outcomes of the exhibition

The response to the exhibition was as follows -

- 283 people visited the project page on Council's engagement website
- 156 people downloaded the draft Strategy or FAQ sheet
- A total of 41 submissions were received -
  - 33 submissions through the online feedback form
  - 4 group written submissions; Citizen Climate Lobby, Food Fairness Illawarra and Neighbourhood Forum 5 (x2)
  - 4 individual written submissions
- 98% of submissions were supportive of the draft Strategy, which equates to 40 out of 41 submissions. The unsupportive submission did not believe in climate change but was supportive of the priority areas to reduce water consumption and waste



- There was significant support for the Vision and the six priority areas
- Many submissions requested minor additions, amendments or suggested other potential considerations for inclusion in the Strategy.

A summary of the top ten issues and response is provided in Table 2 under the Consultation and Communication heading. A detailed Submissions in Reply Report is also provided (see Attachment 1).

Many of the issues raised were already actions or information included in the Strategy or in associated strategies and plans. This includes:

- climate change mitigation and resilience
- FOGO
- environmental education
- working with our community
- natural disasters
- water conservation
- advocacy.

Notwithstanding this, Council staff determined some changes to the Strategy were warranted, being wording amendments, the addition of new actions and a new sustainability outcome.

### PROPOSAL

As identified above a number of changes to the draft Strategy are proposed in response to the feedback from public exhibition, these changes include both wording modifications to actions and the addition of new actions/ sustainability outcomes, summarised as follows -

- Simplifying wording in the vision
- Minor wording changes to some of the priority area and associated goals
- Changes to the ESD commentary and the addition of SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- Addition of information about the transition to a renewable economy
- Changes to the wording of action T6 working with the Aboriginal community
- Changes to actions C4 and C5 as they were duplicate actions
- Addition of equitable access to energy to action E6
- Addition of information about vertebrate pest management and more detail about food security
- Addition of actions about weeds and vertebrate pest management and food security
- Addition of a pest species sustainability outcome
- Addition of relevant SDGs and numbers to each of the priority areas
- Addition of numbers to actions in each Priority Area.

There are now 34 sustainability outcomes (previously 33) and 42 high level actions in the strategy (previously 40). Other minor wording changes throughout the document have been made to clarify statements and simplify wording. The revised vision for the Strategy is -

Together, we're creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Wollongong is a thriving, low waste, low emissions city in harmony with its environment.

The draft Strategy documents the global, national, state and local context for sustainability action, the role of Council and identifies the six (6) priority areas for action (see Table 1 below). Each of the priority areas has a goal that depicts what a sustainable Wollongong will look like and a series of sustainability outcomes for us to strive toward.



Priority Area	Goal
A city whose council shows leadership	Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision-making and service delivery which inspires the same in others
A city that works together	Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase our resilience to climate change
A low emissions city	We will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, and together we will achieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the city
A city in harmony with our environment	Our ecosystems and waterways are enhanced, our urban areas are cooler and greener and our community is connected to our natural environment
A low waste city	Our community only take what they need, reuse and recycle what they can and are aware of the resources that they consume
A climate and water resilient city	Our infrastructure and community can adapt to a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource

### Strategy Delivery

A suite of high-level actions have been developed for each of the priority areas in the draft Strategy. It is envisaged that the implementation of these actions will contribute to achieving the goals and sustainability outcomes in the draft Strategy and will result in measurable improvements for our environment and the resilience of our city.

Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework will provide accountability to the community and other key Council stakeholders, through the Quarterly and Annual Reports which document our progress in implementing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

It is also intended to develop a 'Sustainability Dashboard' to measure the outcomes of the programs/actions that we implement and measure our progress towards the targets identified in the draft Strategy and ultimately achieving the goals. By using an outcomes framework, we can regularly monitor and report on the impact that we are having.

### **Environmental Sustainability Policy**

In 2014, Council adopted an Environmental Sustainability Policy ('Policy') to complement the 2014 Strategy. The Policy is high level and does not directly influence operations or projects. Given the lack of direct relationship or applicability of the Policy to specific works or operations its effectiveness is questioned.

Climate change and broader sustainability considerations have been included in the draft Strategy. Additionally, both the draft Strategy and draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan include actions to undertake a wider policy and supporting document review to incorporate sustainability and climate provisions into all Council decision making. It is considered that this bespoke approach will be much more effective in integrating environmental sustainability into Council's operations and services.

It is therefore recommended that the existing Policy be repealed.

### CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Submissions in Reply Report (Attachment 1) includes detailed analysis of the online feedback and written submissions received and the proposed responses. Comments from the submissions were categorised into 51 unique themes or issues.

A summary of the top ten issues and a proposed response is provided in Table 2 below:



### Table 2: Summary of the top comments from the online feedback and written submissions and proposed response

Issue Category	Summary	Proposed Response
Strong support for the vision, each of the priority areas and for Council demonstrating leadership and working with the community	<ul> <li>Climate and environmental considerations should underpin all decision making at all levels of government, as they underpin everything we do - our lives literally depend on it.</li> <li>Climate change is the biggest threat to mankind and we need strong political leadership and action.</li> <li>We as a community need to protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change in order to have a healthy environment for our children and grandchildren, and the rest of the world.</li> </ul>	Council is committed to showing leadership and working with our community, businesses and government agencies to create a climate healthy and sustainable Wollongong. Leadership and working with the community actions are covered by Priority Areas 1 and 2 and are addressed by seven actions in each priority area as well as the implementation of existing plans and strategies. <b>Changes:</b> Some wording clarifications were made to the vision and priority areas. Information was added in relation to support for businesses and transitioning to a renewable economy.
Recycling and FOGO	<ul> <li>Stronger targets in relation to recycling.</li> <li>Roll out FOGO across the LGA.</li> <li>Stronger commitment by Council to include recycled content materials in procurement.</li> <li>Develop comprehensive recycling and reprocessing facilities in the LGA (Green industry).</li> </ul>	Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill and increasing resource recovery. The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy includes actions to promote recycling associated with both infrastructure and education. Council continues to plan for and deliver this strategy. The rollout of FOGO has been endorsed by Council and will be undertaken across the LGA during 2020. Commercial businesses such as cafes and restaurants do not pay the Council waste levy and are responsible for their own waste management. There are several local contractors that can accept organic waste dependent on the waste stream. Priority Area 5: <i>A low waste city</i> assists in addressing these issues, specifically the following actions: W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy. W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event managers and stallholders to avoid and reduce waste, and reduce water and energy consumption of events. W3 Continue to roll out the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) program across the City.



Issue Category	Summary	Proposed Response
		W4 Coordinate community environmental programs, such as Rise and Shine, Community Service Order Scheme, Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day, Schools Enviro Day, National Recycling Week, International Composting Week and other sustainability/ waste education activities. No change required.
Urgent action to reduce emission	<ul> <li>Urgently reducing GHG emissions is the most important thing to keep our planet thriving for future generations.</li> <li>I support low emissions targets, but 2050 is not soon enough.</li> <li>This is not good enough 2050!!!! It should be much sooner with drastic change this could be done by 2030.</li> </ul>	The draft Strategy and the draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan (CCMP) both include priority areas that focus on Council demonstrating climate leadership. The draft CCMP is intended to be the first of many plans which will aim to reduce emissions in our city. There are a number of actions in the draft Strategy and CCMP that detail Council's commitment to climate change mitigation leadership. Council has also exceeded requirement of the Global Covenant of Mayors, in adopting an emissions reduction target for its own operations as well as a target for the city. By committing to an aspirational target of net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, Council is demonstrating leadership for the city and supporting its recent declaration of a State of Climate Emergency. <b>Changes:</b> No change to the Council endorsed target however the draft CCMP
Climate Justice and Equity	<ul> <li>Climate justice should feature in this plan - it is not enough to act on climate change if those actions reinforce the injustices that already exist in our society.</li> <li>There is no consideration of equity in this strategy. It should be included in every priority area.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Endorsed target nowever the draft CCMP has been updated to further address this issue.</li> <li>Equity is included in the strategic context and throughout the strategy. Vulnerable communities are considered in the draft Strategy and specific actions are included in the draft CCMP. Both the draft Strategy and the CCMP strive to ensure that vulnerable communities are not left behind.</li> <li>Changes: Amendment to action E3 - Continue to pursue commitments and actions under the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, including equitable access to energy.</li> <li>Update to Priority Area 4 and addition of actions (below) relating to food security –</li> <li>H8 increase the community's knowledge of locations and availability of low cost and free meals.</li> </ul>



Issue Category	Summary	Proposed Response
		<ul> <li>H9 Increase local food system resilience through supporting local agencies in their response to food security.</li> <li>H10 Continue to support the establishment of community gardens on appropriate public spaces through the Community Gardens Policy.</li> </ul>
Litter	<ul> <li>Enforce litter act and pollution controls on building sites.</li> <li>Install and maintain gross pollutant traps on all stormwater outlets.</li> <li>Create a "fisherman for healthy seas" anti-littering campaign.</li> <li>Facilitate Ocean friendly accreditation program.</li> </ul>	Council's Development Compliance branch undertake site inspections in response to pollution offences, poor sediment controls and other poor environmental measures. Targeted audits are also undertaken in high risk areas such as new subdivisions. These audits provide the ability to provide education to the builders on minor breaches however penalties and/or legal documentation are issued if severe breaches are identified.
		Stormwater quality improvement devices are installed and maintained throughout the city as part of our stormwater management program. This program is reviewed and new devices are added as resourcing allows and according to strategic priorities.
		Council also runs a number of programs to remove litter from our environment where volunteers remove litter from public spaces and record what they collect. This helps us understand sources and volumes of litter in order to target our programs and infrastructure.
		We've installed Fishing Tackle bins at 12 popular fishing locations in our area, thanks to help from Australian Sea Bird Rescue South Coast and West Wollongong Rotary.
		Council is supportive of the Ocean Friendly accreditation program and the work being undertaken by the Surfrider Foundation to reduce litter and the use of single use plastics.
		No changes required.
Single Use Plastics	<ul> <li>Ban Single Use Plastics.</li> <li>Use DA to enforce that shops and shopping centres need to be plastic free.</li> </ul>	Council does not have the ability to ban single use plastics across the LGA. Council is a partner in the Plastic Free Wollongong program, which encourages and provides incentives for residents and businesses to avoid single use plastics.



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Issue Category	Summary	Proposed Response
	<ul> <li>Plastic Free Wollongong ran out of grant funding and now seems to be disbanded/occasionally run by volunteers at events. Council should fund it.</li> <li>The single use plastics paragraph could include "working with council leased venues to phase out single use plastics." These venues will not change unless its a condition of their lease</li> </ul>	In addition, Council has a Single Use Plastics Management Policy that aims to ensure that all council run events are delivered without the use of single use plastics. Council continues to investigate to reduce single use plastics from Council operations and will investigate opportunities to included stronger waste and sustainability provisions in leases upon renewal. Council has and will continue to advocate to corporations, state and federal governments regarding the banning of single use plastics.
		The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy includes actions to promote recycling associated with both infrastructure and education. Council continues to plan for and deliver this strategy.
		Priority Area 5: <i>A low waste city</i> also seeks to address these issues, specifically the following actions:
		W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy.
		W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event managers and stallholders to avoid and reduce waste, and reduce water and energy consumption of events.
		No changes required.
Water resilience	• There is still so much ignorance around reducing water use I see it regularly we need more education and better infrastructure ASAP.	Council will continue to promote water conservation programs within the community and ensure that community facilities and assets are both water and energy efficient.
	<ul> <li>advocate for a desalination plant at Port Kembla, powered by renewable energy.</li> <li>Our current community and</li> </ul>	Investment in water conservation and recycling infrastructure is the primary responsibility of Sydney Water, however, Council has an advocacy role.
	infrastructure may not be able to adapt, but it's something to work towards. We need greater investment in water conservation and recycling, but also education and increasing community awareness is a big part of this.	Council advocates to the State and Federal governments on a number of environmental issues, including those raised in the submission. An environmental education plan is
	• I want Council to be more active in working to stop all mining under dams, and the general pollution of our water catchment by mine subsidence, and other activities.	currently being developed which will look at sustainable behaviours and how council can educate, engage with and support the community to become more environmentally sustainable.



Ordinary Meeting of Council

city of innovation		
Issue Category	Summary	Proposed Response
		Water resilience is discussed throughout the Strategy and specifically in Priority Area 6 and the following actions -
		C3 Update the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter in the DCP.
		C4 Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design and performance standards for all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities.
		C5 Review the Wollongong DCP to identify and incorporate opportunities to promote sustainable development across the city.
		C6 Plan for the provision of effective blue and green infrastructure through strategic urban planning processes.
		E1 Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design and performance standards for all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities
		No changes required.
Food Security	<ul> <li>More information regarding native plants and aboriginal techniques, as they have lived on this land for so long needs to be provided.</li> <li>Consider promoting plant-based food</li> </ul>	Council has a number of strategies plans and programs included in the Delivery Plan and Operational Plan focussed on improving community connection, volunteering opportunities and access to food.
	as opposed to animal products and remove them from Council meetings.	The Urban Greening Strategy is currently being implemented, including consideration of food trees
		Sustainability workshops are regularly held at the Wollongong Botanic Garden Discovery Centre. Council has also produced 2 Grow Local Guides (Native Plant and Edible Plants) that are available to residents.
		Aboriginal connection to Country and traditional sustainable living practices is something that needs further exploration.
		Catering for Council functions is reviewed regularly. This has been passed on to the relevant division for consideration.
		Under the Strategy Priority Area 4 – A City in Harmony with our Environment outlines our commitments in relation to food system resilience and food security.



Issue Category	Summary	Proposed Response
		<b>Changes:</b> Additional commentary has been added to Priority Area 4, along with the addition of actions -
		H8 increase the community's knowledge of locations and availability of low cost and free meals.
		H9 Increase local food system resilience through supporting local agencies in their response to food security.
		H10 Continue to support the establishment of community gardens on appropriate public spaces through the Community Gardens Policy.
Development	<ul> <li>Better waste management in CBD apartment areas.</li> <li>Expand development controls to include energy/water efficient buildings, waste (including bins, food and</li> </ul>	Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) outlines provisions for waste storage facilities for multi-unit dwellings to minimise the number of bins required to be on site.
	<ul> <li>Council's planning regime should no longer promote medium density development in areas remote from services and public transport.</li> </ul>	Council will consider housing density as part of its consideration of the Local Strategic Planning Statement, development of a Housing Strategy and any updates to the Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan.
	<ul> <li>Its planning regime should no longer promote fragmentation of urban vegetation at the rear of new development but require it to be integrated into street connectivity.</li> </ul>	The state government also has a range of policies which allow for medium density development without the consent of Council.
	<ul> <li>Council should push back on and not allow population growth.</li> </ul>	The implementation Urban Greening Strategy aims to reduce urban vegetation fragmentation and promote the planting of large trees in public open space.
		Council has and continues to develop policies and strategies to ensure that growth and associated urban development is balanced with social and environmental issues, including Development Control Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and Town Centre Plans.
		No changes required.
Water Refill Stations	<ul> <li>Improved access to water refill stations.</li> <li>Plastic water bottle free city. More water refilling stations. Opt in for businesses to be plastic water bottle free.</li> </ul>	Council does not have the ability to ban plastic water bottles across the LGA. Council is a partner in the Plastic Free Wollongong program, which encourages and provides incentives for residents and businesses to avoid single use plastics.



Issue Category	Summary	Proposed Response
		In addition Council has a Single Use Plastics Management Policy that aims to promote council run events delivered without the use of single use plastics.
		In addition, water refill stations are being installed around the City, in an effort to promote the use of reusable water bottles. Opportunities for businesses to take a stance on this issue will be passed on to the appropriate division for consideration.
		Priority Area 5: <i>A low waste city</i> also addresses these issues, specifically the following actions:
		W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy.
		W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event managers and stallholders to avoid and reduce waste and reduce water and energy consumption of events.
		No changes required.

### PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2028:

- Goal 1 We value and protect our natural environment
- Goal 2 We have an innovative and sustainable economy
- Goal 5 We have a healthy community in a liveable city
- Goal 6 We have affordable and accessible transport.

Under these goals the draft plan delivers on the following objectives -

Objective 1.1 - Our natural environment, waterways and terrestrial areas are protected, managed and improved.

- Objective 1.2 We practice sustainable living and reduce our ecological footprint.
- Objective 1.3 The sustainability of our urban environment is improved.
- Objective 1.5 Set targets and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions through our participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
- Objective 2.2 The regions industry base is diversified.
- Objective 5.1 There is an increase in the health and wellbeing of our community.
- Objective 6.1 Wollongong is supported by an integrated transport system.
- Objective 6.2 Connections between our city and Sydney are strengthened.
- Objective 6.3 Provide connected and accessible places and spaces.



The adoption of the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City will support the achievement of the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals –



### SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the updated draft Strategy will provide an overarching framework that consolidates all of Council's environmental strategies, plans and programs to better integrate environmental considerations into all Council decision making. It will guide our organisational in terms of environmental sustainability, protecting our environment and creating a city that is resilient to climate change.

In addition, adoption of the updated draft Strategy will support Council's Climate Emergency Declaration, emissions reduction targets and our commitments to the GCoM and CPP programs.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

Goal 1 of the Community Strategic Plan: Wollongong 2028 seeks to protect our natural environment and promote an environmentally sustainable community. There are significant environmental and reputational risks if action is not taken to protect our environment. There are also financial risk if we fail to address climate change and the need for sustainable living.

This Strategy provides the necessary guidance to address and minimise these risks.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Achieving the goals and delivering on the sustainability outcomes of the updated Strategy will largely occur through the implementation of existing plans, strategies and programs. These actions are programmed through the existing Delivery Program.

Where gaps have been identified new strategic actions have been proposed. The implementation of these actions will be subject to the Integrated Planning & Reporting processes and are likely to be the subject of grant applications.

Actions may be eligible for funding from a range of NSW and Federal Government grant programs. Implementation of a number of actions is likely to result in cost savings for the organisation, such as costs associated with utilities consumption and other associated running costs of facilities.

### CONCLUSION

The draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy been prepared to provide highlevel strategic direction for Council's activities and programs.

Based on feedback from a six-week community engagement process, the draft Strategy has been updated. The updated draft Strategy supports Council's recent Climate Emergency declaration, adoption of emissions reduction targets for Council and the city and other works under the GCoM and CPP programs. Should the updated draft Strategy be adopted it will be reviewed on a four-year cycle with a major review undertaken in 2030.

This report recommends that the draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy be adopted by Council for implementation and that the Environmental Sustainability Policy be repealed.



### OUR PLACE our voice SEVITURE

SUSTAINABLE WOLLONGONG 2030 STRATEGY

### Submissions in Reply Report

October 2020





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The information in this report is based on data collected from community members who chose to be involved in engagement activities and therefore should not be considered representative.

This report is intended to provide a high-level analysis of the most prominent themes and ideas as expressed by those who participated. While it's not possible to include all the detailed feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to the project manager for review and consideration.



### Executive Summary

The draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy (Strategy) is the product of a review of the Wollongong City Council Environmental Sustainability 2013-2022. The Strategy sets a high-level direction to guide Council activities to integrate sustainability and climate change considerations into all decision making, to meet legislative requirements, community expectations and demonstrate leadership.

Council staff undertook a comprehensive community engagement process to inform the development of the revised Strategy. The input received during this process has been used to produce the draft Strategy.

At its meeting on 29 June 2020 Council endorsed the draft Strategy for public exhibition. Public exhibition was undertaken from 1 July to 12 August 2020, for a period of six weeks.

Information, including a copy of the draft Strategy, a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (Appendix A), an Online Feedback Form (Appendix B) and an open Question & Answer board were placed on Council's engagement webpage and sent to Council' customer service section.

Social media promotion of the public exhibition of the draft Strategy and Climate Change Mitigation Plan (CCMP) was posted on Council's Facebook page (Appendix C). A number of media stories also promoting the draft Strategy and CCMP were published throughout July and August 2020 (Appendix D).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions no community sessions were able to be conducted and access to information through Council's libraries was not possible.

The response to the exhibition was as follows:

- 283 people visited the project page on Council's engagement website.
- 156 people downloaded the draft Strategy or FAQ sheet.

A total of 41 submissions were received, comprised of:

- 33 submissions through the online feedback form.
- 4 group written submissions.
- 4 individual written submissions.
- 98% of submissions were supportive of the draft Strategy.
- There was significant support for the Strategy's vision and the six priority areas.
- Many submissions requested minor additions, wording amendments or suggested other potential considerations for inclusion in the Strategy.

The top ten issues raised by the community were:

- Strong support for the vision and for each of the priority areas, especially Council demonstrating leadership and working with our community to create a sustainable Wollongong.
- 2 The roll out of FOGO across the City and improved recycling education and infrastructure.
- 3 Council implementing urgent action to reduce emissions.
- 4 Greater consideration of climate justice and equity.
- 5 Better management of and education about litter in the ocean and from building sites.
- 6 Banning single-use plastics and using development controls, leases and education to eliminate their use in the City.
- 7 Improving water conservation and recycling infrastructure and education programs and advocating for no mining under water catchments.



- 9 Achieving better environmental outcomes through the development application process and maintaining population levels rather than increasing.
- 10 Improved access to water refill stations and banning single-use water bottles.

The feedback received through the public exhibition process has been used to prepare an updated draft Strategy which has included wording changes and the introduction of new actions and a sustainability outcome. The updated draft Strategy will be presented to Council for consideration.

### Background

Council's inaugural Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2022 was adopted in 2014 and to date has guided the development and delivery of various plans, strategies and programs.

More recently Council has embarked on a number of initiatives to promote the long-term environmental sustainability of the City, including membership of the Global Covenant of Mayors and Cities Power Partnership program, declaration of a Climate Emergency and adoption of emissions reduction targets for the City and Council's operations.

Given the significance of these initiatives and the increasing community advocacy for environment and climate action, Council undertook a review of its Sustainability Strategy 2014-2022.

Pre-strategy development engagement was undertaken from May 2019 – January 2020. Through this process the community was asked to provide input into the review to inform the development of a draft Strategy. This rigorous engagement process included:

- 1 x community workshop.
- 5 x school workshops.
- 1 x presentation to the Aboriginal Reference Group.
- 1 x presentation to the Cycling, Walking & Mobility Reference Group.
- Online engagement HQ ideas board.
- ~15 x individual and group sessions.

The result of this consultation was the development of the draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City.

The draft Strategy consisted of six priority areas and associated goals as shown in Table 1.

### Table 1: Draft Sustainable Wollongong priority areas and goals

Priority Area	Goal
A city whose council shows leadership	Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision-making and service delivery and inspires the same in others.
A city that works together	Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change.
A low emissions city	We will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, and together we will achieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the city.



A city in harmony with our environment	Our ecosystems and waterways are enhanced, our urban areas are cooler and greener and our community is connected to our natural environment.
A low waste city	Our community only take what they need, reuse and recycle what they can and are aware of the resources that they consume.
A climate and water resilient city	Our infrastructure and community can adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource.

The draft Strategy aimed to provide a high-level strategic direction for Council's activities and programs. It prescribed high-level actions to be delivered through the supporting documents, plans and programs.

The draft Strategy consolidated all of Council's environmental priorities, goals and targets into one document to enable Council to build on its commitment to a sustainable future, embed environmental sustainability into the core business of Council and influence the quality of life, prosperity and liveability of our City.

On 29 June 2020, Council considered a report on the draft Strategy and resolved to place it on public exhibition.

Feedback was sought on the draft Strategy through the exhibition process and this report summarises this feedback and proposed response from Council.

### How will the comments be considered?

Council is grateful for the enthusiasm, excitement and invaluable insights that our community has provided during the initial community engagement process prior to the development of the Strategy and then through the exhibition process. All submissions, both emailed and through the online feedback form, have been carefully reviewed by Council staff and used to prepare an updated draft Strategy.

Responses and proposed changes to the draft Strategy are included in this report. Additional amendments to the updated draft Strategy are also proposed following internal feedback, mainly to refine actions, to provide clarity, or to correct minor grammatical errors.

The updated draft Strategy will be submitted to Council for consideration along with this Submissions in Reply report. Should it be adopted, implementation of the Strategy will commence and be reported on through the Integrated Planning & Reporting framework.



### Methodology

The draft Strategy was placed on public exhibition for a period of 43 days from 1 July - 12 August 2020. Details on the communication and engagement activities undertaken through this exhibition process are outlined in Table 2 below.

### Table 2: Exhibition Methodologies

Methods	Details
Communication	n Methods
The Advertiser	Details about the engagement were made available in Council's Community Update pages.
Media release	A media release was distributed.
Frequently Asked Questions	A FAQ was developed which provided an overview of the project and how people could get involved.
Email	An email was sent to 148 external stakeholders informing them of the exhibition and how they can provide feedback (a list of these stakeholders is provided in Appendix E).
Register of Interest	An email was sent to all participants with registered interest in Environment.
Social Media	Posts about the engagement were made to Facebook.
Engagement M	ethods
Engagement HQ Website	An online feedback tool was used to capture participants' ideas and allowed community members to comment. A Question & Answer (Q&A) page was also available for most of the exhibition period. The page also hosted background information and supporting documents and allowed visitors to

Due to COVID-19 restrictions no face to face engagement activities were able to be undertaken and access to information through Council's libraries was not possible.

pose questions to staff and receive a response within three days.



### Results

This section provides details on the participation at engagement activities and the feedback received during the exhibition period. All identified stakeholders and the wider community were invited to provide feedback on the draft Strategy.

### Engagement Participation

Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

### Table 3: Summary of exhibition participation

Measure and Explanation	Usage	
Aware – visited at least one page.	283	
<b>Informed</b> – number of people who clicked a link, eg to download a document, view a photo or read the Frequently Asked Questions.	156	
<b>Engaged</b> – total number of participants who submitted the Online Feedback Form.		
Engaged – total number of emailed submissions.		
Individual	(4)	
• Group*	(4)	

\*Group submissions were received from Citizen Climate Lobby, Food Fairness Illawarra and Neighbourhood Forum 5 (x2).

### Table 4: Informed Visitor downloads and FAQ views

Туре	Engagement Tool / Document Name	Visitors	Downloads/Views
Document	Draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030 Strategy	115	148
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions	26	17
Q&A	Online Question and Answer	0	19



The submissions reflected a high level of support for the development and implementation of the Strategy and for each of the priority areas. 98% of submissions were supportive of the draft Strategy, (being 40 out of 41 submissions). The unsupportive submission did not believe in climate change but was supportive of the priority areas to reduce water consumption and waste.

The top ten issues raised by the community through the exhibition process were:

- 1 Strong support for the vision and for each of the priority areas, especially Council demonstrating leadership and working with our community to create a sustainable Wollongong.
- 2 The roll out of FOGO across the City and improved recycling education and infrastructure.
- 3 Council undertaking urgent action to reduce emissions.
- 4 Greater consideration of climate justice and equity.
- 5 Better management of and education about litter in the ocean and from building sites.
- 6 Banning single use plastics and using development controls, leases and education to eliminate their use in the City.
- 7 Improving water conservation and recycling infrastructure and education programs and advocating for no mining under water catchments.
- 8 Improving food security and access to food, more information about Aboriginal practices and increased plant-based food at Council functions.
- 9 Achieving better environmental outcomes through the development application process and maintaining population levels rather than increasing.
- 10 Improved access to water refill stations and banning single use water bottles.

There were also number of comments in relation to wording suggestions throughout the document to clarify statements and simplify wording.

The following sections of the report provide a specific analysis of submissions received, their rating of issues, key comments and proposed response from Council in response to the feedback from the exhibition.

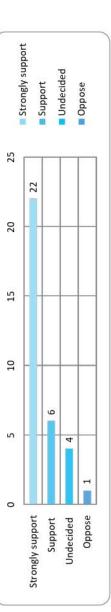
### **Online Feedback Results**

### Question 1 – Do you support the vision statement?

Together, we're creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Wollongong is a thriving low waste, low emissions city which is resilient, liveable and has high biodiversity values.

Respondents were firstly asked to rate their support and then provide comment. The results are provided in Figure 1 and Table 5 below.

### Figure 1: Rating of support for vision statement



# Table 5: Summary of comments and proposed response for Question 1

Proposed Response/Action	Council will strive to achieve the vision and create a sustainable Wollongong.
Key Comments	<ul> <li>A worthy aspirational statement.</li> <li>Making Wollongong more environmentally sustainable.</li> <li>High aspirations are necessary.</li> <li>I like that sustainability in centre to the vision statement. Focus on low emissions is also appreciated.</li> <li>By becoming more efficient, sustainable and choose local products we can have community which supports life.</li> <li>This would be a place to live, not just to survive in.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	13
Issue	1-1 Support for aspirational vision
Issue No.	1-1

Proposed Response/Action	The vision wording has been simplified. We have tried to use simple language throughout the draft Strategy in order to communicate with a broad cross section of the community. 'Low carbon' is a more technical term that many in the community may not engage with. <b>Changes: Wording simplified in the vision statement</b>	Noted. An environmental education plan is currently being developed that aims to provide the long-term framework and rationale for designing effective education programs. It will include a focus on understanding contemporary behavioural change methodologies and staging of education, engagement and communications delivery to achieve Council's strategic and operational objectives. The development of this plan is also an action in the draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-22.	The draft Strategy is proposed to provide overarching direction and guidance for all of Councils operations and has been updated to include international and national climate change considerations. The legislative, policy and program references in the previous Strategy were outdated and the content needed to be updated to reflect contemporary community views and Council initiatives such as; membership of GCoM, CPP, the climate emergency declaration and the setting of emissions reduction targets for both Council operations and community emissions.
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Wording is clunky.</li> <li>Could just talk about low carbon.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>An education plan needs to be developed.</li> <li>More needs to be done.</li> <li>More urgent action is required.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Too far removed situation from current.</li> <li>Has been done previously, doesn't need to be repeated. Not relevant.</li> <li>Climate Change is being questioned by many scientists.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	2	2	7
Issue	Wording Suggestion	More needs to be done to create a sustainable city	Not relevant
Issue No.	1-2	1-3	1-4



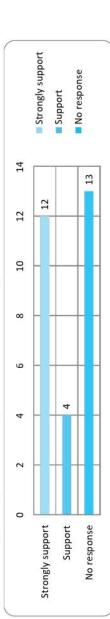
### Question 2 – Do you support the priority area and goal?

**Priority Area**: A city whose Council shows leadership **Goal**: Environmental and climate leaderships undernins Council de

Goal: Environmental and climate leaderships underpins Council decision making and service delivery, and inspire the same in others

Respondents were firstly asked to rate their support and then provide comment. The results are provided in Figure 2 and Table 6 below.

# Figure 2: Rating of support for Priority Area 1 and associated goal



# Table 6: Summary of comments and proposed response for Priority Area 1

Proposed Response/Action	The draft Strategy is proposed to provide overarching direction and guidance for all of Councils operations and has been updated to include international and national climate change considerations. The legislative, policy and program references in the previous Strategy were outdated and the content needed to be updated to reflect contemporary community views and Council initiatives such as; membership of GCOM, CPP, the climate emergency declaration and the setting of emissions reduction targets for both Council operations and community emissions.	<ul> <li>Climate and environmental considerations should underpin all decision making at all levels of government, as they underpin everything we do - our lives literally depend on it.</li> <li>Council is striving to reduce its environmental impact and emissions and improve our resilience in a changing climate, whilst supporting the community to do the same.</li> </ul>
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Too far removed situation from current.</li> <li>Has been done previously, doesn't need to be repeated. Not relevant.</li> <li>Climate Change is being questioned by many scientists.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Climate and environmental considerations should underpin all decision making at all levels of government, as they underpin everything we do - our lives literally depend on it.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	7	2
Issue	1-4 Not relevant	Support for Council as a leader
lssue No.	1-4	2-1

lssue No.	lssue	No. of Submissions	Key Comments • If leaders model behaviours supporting environmental and climate goals then people will take notice and more likely to support it.	Proposed Response/Action
			• Climate change is the biggest threat to mankind and we need strong political leadership and act.	
2-2	Need greater commitment from Council	7	<ul> <li>Environmental and climate leadership must be key factors in all Council decision making and service delivery.</li> <li>More effective use of our many experienced (often retired) professionals who are willing and able to contribute expertise.</li> <li>Use of bicycles, electric bikes and hybrid vehicles by Council is another area that would inspire the community.</li> <li>Council is yet to "inspire climate leadership in others", as witnessed by the underwhelming CPP pledges on p30 and the claim on p29 that the 2030 and 2050 targets are ambitious.</li> </ul>	The Climate Change Mitigation Plan (CCMP) and this Strategy both include priority areas that focus on Council as a leader. The CCMP is the first of many plans which will aim to reduce emissions in our City. There are a number of actions in the CCMP that detail Council's commitment to climate change mitigation leadership. Council has also exceeded requirement of the Global Covenant of Mayors, in adopting an emissions reduction target for its own operations as well as a target for the City. By committing to an aspirational target of net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, Council is demonstrating leadership for the City and supporting its recent declaration of a State of Climate Emergency.
2-3	Wording suggestions	н	• The phrasing is awkward.	Noted. Changes: Wording in the goal has been clarified

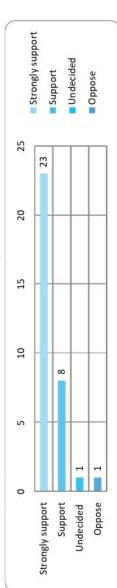


### Question 3 – Do you support the priority area and goal?

Goal: Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to cli-mate change Priority Area: A city that works together

Respondents were firstly asked to rate their support and then provide comment. The results are provided in Figure 3 and Table 7 below.

# Figure 3: Rating of support for Priority Area 2 and associated goal



# Table 7: Summary of comments and proposed response for Priority Area 2

Proposed Response/Action	<ul> <li>It is EVERYONE'S responsibility to act in this space.</li> <li>Government, business and individuals.</li> <li>We can have community which supports life.</li> <li>This is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is is the most important challenge for this generation. It is is the most important challenge for this generation. It is is the most important challenge for this generation. It is is the most important challenge for this generation. It is is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge for this generation. It is the most important challenge and the early is the most important of time. We all live on the same earth, we should all help each other.</li> <li>We all live here, so we ALL need to protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change in order to have a healthy environment for our children and grandchildren, and the rest of the world.</li> </ul>
Key Comments	<ul> <li>It is EVERYONE'S responsibility to act in this space. Government, business and individuals.</li> <li>We can have community which supports life.</li> <li>This is the most important challenge for this generation. It should have been addressed much earlier but we need to act now.</li> <li>If everyone makes an effort we will make a bigger impact in a shorter amount of time. We all live on the same earth, we should all help each other.</li> <li>We all live here, so we ALL need to protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change in order to have a healthy environment for our children and grandchildren, and the rest of the world.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	12
Issue	Support for working together as a community
lssue No.	3-1

Proposed Response/Action	<ul> <li>It is explained in the Strategy that all priority areas are interrelated and all impact on or influence each other.</li> <li>Climate resilience is discussed throughout the Strategy and specifically in Priority Area 6 and the following actions:</li> <li>C1 Continue to implement the Asset Protection Zone (Bushfire) Management Program.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>C2 Continue to implement the Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>C3 Update the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter in the DCP.</li> <li>C4 Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design and performance standards for all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>C5 Review the Wollongong DCP to identify and incorporate opportunities to promote sustainable development across the city.</li> <li>C6 Plan for the provision of effective blue and green infrastructure through strategic urban planning processes. Climate resilience is also common terminology at all levels of government and in the media.</li> <li>Changes: some wording has been changed to clarify the meaning.</li> </ul>	Council is committed to work with our community, businesses and government agencies to create a climate healthy and sustainable Wollongong. Council recognises that the community, businesses and industry will require additional support to reduce their environmental impacts.
Key Comments	<ul> <li>What does resilience to climate change actually look like.</li> <li>Climate change is too specific.</li> <li>I am not sure what this really means.</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>We need mitigation and adaptation plans in place to ensure our resilience. We need to act now on CC.</li> <li>Getting there will be difficult and we need to do this together because we won't get there by all going it alone.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	m			2
Issue	Wording suggestion			More needs to be done to support our community and
Issue No.	3-2			3-3



Proposed Response/Action	Council is committed to acting on climate change and is considering adoption of its inaugural CCMP and is in the process of developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.	An environmental education plan is currently being developed that aims to provide the long-term framework and rationale for designing effective education programs. It will include a focus on understanding contemporary behavioural change methodologies and staging of education, engagement and communications delivery to achieve Council's strategic and operational objectives. The development of this plan is also an action in the draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-22.	There are also a number of actions in the CCMP which address support for businesses and industry.	The development of this draft Strategy was undertaken through comprehensive engagement process that included a community workshop, 5 school workshops, an online discussion board and consultation with various reference groups. The opportunity to provide feedback was also advertised in a number of newsletters, social media and Council publications so that the reach within the community was greater. Specific engagement was also undertaken with the Aboriginal community as they were under-represented. All of this was done prior to the Strategy being written.	This strategy is one of Council's supporting documents and will be reported regularly through Council's reporting framework. A Sustainability Dashboard is planned to be developed to monitor and display our progress toward our goals. This dashboard will be made available on our website, Administration Building foyer, community facilities and we will keep the community updated through our regular sustainability and community newsletters.
Key Comments				<ul> <li>There is a need for more democratic processes of public participation in local decision making around climate action and environmental conservation. This should not just be tokenistic consultation and placation of concerned citizens.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>There must be processes put in place to ensure that the decisions made in these spaces are acted on. There needs to be an iterative process of follow-up and follow-through.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions				H	त्त
Issue	work with businesses			Engagement	Monitoring and implementation
lssue No.				3.4	3-5



wollongong city of innevation

Proposed Response/Action	Changes: further information has been added to the Strategy outlining where the information will be displayed as outlined above.	Noted. Catering at Council functions and events will be looked at in line with the review of the Single Use Plastics Management Policy and development of Sustainable Events Guidelines under the Action W2 and the CCMP.
Key Comments		<ul> <li>Councils needs to use less packaging.</li> <li>Council functions and events should be vegan.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions		1
Issue		3-6 Catering
lssue No.		3-6

### Question 4 – Do you support the priority area and goal?

### Priority Area: A low emissions city

Goal: We will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, and together we will achieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the city

Respondents were firstly asked to rate their support and then provide comment. The results are provided in Figure 4 and Table 8 below.

### Figure 4: Rating of support for Priority Area 3 and associated goal

Strongly support			Oppose	Strongly oppose
25	25			
20	200-			
15	7 A.			
10				
5	_	5		
0			1	2
	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose

# Table 8: Summary of comments and proposed response for Priority Area 3

Proposed Response/Action	Council is committed to reducing emissions from its own operations and assisting the community in reducing City-wide emissions and achieving our emissions reduction targets.							
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Committing to zero net emissions by 2050 is huge- well donel 30 years is not long- let's get to work.</li> <li>These are great realistic goals to have. Once we are firmly on the road we should look at ways of shortening the transition.</li> <li>We all live here, so we ALL need to protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change in order to have a healthy environment for our children and grandchildren, and the rest of the world.</li> <li>Zero emissions is achievable and we should take actions towards it.</li> <li>The goal is clear and surely achievable.</li> <li>Reasonable and achievable goal, I think we will get there much sooner.</li> </ul>							
No. of Submissions	13							
lssue	Support for emissions reductions							
Issue No.	4-1							

Proposed Response/Action		<ul> <li>Council will continue to undertake an emissions inventory for the City every two years, consistent with our GCoM commitments, in order to track progress towards the 2050 target. Opportunities to reduce emissions will be assessed with the development of each CCMP to reduce emissions earlier than 2050.</li> <li>The draft CCMP and this Strategy both include priority areas that focus on Council as a leader. Priority area 3 addresses reducing emissions and includes the following actions: <ul> <li>E1 Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design and performance standards for all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities.</li> <li>E2 Continue to work towards the emissions reduction targets through ongoing climate change mitigation planning, informed by regular inventories of Council and community emissions, success stories, learnings and technological advances.</li> </ul> </li> <li>E3 Continue to pursue commitments and actions under the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, including equitable access to energy.</li> <li>E4 Progressively install additional landfill gas capture infrastructure at Whytes Gully Landfill.</li> <li>E5 Work towards the aries of many plans which will aim to reduce emissions in our City. There are a number of actions in the COMP that detail Council has also exceeded requirement of the Global Covenant of Mayors, in adopting an emissions function target for its own operations. Council so the city. There are an umber of actions in the Global Covenant of Mayors, in adopting an emissions function target for its own operations. Cuncil so and the Council so the city. There are an umber of actions in the Global Covenant of Mayors, in adopting an emissions in the COMP that detail Council's committent or the Global Covenant of Mayors, in adopting an emissions are adopted action target for the detail Council so the city. There are an umber of actions in the CCMP that detail Council's commuted actions as</li></ul>
Key Comments	• We need to curb our impact on the environment.	<ul> <li>Urgently reducing GHG emissions is the most important thing to keep our planet thriving for future generations.</li> <li>I support low emissions targets, but 2050 is not soon enough.</li> <li>I support this goal but think it needs to also include a goal on how to reduce reliance on car travel to work.</li> <li>I do support zero emissions by 2030, but I don't think we no infrastructure to support this plan or tech for this plan.</li> <li>This is not good enough 2050!!!! It should be much sooner with draft change this could be done by 2030.</li> <li>This is not good enough 2050!!!! It should be much sooner with draft change this could be done by 2030.</li> <li>I think more needs to be done regarding education and being buildings sustainable options.</li> <li>E2 Contribus bags. Wollongong needs to more actively encourage reusable, burseling is sustainable options.</li> <li>E3 Conting bags. Wollongong needs to more actively encourage reusable, burseling burseling burseling by regula bags. Wollongong needs to more actively encourage reusable, burseling bur</li></ul>
No. of Submissions		11
lssue		More urgent action is to reduce emissions
Issue No.		4-2



Proposed Response/Action	leadership for the City and supporting its recent declaration of a State of Climate Emergency.	This issue has been strengthened in the Strategy in the strategic context and Priority areas 1 (Leadership) and 2 (Working Together) and includes more information about green jobs and support for businesses. Changes: additional information added to Strategy	Noted. The draft Strategy is for a 10 year term and is aiming to look at improving the sustainability of our City over the next 10 years. The emissions reduction target for the community is a science derived target. In saying that our emissions profile and carbon budget will be regularly monitored and opportunities will be assessed with each CCMP to reduce emissions earlier than 2050.	The Austroads' Guide to Traffic Management has been updated and addresses speed zones. In the updated guide there is a reference to lower speed limits as low as 10km/h. The advice from Transport for NSW hasn't lowered default speed limits and the subsequent guide for setting speed limits hasn't been updated. Council is managing speeds by way of traffic facilities that require drivers to slow down.	Noted. The issue of anthropogenic-induced climate change is recognised by 97% of scientists, in response Council is taking action to address the issue and support the community to do the same.
Key Comments		<ul> <li>Zero emissions is not just important in its own right, but achieving it will also lead to many co-benefits, such as reduced air and noise pollution, greater social inclusion through improved active and public transport, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The Title Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City is clearly in conflict with zero emissions by 20501? Ideally the 2030 ought to be correct and should be retained, because we certainly need to do as much as possible for the overall LGA by 2030.</li> </ul>	• Transport is tone of the largest source of greenhouse emissions in Australia. I believe walking and cycling can become the best alternatives for short travel distances in Wollongong. There is one measure that is basically free that is proven to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive: 30km/h in residential areas.	Climate Change is being questioned by many scientists.
No. of Submissions		Ŧ	1	Ţ	1
Issue		Co- benefits of emissions reduction	Conflict between emissions reduction targets and Strategy timeframe	Reduced speed in residential areas	Strategy not relevant
Issue No.		4-3	4-4	4-5	4-6

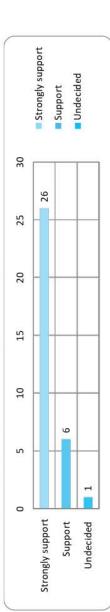
### Question 5 – Do you support the priority area and goal?

Priority Area: A city harmony with our environment

Goal: Our ecosystem and waterways are enhanced and our urban areas are cooler and greener and our community is connected to our natural environment

Respondents were firstly asked to rate their support and then provide comment. The results are provided in Figure 5 and Table 9 below.

# Figure 5: Rating of support for Priority Area 4 and associated goal



# Table 9: Summary of comments and proposed response for Question 5

Contraction of State				
lssue No.	Issue	No. of Submissions	Key Comments	Proposed Response/Action
5-1	5-1 Support for creating a city in harmony with our environment	19	<ul> <li>We are a part of the ecosystem and need to fit into it rather than obliterate it.</li> <li>Need more connection to earth and areas we can do so Wollongong is running out of this space quickly.</li> <li>We are part of the living world and as such, depend on it for our survival.</li> <li>Cooler and greener is good for my physical and mental health.</li> <li>Ithink the bushfires are the clearer sign of the climate change in Australia. We need to take care of the environment around us, plant trees and keep it clean. It is very important for our future.</li> <li>The community needs to be more integrated with our environment as its protection and our sustainable future go</li> </ul>	Noted. Council is committed to enhancing biodiversity values in our City, improving waterways and increasing urban greening, whilst fostering connection to country and our environment. Council has adopted a number of plans and strategies to address these including: Urban Greening Strategy (UGS) and the Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy. As part of the UGS, more than 5,000 semi-mature trees have been planted in high need suburbs with low canopy, and Council is currently committed to planting two trees on public land for every tree removed in an effort increase canopy. Council has worked with the community to focus on intensive tree planting campaigns in high need suburbs including Unanderra in 2018, Corrimal in 2019, Port Kembla in 2020, and are now preparing a

No.     Issue       5-2     More needs       5-2     More needs       to be done     to create a       to recate a     city in       harmony     with our       environment	Submissions 5	Key Comments         hand in hand. These areas also help to increase community interest and active engagement.         • We need to reverse the decades long decline in connectedness to and awareness of the natural world.         • We need to reverse the decades long decline in connectedness to and awareness of the natural world.         • Understanding that the "human" and "natural" environments are not separate, but interconnected systems is so important! We must do everything we can to ensure our built environment does not harm natural environments, and foster healthy, green community spaces.         • More detail is required on what Council is going to do in terms of food production and food equity.         • There needs to be more tree planting and increased vegetation in creeks instead of open channels.         • There needs to be more tree planting and increased vegetation in creeks instead of open channels.         • There needs to be more tree planting and increased vegetation in creeks instead of open channels.         • Promote connection between people and nature.	<ul> <li>Proposed Response/Action</li> <li>major street tree installation in partnership with the Dapto community.</li> <li>The significance of remnant biodiversity, proactive management of existing vegetation and support for enhanced biodiversity outcomes is also included in Goals 2 and 3 of the Urban Greening Strategy.</li> <li>The first 20 x Transitional Landscape sites are being scoped now for planting in Autumn 2021 (Action V3). This will create spaces that have increased canopy cover for shade, pedestrian access, and native grass and groundcovers that promote safe use by the community.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and enhancement works through its Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>Council also undertakes protection and availability of low cost and for descript and includes of locations and availability of low cost and free meals.</li> <li>H9 Increase local food system resilience thro</li></ul>
			An environmental education plan is currently being developed to improve outcomes and address gaps in current education programs.

Proposed Response/Action	Council is committed to implementing the Urban Greening Strategy which has actions related to addressing the differences in canopy cover across suburbs of the Illawarra, including priority planting of areas of low canopy cover and social vulnerability: Developing Technical Guidelines and a Tree Selector Tool to inform tree selection and species, including native species; Developing design guidelines for green roofs, green walls and facades, rain gardens and other structural vegetation; and, is investigating opportunities to implement improved Development Control Plan (DCP) controls to protect and maintain vegetation in the private realm. Feedback on actions relating to Urban Greening Strategy has also been passed on to the relevant department. Council's stormwater management plans are regularly reviewed and include provisions for channel vegetation. Council advocates to the State and Federal governments on a number of environmental issues, including mining under water catchments and will continue to do so, this is recognised through a variety of actions in the draft Strategy and the draft CCMP.	It is explained in the Strategy that all priority areas are interrelated and all impact on or influence each other. Whilst it may be considered a biproduct of other areas, Council feels that specific actions addressing this priority area are important to improve the sustainability and climate resilience of our City.
Key Comments		<ul> <li>The statement uses a lot of relative terms that don't refer to a base case.</li> <li>This shouldn't be a priority area on its own. It is a biproduct of other priority areas.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions		Ţ
Issue		Wording suggestion
lssue No.		5-3



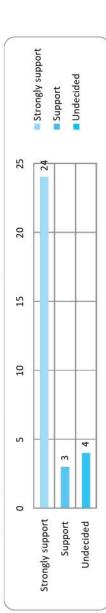
### Question 6 – Do you support the priority area and goal?

### Priority Area: A low waste city

Goal: Our community only take what they need, reuse and recycle what they can and are aware of the resources they consume

Respondents were firstly asked to rate their support and then provide comment. The results are provided in Figure 6 and Table 10 below.

# Figure 3: Rating of support for Priority Area 5 and associated goal



# Table 10: Summary of comments and proposed response for Question 6

Proposed Response/Action	<ul> <li>Excellent goal: a tricky one to achieve! I look forward to how to address this for the thousands of over consumers in our city.</li> <li>You cannot keep plundering resources without consequences.</li> <li>No waste. Circular economy.</li> <li>I am very aware of the situation in the oceans and we need to be looking after that area. Way more important than climate which at my age cannot see any changes since moving here some 40 years ago.</li> <li>I am very impressed with it and very hapy to be part of it. We are all in this, together and so having Connot lead the way it great.</li> </ul>
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Excellent goal: a tricky one to achieve! I look forward to how to address this for the thousands of over consumers in our city.</li> <li>You cannot keep plundering resources without consequences.</li> <li>No waste. Circular economy.</li> <li>I am very aware of the situation in the oceans and we need to be looking after that area. Way more important than climate which at my age cannot see any changes since moving here some 40 years ago.</li> <li>I am very impressed with it and very happy to be part of it. We are all in this, together and so having Council lead the way it great.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	14
lssue	Support for conservation of resources and waste reduction
Issue No.	6-1

Proposed Response/Action		Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill and increasing resource recovery. Priority Area 5: A low waste city addresses these issues, specifically the following actions.	<ul> <li>W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy.</li> <li>W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Managers and statingtons to avoid and reduce water and energy consumption of events.</li> <li>W3 Continue to roll out the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) program across the city.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>W4 Coordinate community environmental programs, such as Rise and Shine, Community Service Order Scheme, Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day, Schools Enviro Day, National Recycling Week, International Composting Week and other sustainability/ waste education activities.</li> </ul>	The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy includes actions to promote recycling associated with both infrastructure and education. Council continues to plan for and deliver this strategy.	An environmental education plan is currently being developed that aims to provide the long-term framework and rationale for designing effective education programs. It will include a particular focus on understanding contemporary behavioural
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Better waste management is an integral part of improving environmentalsustainability and reducing our climate impact. Reducing waste entirely is important, as well as diverting waste from landfill through initiatives such as FOGO.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Stronger targets.</li> <li>Stronger waste education programs are required.</li> <li>Roll out FOGO across the LGA.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Stronger commitment by Council to include recycled content materials in procurement.</li> <li>It is essential council provide facilities and information so this can occur effectively.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>develop comprehensive recycling and reprocessing facilities in the LGA (Green industry).</li> </ul>			
No. of Submissions		Q					
Issue		More needs to be done to reduce waste					
lssue No.		6-2					

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change methodologies and staging of education, engagement and communications delivery to achieve Council's strategic and



Proposed Response/Action	operational objectives. The development of this plan is also an action in the draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-22. The Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2019-29 was endorsed by Council in September 2019. The EDS proposes a number of action items to support an innovative and sustainable economy for Wollongong. The focus of the EDS is to increase the number of high quality jobs in Wollongong, which will have flow on benefits such as reducing the cost of commuting and increasing the work/life balance of commuters. The EDS identifies a number of key sectors for Wollongong, which includes advanced manufacturing and opportunities in emerging fields such as renewable energy.
Key Comments	
No. of Submissions	
Issue	
lssue No.	



wollongong dty of innovation

446

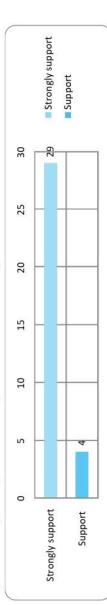
### Question 7 – Do you support the priority area and goal?

Priority Area: A climate and water resilient city

Goal: Our infrastructure and community can adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource

Respondents were firstly asked to rate their support and then provide comment. The results are provided in Figure 7 and Table 11 below.

### Figure 4: Rating of support for Priority Area 6 and associated goal



## Table 10: Summary of comments and proposed response for Priority Area 6

Proposed Response/Action	Council will continue to promote water conservation programs within the community in addition to reducing water consumption from its own operations.	<ul> <li>Climate resilience is discussed throughout the Strategy and specifically in Priority Area 6 and the following actions:</li> <li>C1 Continue to implement the Asset Protection Zone (Bushfire) Management Program.</li> </ul>
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Great! The climate crisis will be the largest issue my generation will face. I appreciate direct addressing of this.</li> <li>Water is vital for us to survive. Who could even consider contaminating or wasting such a precious resource? As a coastal community, we will have to contend with rising sea levels and changes in weather patterns. We need to be proactive in this.</li> <li>Water is a vital resource, we should be very wise about the amount of water we used and make sure there are enough trees and green areas to facilitate rainfalls.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>There is still so much ignorance around reducing water use I see it regularly we need more education and better infrastructure ASAP.</li> <li>Rebates for water saving devices and rainwater tanks?</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	13	σ
lssue	Support for water conservation and climate change action	More needs to be done to increase climate and
lssue No.	7-1	7-2

Proposed Response/Action	ng       • C2 Continue to implement the Natural Areas Management         ter       Program.         er       • C3 Update the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter in the         an       DCP.         er       • C4 Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design         so       and performance standards for all new and refurbished         art       Council buildings and facilities.	<ul> <li>C5 Review the Wollongong DCP to identify and incorporate opportunities to promote sustainable development across the city.</li> <li>C6 Plan for the provision of effective blue and green</li> </ul>	Council will continue to advocate to the State and Federal governments on environmental issues, including mining under water catchments.	An environmental education plan is currently being developed that aims to provide the long-term framework and rationale for designing effective education programs. It will include a particular focus on understanding contemporary behavioural change methodologies and staging of education, engagement and communications delivery to achieve Council's strategic and operational objectives. The development of this plan is also an action in the draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-22.	<ul> <li>Changes have been made to simplify the wording in the goal.</li> <li>Climate resilience, including natural disasters, is discussed throughout the Strategy and specifically in Priority Area 6 and the following actions:</li> <li>C1 Continue to implement the Asset Protection Zone (Bushfire) Management Program.</li> </ul>
Key Comments	<ul> <li>I want Council to be more active in working to stop all mining under dams, and the general pollution of our water catchment by mine subsidence, and other activities.</li> <li>I'm unsure our current community and infrastructure can adapt, but it's something to work towards. We need greater investment in water conservation and recycling, but also education and increasing community awareness is a big part of this.</li> </ul>				<ul> <li>Doesn't really make sense - remove impacts, you are saying you can adapt to the impact of changing climate with a follow up about water.</li> <li>The sentiment is okay as far as it goes, but why single out climate and water? What about natural disasters, other kinds of resources, etc?</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions					2
lssue	water resilience				Wording Suggestion
lssue No.					7-3



Advocacy	Submissions 3	Key Comments            • The wording is also very clumsy. Does 'water resilient' mean that the city will be resilient to a lack of water? Or that the city will take action to secure its water supply? By whom is water going to be valued, and what action is that person going to take?             is that person going to take?	<ul> <li>Proposed Response/Action</li> <li>C2 Continue to implement the Natural Areas Management Program.</li> <li>C3 Update the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter in the DCP.</li> <li>C3 Update the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter in the DCP.</li> <li>C4 Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design and performance standards for all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities.</li> <li>C5 Review the Wollongong DCP to identify and incorporate opportunities to promote sustainable development across the city.</li> <li>C6 Plan for the provision of effective blue and green infrastructure through strategic urban planning processes.</li> <li>Council will continue to promote water conservation programs within the community and will ensure that community facilities and assets are both water and energy efficient.</li> <li>Investment in water conservation and recycling infrastructure is the primary responsibility of Sydney Water, however, Council has an advocacy role.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Kembla, powered by renewable energy.</li> <li>I want Council to be more active in working to stop all mining under dams, and the general pollution of our water catchment by mine subsidence, and other activities.</li> <li>Mining in the water catchment should be treated as a direct threat to us as a community.</li> </ul>	and will continue to advocate for our community, including both coal and coal seam gas mining.
Education	2	<ul> <li>We need greater investment in water conservation and recycling, but also education and increasing community awareness is a big part of this.</li> </ul>	Investment in water conservation and recycling infrastructure is the primary responsibility of Sydney Water, however, Council has an advocacy role.





lssue	No. of Submissions	Key Comments	Proposed Response/Action
		There is still so much ignorance around reducing water use I	• There is still so much ignorance around reducing water use I An environmental education plan is currently being developed
		see it regularly we need more education and better	see it regularly we need more education and better that aims to provide the long term framework and rationale for
		infrastructure ASAP.	designing effective education programs. It will include a
			particular focus on understanding contemporary behavioural
		<ul> <li>Repares for water saving devices and rainwater tanks?</li> </ul>	change methodologies and staging of education, engagement
			and communications delivery to achieve Council's strategic and
			operational objectives. The development of this plan is also an
			action in the draft CCMP 2020-22.

### General Comments and Written Submissions

The final question (Question 8) provided the opportunity for respondents to provide general comments about the draft Strategy. These comments have been combined with the comments from the written submissions, as there were extensive similarities in the issues raised, and are analysed in Table 11.

Proposed Response/Action	The draft Strategy has been updated to include the economic benefits of sustainability and support for businesses to transition to a renewable economy. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are included are those that are directly related. The SDGs have been better integrated throughout the strategy in each of the priority areas. It is explained in the Strategy in each of the priority areas are interrelated and all impact on or influence each other. The Delivery Program and Operational Plan will be reviewed next year in conjunction with the appointment of the new Council. The priority areas, goals and sustainability outcomes will be included in this review process. Vertebrate pest management is now included more explicitly in the Strategy. Some of the wording suggestions are already included in the Strategy. Many of the suggestions are already included in the Strategy. <b>Changes: A number of wording changes have been made to</b> throughout the Strategy.
Key Comments	<ul> <li>In the strategic comments you should refer to the economic benefits of sustainability.</li> <li>All of the SD goals are applicable and should be included in every priority area.</li> <li>Biodiversity programs (p 43) should make commitments to reduce vertebrate pests esp deer and feral cats.</li> <li>It is a good attempt at a difficult task. But there is a lot of overlap among the priority areas and a lot of "motherhood" statements among the contents of most of these areas.</li> <li>Should include a focus on the development of a circular economy and a bigger focus on local food.</li> <li>Change wording to include 'ensure that public spaces are available for food production, such as community gardens, and that our community is aware of where they can access low cost and free meals'.</li> <li>The role of Council and that the community is advocating stronger than government is a good thing.</li> <li>Improve energy efficiency, add or business after home.</li> <li>Improve energy efficiency, add or business after home.</li> <li>Add invest ethically, use less packaging, install solar hot water, replace gas with reverse cycle heating, don't buy</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	17
lssue	Wording Suggestions
Issue No.	8. 1-

# Table 11: Summary of overall online comments and written submissions and proposed response

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Issue No.	Issue	No. of Submissions	Key Comments	Proposed Response/Action
			<ul> <li>single use plastic water bottles, use less packaging, buy solar hot water, reverse cycle heating, home insulation, tag all cats and keep them inside.</li> <li>Do not ride mountain bikes in protected areas or near sensitive habitats.</li> </ul>	
8-2	General Support	13	<ul> <li>Good intentions and great sentiments.</li> <li>Great intentions. I hope to see it operating in practice. When the tough decisions have to be made, I hope they are the right ones. Congratulate Wollongong City Council.</li> <li>Commend Council on extensive engagement.</li> </ul>	Noted. Council is committed to creating a sustainable, climate healthy City.
8-3	Climate Justice and Equity	1	<ul> <li>Climate justice should feature in this plan - it is not enough to act on climate change if those actions reinforce the injustices that already exist in our society.</li> <li>There is no consideration of equity in this strategy. It should be included in every priority area.</li> </ul>	Vulnerable communities are considered in this Strategy and specific actions are included in the CCMP. Both this Strategy and the CCMP are aimed at addressing equity and ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left behind. Council is also in the process of developing a contemporary Climate Change Adaptation Plan that is envisaged will consider impacts to vulnerable communities arising from climate change. Changes: Some wording changes have been made to include equity where required.
8-4	Upgraded Revolve/Reuse Centre	თ	<ul> <li>Support the expansion of an undercover storage at the Wollongong Revolve shop. Create a repair centre (similar to the Tinkerage at Shellharbour).</li> <li>Support the Make-Do Library of Things to be integrated into a Council library or other secure community space.</li> <li>Renovate the Whytes Gully Community Recycling Centre to be best practice.</li> </ul>	Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill and increasing resource recovery. Priority Area 5: A low waste city addresses these issues, specifically the following actions. • W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy



	t P	e	ek ∛ þ	By bth	pu	es,	cil	ur di	S
Proposed Response/Action	<ul> <li>W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event managers and stallholders to avoid and reduce waste, and reduce water and energy consumption of events</li> </ul>	W3 Continue to roll out the Food Organics and Garden     Organics (FOGO) program across the City	<ul> <li>W4 Coordinate community environmental programs, such as Rise and Shine, Community Service Order Scheme, Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day, Schools Enviro Day, National Recycling Week, International Composting Week and other sustainability/ waste education activities.</li> </ul>	The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy includes actions to promote recycling associated with both infrastructure and education. Council continues to plan for and deliver this strategy.	Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill and increasing resource recovery.	Priority Area 5: A low waste city addresses these issues, specifically the following actions.	<ul> <li>W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event managers and stallholders to avoid and reduce waste, and reduce water and energy consumption of events.</li> </ul>	Council does not have the ability to ban single use plastics
	•	•	• • • • •	Th inf de					2
Key Comments					<ul> <li>Use DA to enforce that shops and shopping centres need to be plastic free.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ban Single Use Plastics.</li> <li>Dlastic Free Wollongong ran out of grant funding and now</li> </ul>	seems to be disbanded/occasionally run by volunteers at events. Council should fund it.	<ul> <li>The single use plastics paragraph could include "working with council leased venues to phase out single use plastics." These venues will not change unless its a condition of their lease.</li> </ul>	
No. of Submissions					7				
Issue No. of Submissions					Single Use 7 Plastics and	Recycling			

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incentives for residents and businesses to avoid single use plastics. In addition, Council has a Single Use Plastics

Wollongong program, which encourages and provides

Management Policy that aims to ensure that all council run events are delivered without the use of single use plastics.



wollongong city of innexation

453

No. of Key Comments Proposed Response/Action Submissions	Council continues to investigate to reduce single use plastics from Council operations and will investigate opportunities to included stronger waste and sustainability provisions in leases upon renewal. Council has and will continue to advocate to corporations, state and federal governments regarding the banning of single use plastics. The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy includes actions to promote recycling associated with both infrastructure and education. Council continues to plan for and deliver this strategy.	<ul> <li>We strongly support the priority area of 'A low waste city' particularly actions related to reducing food waste to landfill and landfill.</li> <li>We commend Council on pursuing the expansion of the Food Organics Garden Organics program. Implement FOGO or Organics Garden Organics program. Implement FOGO across the city (including in apartments).</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require all new leases to have a FOGO contract.</li> <li>Require and near the FOGO program for the contract of the contract</li></ul>
No. o Submissi		Ω
Issue		Fogo
ssue No.		φ ∞

Proposed Response/Action	practices There are a number of actions focussing on businesses in the CCMP.	<ul> <li>Bregarding Gouncil has a number of strategies plans and programs included in the delivery plan and operational plan focussed on improving sustainable in food.</li> <li>Community connection, volunteering opportunities and access to food.</li> <li>Specifically, Priority Area 4 – A City in Harmony with our Environment outlines our commitments in relation to food system resilience and food security and includes the actions:</li> <li>Incal food</li> <li>H8 increase the community's knowledge of locations and availability of low cost and free meals</li> <li>H9 Increase the community's knowledge of locations and availability of low cost and free meals</li> <li>H10 Continue to support the establishment of community gardens on appropriate public spaces through the Community Gardens on food trees.</li> <li>The Urban Greening Strategy is currently being implemented, including consideration of food trees.</li> <li>Sustainability workshops are regularly held at the Wollongong Botanic Garden Discovery Centre. Council has also produced 2 Grow Local Guides (Native Plant and Edible Plants) that are available to residents.</li> <li>Aboriginal connection to Country and traditional sustainable living practices is something that needs further exploration.</li> <li>Catering for Council functions is reviewed regularly. This has been passed on to the relevant division for consideration.</li> </ul>
Key Comments		<ul> <li>We would welcome the inclusion of further details regarding how outcomes and actions relating to increasing the food systems resilience and increasing access to sustainable locally produced fresh food, will be achieved. Although I see these priority areas and goals were based on the consultation you received I think the strategy should include a 7th priority area on supporting local food and associated goals.</li> <li>What is being done to encourage sustainable local food production and local food system resilience.</li> <li>Ensure the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy focuses on local natives and food producing trees.</li> <li>Permaculture workshops would be very useful to everyone. It will bring the community together and it makes you feel so much more connected to the land.</li> <li>Another thing that I found quite hard to find is information regarding native plants and aboriginal techniques, as they have lived on this land for so long.</li> <li>Consider promoting plant-based food as opposed to animal agriculture is a leading cause of deforestation and remove them from Council meetings. Animal agriculture is a leading cause of deforestation and remove them from Council meetings. Animal agriculture is a leading cause of deforestation and climate change but rarely gets addressed.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions		n
Issue		Grow Local
lssue No.		2-8



lssue No.	Issue	No. of Submissions	Key Comments	Proposed Response/Action
φ ∞	Water Refill Stations, Plastic Water Bottle Free	Ω	<ul> <li>Plastic water bottle free city. More water refilling stations.</li> <li>Opt in for businesses to be plastic water bottle free</li> </ul>	Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill and increasing resource recovery. Priority Area 5: A low waste city addresses these issues, specifically the following actions: • W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy • W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event managers and stallholders to avoid and reduce waste, and reduce water and energy consumption of events. Council does not have the ability to ban single use plastics across the LGA. Council is a partner in the Plastic Free Wollongong program, which encourages and provides incentives for residents and businesses to avoid single use plastics. In addition Council has a Single Use Plastics from Council coperations and will investigate opportunities to incentives to investigate to reduce single use plastics from Council continues to investigate to reduce single use plastics from Council continues to investigate opportunities to included stringer waste and sustainability provisions in leases upon renewal. Council has an dill investigate opportunities to included stringer waste and sustainability provisions in leases upon renewal. Council has and will continue to advocate to corporations, state and federal governments regarding the banning of single use plastics. In addition, water refil stations are being installed around the City, in an effort to promote the use of reusable water bottles. Opportunities for businesses to take a stance on this issue will be passed on to the appropriate division for consideration.
6-8	Development	9	<ul> <li>Better waste management in CBD apartment areas (remove "wheelie" bins for centralised street bin systems and encourage better compliance with waste sorting).</li> </ul>	Councils DCP outlines provisions for waste storage facilities for multi-unit dwellings to minimise the number of bins required to be on site. Bins are usually kept in the common areas of a unit development.



Proposed Response/Action	Council will consider housing density as part of the Housing Strategy and LSPS and will give consideration in any updates in the LEP and DCP. It should also be noted that the state government has a Low Rise Housing Diversity Code which allows for the development, without the consent of Council. The implementation of actions in Urban Greening Strategy aims to improve the deep soil zones around the City and reduce urban vegetation fragmentation. In addition, new urban release areas have improvements in urban vegetation and deep soil zones, including the provision of large trees in public open space. It is much harder to retrofit these conditions in existing urban areas, however this is being considered with new development applications.	As Council is a signatory to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Council is required to develop an emissions profile compliant with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC). The profile that was conducted was in accordance with their requirements and on the best available scientific information at the time. Further information on the methodology used to determine Wollongong's carbon budget and emissions reduction target is available in the Ironbark report on Council's website. When we re-inventory in two years the methodology for the inventory will be modified to ensure that emissions from all industries are accounted for appropriately. Our carbon budget and emission reduction target will be recalculated based on this inventory and new scientific recommendations.
Key Comments	<ul> <li>In Development controls pg37 - don't just limit it to energy/water efficient buildings, many councils have Waste DCPs and guidelines for DAs to ensure adequate planning/space/servicing/ is included in designs to ensure that MUDs have the needed space not just for the current 3 bin system but for problem wastes, bulky wastes and food collection. The Strategy fails to recognise two basic and remediable actions which Council should now implement. Firstly, Council's planning regime should no longer promote medium density development in areas remote from services and public transport as this is quite unsustainable in social (it is ruining the integrity of many streetscapes), economic (it requires residents to travel much further, and sometimes more often, than they need) and environmental (extra travel generates extra greenhouse gasses) terms. Secondly, its planning regime should no longer promote fragmentation of urban vegetation at the rear of new development but require it to be integrated into street connectivity.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Low emission city (p 37) should state that emissions budgets should be based on a target of global warming less than 1.5 deg above pre-industrial levels (noted on p 8), with regular reviews based on the latest science.</li> <li>Discrepancy between the carbon budget calculations in the strategy and the mitigation plan. They should be consistent.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions		4
Issue		Emissions calculations
lssue No.		8-10

wollongong

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Proposed Response/Action	The Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2019-29 was endorsed by Council in September 2019. The EDS proposes a number of action items to support an innovative and sustainable economy for Wollongong. The focus of the EDS is to increase the number of high quality jobs in Wollongong, which will have flow on benefits such as reducing the cost of commuting and increasing the work/life balance of commuters. The strategy identifies a number of key sectors for Wollongong, which includes advanced manufacturing and opportunities in emerging fields such as renewable energy.	Council's Development Compliance branch undertake site inspections in response to pollution offences, poor sediment controls and other poor environmental measures. These are usually responding to complaints lodged however should these complaints identify particular areas that need addressing Development Compliance Officer's will conduct targeted audits within these areas which are usually areas of high development such as new subdivisions. These audits provide the ability to provide education to the builderson minor breaches however penalties and/or legal documentation are issued if severe breaches or pollution incidents have occurred. Stormwater quality improvement devices are installed and maintained throughout the City as part of our stormwater management program. This program is reviewed and new devices are added as resourcing allows and according to strategic priorities. Council also runs a number of programs to remove litter from our environment, including Rise and Shine and Picitup, where community members remove litter from public spaces and record with they collect. This helps us understand where litter
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Support the set-up of a PV recycling industry in Wollongong.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Enforce litter act and pollution controls on building sites.</li> <li>Install and maintain gross pollutant traps on all stormwater outlets.</li> <li>Create a "fisherman for healthy seas" anti-littering campaign.</li> <li>Facilitate Ocean friendly accreditation program.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	4	4
Issue	Green jobs	Litter
lssue No.	8-11	8-12

Proposed Response/Action	is coming from, and which places have the most litter. We can use this information to try and reduce littering from happening in the first place. We've installed Fishing Tackle bins at 12 popular fishing locations in our area, thanks to help from Australian Sea Bird Rescue South Coast and West Wollongong Rotary. Noted. Council is supportive of the Ocean Friendly accreditation program and the work being undertaken by the Surfrider Foundation to reduce litter and the use of single use plastics. Council is currently developing an Environmental Education Program focusing on the key environmental issues of waste management, urban greening and climate change. Climate Change Mitigation Plan - Opportunities to engage with businesses and understand how council can support them to be more environmentally sustainable will be devised through the development and delivery of these plans.	Waste education programs are part of the CCMP, with Council continuing to design and deliver community education and behaviour change initiatives to maximise diversion of food, other organics, general household waste and nappies from landfill and to educate the broader community in waste avoidance, raise awareness of alternatives and work towards a litter free Wollongong and campaigns to reduce the amount of food waste households generate.	Whilst this is an excellent and suggestion, it is difficult for Council to understand and continue to monitor groups outside of its direct control. New groups continue to establish constantly, and vary in terms of their formality, focus and function. It is challenging and resource intensive to develop this and keep all of the relevant information current and succinct.
Key Comments		<ul> <li>Education needs to underpin all the priority areas and needs to be resourced more than existing workshops and events.</li> <li>More education on difficult to recycle products, things that don't break down in landfill and are toxic to the environment and wildlife.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Develop a register of environmental interest groups in the region, not just Council managed ones.</li> <li>Create a webpage of State and Federal Government powers to clarify community input.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions		m	m
Issue		Waste and Environmental education	Register of useful information
Issue No.		8-13	8-14



Proposed Response/Action	Council considers development of a webpage regarding state and federal government powers to be the responsibility of the relevant government authorities.	Noted, Council considered it important to include Aboriginal artwork and sentiment in this Strategy, particularly in respect of the Traditional Custodians of the Illawarra region and Dharawal lands.	The NSW Government has targets related to housing development articulated in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan. Council recognises that population growth and associated urban development can have detrimental impact on the environment if not managed appropriately.	In order to ensure that growth and associated urban development is balanced with social and environmental issues and ecologically sustainable development is achieved, Council has and continues to develop policies and strategies to inform development assessment and decision making, including Development Control Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and Town Centre Plans.	Noted. This strategy is one of Council's supporting documents and will be reported regularly through Council's reporting framework. A Sustainability Dashboard is also being developed to show our progress toward our goals. This dashboard will be made available on our website, Administration Building foyer, community facilities and we will keep the community updated through our regular sustainability and community newsletters.	Changes: Further information has been added to the Strategy outlining where the information will be displayed as outlined above.
Key Comments		<ul> <li>Great to see the aboriginal artwork - indigenous people are great stewards of land and we must learn from them.</li> <li>Love the collaboration with the Coomaditchie artists reflected through the document.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Council should push back on and not allow population growth.</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Sustainability Dashboard should be available on more than the website.</li> </ul>	
No. of Submissions		m	2		2	
Issue		Inclusion of Aboriginal stories and artwork	Population Growth		Sustainability Dashboard	
lssue No.		8-15	8-16		8-17	

Proposed Response/Action	The Austroads' Guide to Traffic Management has been updated and addresses speed zones. In the updated guide there is a reference to lower speed limits as low as 10km/h. The advice from Transport for NSW hasn't lowered default speed limits and the subsequent guide for setting speed limits hean't been updated. Council is managing speeds by way of traffic facilities that require drivers to slow down.	The Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City, is a revised strategy which when adopted aims to inform all of Council's policies, programs and plans. It is based on a review of the current Sustainability Strategy, informed by contemporary feedback from the community and prompted by evolving environmental issues, community concern, political focus and policy and legislative changes. The review is timely as a new Delivery Program will be prepared once the new Council is elected, following LG elections in September 2021. The development of sustainable building design and performance standards to apply to all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities is an action within the draft cCCMP 2020-22. It is anticipated that these standards would incorporate application of the waste hierarchy.	A very comprehensive engagement process was undertaken and included a community workshop, 5 school workshops, consultation with relevant reference groups and an online discussion boad. The opportunity to provide feedback was also advertised in a number of newsletters, social media and Council publications so that the reach within the community was greater. Specific engagement was also undertaken with the Aboriginal community. All of this was done prior to the draft Strategy being written.
Key Comments	<ul> <li>Suburban street speed limits reduced to 30km/hr. This is to reduce emissions about also increase community connectivity to green and built spaces as people will feel more safe letting kids out to play, riding their bikes and walking the streets.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The Sustainability Strategy should inform the Delivery and Operational Plans and should have been completed first.</li> <li>Think overall there is lot of good content but it could be improved by stronger commitments from Council.</li> <li>Ensure the construction of new council buildings are done with minimal waste and maximum recycling and reuse.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Broader consultation may be beneficial to help with ideas for sustainable solutions in Wollongong. Also learning from other cities/regions and taking what we can from other successes is always useful. Maybe conduct a few case studies.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions	2	<del></del>	4
Issue	Road Speed Limits	Sustainable Council Buildings	Broader Consultation
Issue No.	8-18	8-19	8-20

Proposed Response/Action	Council is also involved with a number of national and international programs and we regularly collaborate with other Councils on programs and research best practice case studies.	ve The Urban Greening Strategy is currently being implemented all and focus is on areas with low canopy cover. A trial is being so undertaken to determine the feasibility of increasing vegetation cover in the City's parks.	The Play Wollongong Strategy is a 10 year plan that provides strategic direction for upgrading the cities playgrounds and play facilities. Scheduled actions from this Strategy are being implemented.	an In the current environment Council supports working from cil home arrangements for staff who are able to perform their duties away from the workplace.	Noted. The development of the Strategy was considered important by the community. It is also a revised document. not a new one. The inaugural Sustainability Strategy was adopted in 2014 and was due for review. Some of the priority areas are	complex and therefore explanation is required It is agreed that a summary document is required and has been produced. This he is an overarching document that will inform future Council decision making.	
Key Comments		<ul> <li>Parks and green areas increased, but also more attractive and useable for a range of ages and demographics and all parks need an established 'riding or scooting' path way, so kids can practice riding safely off the road.</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>COVID has taught us that by working from home we can improve our environment, Does Wollongong City Council support working from home?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fail to see why these areas need a separate 60 page glossy Strategy. Surely this is wasteful in itself. You should be able to put the key points on 3 or 4 pages. Who do you expect to read 60 pages?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A stronger summary up front or infographic as it takes a long time to get through 60 pages which could really limit the audience.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>I am completely opposed to having Smith Street a one way street as it will make it awkward getting in and out of our premises.</li> </ul>
No. of Submissions		1		1	1		
Issue		Better park facilities		Working from home	Other		
lssue No.		8-21		8-22	8-23		



### Summary of proposed changes to draft Strategy

As identified above, a number of changes to the draft Strategy are proposed in response to the feedback from public exhibition, these changes include both wording modifications to actions and the addition of new actions/sustainability outcomes and are detailed in Tables 12 and 13 below.

Section Reference	Original wording	New action wording
Vision	Together, we're creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Wollongong is a thriving, low waste, low emissions city which is resilient, liveable and has high biodiversity values.	Together, we're creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Wollongong is a thriving low waste, low emissions City in harmony with its environment.
Priority Area 1	Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision-making and service delivery and inspire the same in others.	Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision- making and service delivery which inspires the same in others.
Priority Area 3	Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change.	Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase our resilience to climate change.
Priority Area 6	Our infrastructure and community can adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource.	Our infrastructure and community can adapt to a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource.
All Priority Areas		The addition of relevant Sustainable Development Goals to all priority areas.
Executive Summary	This dashboard will be made available on our website.	This dashboard will be made available on our website, Administration Building foyer, community facilities and the Sustainable Wollongong and community newsletters.
Strategic Context	The four main pillars of ESD are environmental protection, social equality, economic growth and governance, and are commonly known as quadruple bottom line (QBL) thinking and this should underpin all Council decision-making.	The four main pillars of ESD are environmental protection, social, economic and governance considerations, and are commonly known as quadruple bottom line (QBL) thinking and this should underpin all Council decision-making.
Strategic Context		The addition of Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation.

# Table 12: Summary of wording changes to the Sustainable Wollongong Strategy

New action wording	iil is planning for and One of the key challenges faced by Council is planning for and g city whilst balancing supporting our thriving community, their housing and recreation needs and our evolving City whilst balancing environmental factors.	New paragraph added: There are a number of economic benefits of Sustainability for Wollongong and these include: creating a green industry, research and innovation, eco tourism, smart infrastructure and cities. It is important for Council to support and work with business and industry so that they can transition to more sustainable ways of operating, whilst continuing to do business, sustain and foster employment and contribute to the financial sustainability of our City.	Addition to what you can do: Invest ethically.	quire Council to workquire Council to workquire Council to workpartnership with the community, private sector and other levels ofate sector and otherminue to protect andd future generationsd future generationsemvironment for current and future generations and to support andlividuals, communityinviduals, communityno to problems andlividuals, communityno to problems andlividuals, communityno to problems andno problems and no procesno problemsno problemsno problemsno problemsno problems <trr>no</trr>	Education education programs; We are active in providing environmental education programs; onment, encouraging reconnecting people with the natural environment, encouraging ing people with the environmental protection and empowering people with the skills,
Original wording	One of the key challenges faced by Council is planning for and accommodating a growing and our evolving city whilst balancing environmental factors.			Creating a Sustainable Wollongong will require Council to work in partnership with the community, private sector and other levels of government to ensure that we continue to protect and enhance our environment for current and future generations and to support and learn from each other. Across Wollongong there are many individuals, community groups, businesses and organisations showing leadership, encouraging others, implementing solutions to problems and making sustainability part of their lives. There are also many in our community who are advocating for stronger leadership at the state and federal levels.	Education We are active in providing environmental education programs; reconnecting people with the natural environment, encouraging environmental protection and empowering people with the
Section Reference	Priority Area 1	Priority Area 1	Priority Area 1	Priority Area 2	Priority Area 2



Section Reference	Original wording	New action wording
	skills, capacity and motivation to live more sustainably. We will continue to explore opportunities to enhance our environmental education programs in order to support our community and other stakeholders to implement actions to reduce their environmental impact and associated emissions.	capacity and motivation to live more sustainably. We will continue to explore opportunities to enhance our existing programs and explore new and innovative initiatives to support our community and other stakeholders to implement actions to reduce their environmental impact and associated emissions.
Priority Area 2		The addition of a new paragraph Business and Industry A sustainable community means a healthier environment and a happier, healthier and productive community. As Council works towards delivery of its Economic Development Strategy and creating 10,500 new jobs for the City by 2028, we have the opportunity to attract innovative sustainable new industry to our City. The plan recognises Wollongong's fast changing and diversifying advanced manufacturing sector, with significant operations in industrial, chemicals, mining, defence, construction, textiles and food and beverage as well as exploring opportunities in emerging fields such as renewable energy. Council through its participation in the Invest Wollongong partnership (along with the NSW Government and University of Wollongong), has identified clean energy as a target investment sector. Wollongong is envisaged to play a key role in Australia's decarbonised energy future, with Port Kembla identified as a superior location for Australia's first large scale hydrogen facility.
Priority Area 2	Action T6 - Work with our Aboriginal community, through the Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Reference Group and Aboriginal Elders groups, to learn from their traditional culture and heritage and incorporate these learnings when developing new Council supporting documents and programs.	Action T6 - Work with our Aboriginal community, organisations, Elders and groups, to learn and understand their traditions and cultural connection they have with the land, water and environment and incorporate these learnings when developing new Council supporting documents and programs.
Priority Area 3	E3 Continue to pursue commitments and actions under the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.	Action E3 - Continue to pursue commitments and actions under the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, including equitable access to energy.

Section Reference	Original wording	New action wording
Priority Area 4	Implementing programs in partnership with other agencies and our community are crucial to ensuring the resilience of endangered species. We will continue to deliver programs such as the natural area restoration program, Bushcare volunteer program and participate in the SouthEast NSW Bioregion Working Group, which all aim to conserve, protect and restore the most threatened flora in our region.	Implementing programs in partnership with other agencies and our community are crucial to ensuring the resilience of endangered species. We will continue to deliver programs such as the natural area restoration program, Bushcare volunteer program and participate in the SouthEast NSW Bioregion Working Group, which all aim to conserve, protect and restore the most threatened flora in our region. Green corridors and remnant vegetation provide valuable habitat for a variety of threatened flora and fauna in our region. Council continues to work with other land managers and Local Land Services to implement a coordinated pest management program aimed at reducing the impacts of the priority pests affecting our City, including deer, rabbits and Common Myna birds.
Priority Area 4		Addition of a section on food system resilience Food Resilience We also need to ensure that public spaces are available for food production, such as community gardens, and that our community is aware of where they can access low cost and free meals. Local food system resilience needs to be increased and Council can assist through supporting local agencies in their response to food security and equitable access to fresh food.
Priority Area 4		Addition of key statistic Successful implementation of pest animal management programs including deer, rabbit and Common Myna bird.
Priority Area 4		<b>Addition of what you can do</b> Keep cats indoors at night Don't ride mountain bikes or motorbikes in environmentally sensitive areas.
Priority Area 4	Our city was fortunate not to be directly impacted by these bushfires. In order to continue to reduce our risk to the impacts of bushfire we must continue to manage our natural assets, in	Our City was fortunate not to be directly impacted by these bushfires. In order to continue to reduce our risk to the impacts of bushfire we must continue to manage our natural assets, in particular their

Section Reference	Original wording	New action wording
	particular their interface with infrastructure and residents and undertake emergency preparedness. Continuing to work in partnership with the Rural Fire Service to implement the FIReady and Asset Protection Zone program is essential to protecting life and property in our city.	interface with infrastructure and residents and undertake emergency preparedness. Continuing to work in partnership with the Rural Fire Service and Illawarra Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) to implement the FIReady and Asset Protection Zone program is essential to protecting life and property in our City.
Priority Area 6	Action C4 - Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design and performance standards for all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities (Action was duplicated)	Action C4 - Investigate opportunities to improve the climate resilience of all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities
Priority Area 6	Action C5 - Review the Wollongong DCP to identify and incorporate opportunities to promote sustainable development across the city (Action was duplicated	Action C5 - Update asset management plans to include climate change provisions
Monitoring and Reporting	The results of our 'Sustainability Dashboard' will be made available on our website and we will keep the community updated through our regular newsletters.	The results of our 'Sustainability Dashboard' will be made available on our website, Administration Building foyer, community facilities and we will keep the community updated through our regular sustainability and community newsletters.
All Priority Areas		The removal of draft from referenced strategies that are no longer drafts.
All Priority Areas		The addition of action numbers to each of the actions for easier referencing and monitoring.



wollongong city of innexation

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### Table 13: List of new sustainability outcomes and actions.

Section Reference	New Action/Sustainability Outcome
Priority Area 4	Sustainability Outcome - Reduced pest and weed species/populations in our city.
Priority Area 4	Action H5 Continue to implement the Illawarra District Weeds program.
Priority Area 4	Action H6 Continue to implement the Illawarra Wild Deer Management, Wollongong Myna Pest Action and Rabbit Control Program.
Priority Area 4	Action H8 Increase the community's knowledge of locations and availability of low cost and free meals.
Priority Area 4	Action H9 Increase local food system resilience through supporting local agencies in their response to food security.
Priority Area 4	Action H10 Continue to support the establishment of community gardens on appropriate public spaces through the Community Gardens Policy.



### Conclusion

Through the public exhibition process the community made numerous valuable comments and suggestions on the draft Strategy. As a result number of changes have been made to the document, summarised as follows:

- Simplifying wording in the vision.
- Minor wording changes to some of the priority area goals.
- Changes to the ESD commentary and the addition of SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation.
- Addition of information about the transition to a renewable economy.
- Changes to the wording of action T6 working with the Aboriginal community.
- Changes to actions C4 and C5 as they were duplicate actions
- Addition of equitable access to energy to action E3.
- Addition of information about vertebrate pest management and more detail about food security.
- Addition of actions about weeds and vertebrate pest management and food security.
- Addition of a pest species sustainability outcome.
- Addition of relevant SDGs to each of the priority areas.
- Addition of numbers to actions in each priority area.
- Other minor wording changes throughout the document have been made to clarify statements and simplify wording.

There are now 34 sustainability outcomes (previously 33) and 42 high level actions in the updated draft Strategy (previously 40). The updated draft Strategy will be reported to Council for adoption.



### Appendix A – Frequently Asked Questions

### FAQs

Council has a range of plans already. Why do we need a Sustainable Wollongong Strategy?

Council has many and varied strategies, plans and programs and the draft Sustainable Wollongong Strategy will not duplicate these. This draft Strategy consolidates all our environmental priorities, goals and sustainability outcomes into one document, which will improve the integration of environmental considerations into all decision-making and operations.

There are 6 six priority areas for action in the draft Strategy and Councils many strategies, plans and programs support the delivery of the goal and sustainability outcomes in each of the priority areas. Effective and collaborative implementation of the actions identified in this Strategy will ensure that we, as a community, can create a thriving low waste, low emissions City, which is resilient, liveable and has high biodiversity values.

### What is sustainability?

Sustainability is commonly defined as meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainability is all encompassing and to create a focused document, this draft Strategy focusses on the environmental aspects of sustainability. To us, environmental sustainability is about improving the sustainability of and enhancing our way of life whilst minimising our impact on our natural systems.

What is the significance of Aboriginal Heritage and its relationship to sustainability?

Our natural environment sustained our local Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers. They lived in harmony with the local environment and they lived seasonally, within the climatic conditions and food availability. This ensured the sustainability of the local environment and of their people through taking only what they needed to survive, not wasting and protecting the environment for future generations. This draft Strategy incorporates these principles of sustainable living.

Council commissioned the cover artwork to represent the traditional Aboriginal perspective of sustainability and our community strategic plan vision:

'From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our environment'

### What is the role of Council?

Council has many roles in implementing the actions in this draft Strategy. We will act as a steward, facilitator, advocate, service provider, regulator and partner in helping the community achieve sustainability and climate change outcomes. We will lead by example and implement actions to reduce our environmental impact and emissions from Council operations. We are also committed to providing education, support and advice to our community, business and industry to reduce their emissions and environmental impact.

### When will this Strategy be reviewed?

To ensure that this Strategy remains current and reflective of political and community sentiment, it will be reviewed on a four-year cycle, coinciding with Council terms and review of the Community Strategic Plan. The Strategy will also undergo a major review in 2030.



### What engagement have we done to date?

In developing this Strategy, we held a series of engagement activities to gain community input. We asked our community what was important to them in terms of sustainability, why it was important and what we as a community could do. There was a high level of participation, with over 500 responses and over 1200 peer votes received.

The community told us that their priorities are Council demonstrating environmental leadership and working in partnership with community, reducing our City's emissions, increasing renewable energy, improving resilience to climate change, moving towards zero waste, increasing green space, green corridors and trees, increased sustainability requirements for all new developments and improved active and public transport opportunities in the City.

We have used these comments and priorities to develop the priority areas, goals and sustainability outcomes for this Strategy. We have incorporated the Aboriginal connection to country in this Strategy, especially encouraging our community to embrace living sustainably and fostering their own connection to country and our environment.

The purpose of this exhibition is to ensure that we listened and interpreted your thoughts and ideas correctly.

### What happens next?

All feedback received will used to make amendments to the draft Strategy, which will then be submitted to Council for endorsement later in the year.



### Appendix B – Online Feedback Form

### Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City

Our community has told us they value the protection of our environment and this is reflected as a goal in our Community Strategic Plan, our overarching plan for Wollongong.

We have developed the Draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy to focus our environmental sustainability priorities. We've identified six priority areas which each have a goal and a series of sustainability outcomes. The strategy provides direction for Council's operations by identifying highlevel pathways and actions for delivery.

To find out more read the Draft Strategy and FAQs.

Our online Q and A is available for you to ask questions.

How to share your thoughts:

- complete the feedback form
- email engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
- write to us at Locked Bag 8821 Wollongong NSW 2500

If you're Deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can contact us through the National Relay Service. You'll need to provide our phone number 02 4227 7111. If you need an interpreter you can contact us through the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131450. You'll need to provide our phone number 02 4227 7111.

Please read Council's Privacy Notification before submitting your feedback.

Feedback closes 12 August 2020

### Feedback form

The strategy has a vision and six priority areas for action with questions that relate to these.

- Priority Area: A city whose council shows leadership
- Priority area: A city that works together
- Priority area: A low emissions city
- Priority area: A healthy, liveable city
- Priority area: A low waste city
- Priority area: A climate and water resilient city

### Do you support this vision statement?

Together, we're creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Wollongong is a thriving low waste, low emissions city which is resilient, liveable and has high biodiversity values.

Choose any one option Strongly support Support Undecided Oppose Strongly oppose

Please tell us why?

### Priority area: A city whose council shows leadership

The goal for this priority area is: Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision-making and service delivery and inspire the same in others.

### Do you support this priority area and goal?

- Choose any one option Strongly support
- Support
- Undecided
- Oppose []
- Strongly oppose

Please tell us why?





### Priority area: A city that works together

The goal for this priority area is: *Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change* Do you support this priority area and goal?



- Support
- Undecided
- Dppose

Strongly oppose

Please tell us why?

### Priority area: A low emissions city

The goal for this priority area is: We will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, and together we will achieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the city

### Do you support this priority area and goal?

IChoose any one option Strongly support Support Undecided Oppose

Strongly oppose

Please tell us why?

### Priority area: A city in harmony with its environment

The goal for this priority area is: Our ecosystems and waterways are enhanced, our urban areas are cooler and greener and our community is connected to our natural environment

### Do you support this priority area and goal?

Choose any one option Strongly support Support Undecided Oppose

Strongly oppose

Please tell us why?

### Priority area: A climate and water resilient city

The goal for this priority area is: Our infrastructure and community can adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource

### Do you support this priority area and goal?

- IC hoose any one option Strongly support Support Undecided
- Dppose

Strongly oppose

Please tell us why?

### Priority area: A low waste city

The goal for this priority area is: Our community only take what they need, reuse and recycle what they can and are aware of the resources that they consume

### Do you support this priority area and goal?

- |Choose any one option|
- Support Support
- Undecided
- Oppose
   Strongly oppose

Please tell us why?

Do you have any other comments on the draft Strategy?



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### Appendix C: Social media



From beautiful beaches to a striking escarpment, Wollongong has a lot to love and look after when it comes to sustainability and climate change. The draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020 and draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy will be both up for discussion at Monday night's Council Meeting. To read up on what the Council will be considering, head to our business papers at https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/.../c.../councilbusinesspapers



3,636 People reached	173 Engagements	Во	ost Post
COB Tim Buckley,	John Mit and 36 others	5 Comment	s 1 share
凸 Like	Comment	A Share	<u>*</u> •



We've got a community that has proven that they are passionate about sustainability and climate change and we want your comments on our draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020 and draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy to help shape the future of our city. Join the conversation on our greener future at

https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/





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City of Wollongong 4 August · 📀

There's only a little over a week for you to leave your comments on the draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy and draft Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan. Help shape the future of our city and our actions on climate and sustainability by leaving your feedback before 12 August.

Visit https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/ to join the conversation!





### Appendix D: Media coverage

Media promotions are related to the exhibition of the Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy and the Climate Change Mitigation Plan, through various forums, as outlined in Table x.

### Table 14: Media promotion links

Media Forum	Link
Bang the Table website mention	https://www.bangthetable.com/blog/how-community-is-shaping-wollongong- city-councils-net-zero-future/
National Tribune	https://www.nationaltribune.com.au/fired-up-for-fogo-this-november- wollongong/
Mirage	https://www.miragenews.com/fired-up-for-fogo-this-november-wollongong/
Illawarra Mercury	https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/6006925/learn-about-sustainable- living-at-wollongong-forum/
Global Covenant of Mayors Blog	https://www.gcom-oceania.org/news-blog/2020/8/25/community-the-heart- of-wollongongs-sustainability-future
Illawarra Mercury	https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/6802624/how-wollongong-will- change-over-next-2yrs-to-tackle-climate-emergency/
ABC news	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-11/wollongong-steel-city-commits-to- become-carbon-neutral/11785378
CPP website mention	https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/partners/wollongong-city-council/
The Greens website mention	https://www.illawarragreens.org.au/our_successes
GCoM website mention	https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/cities/wollongong/
Why Not Wollongong	https://whynotwollongong.wixsite.com/climateplan/our-story
Wollongong Power	https://www.wollongongpower.org/
Wollongong Council	https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/news-and- alerts/news/news/august-2020/solar-panels-to-be-installed-on-council-carpark
Wollongong Council	https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/news-and- alerts/news/news/june-2020/boosting-wollongongs-liveability



### Appendix E: List of external stakeholders emailed regarding the exhibition

Landcare Illawarra Helensburgh & District Landcare Group Tullimbah Land Care Stop CSG Illawarra AYCC Wollongong Climate Action Network Illawarra National Parks Association Surfrider Foundation Illawarra First members Peabody Metropolitan Mine Illawarra Coal - South 32 Wollongong Coal UOW Port Authority of NSW Bluescope Illawarra Business Chamber i3net UDIA **Property Council** RDA **Renew Wollongong** Wilderness Society Illawarra Wollongong Climate Action Network (WCAN) Bella and the Break Free Illawarra Climate Coalition Sustainable Illawarra Julia Barnes Food Fairness Illawarra Lee Evans MP Stephen Jones MP Ryan Park MP Paul Scully MP Gareth Ward MP Hon Sharon Bird MP Anna Watson MP Wollongong City Lord Mayor and councillors ALESCO Illawarra Aspect South Coast School Austinmer Public School **Balgownie Public School** Bellambi Public School **Berkeley Public School** Berkeley West Public School **Bulli High School Bulli Public School Cedars Christian College Coledale Public School Coniston Public School Corrimal East Public School Corrimal High School Corrimal Public School** Craig Davis College **Cringila Public School** Dapto High School

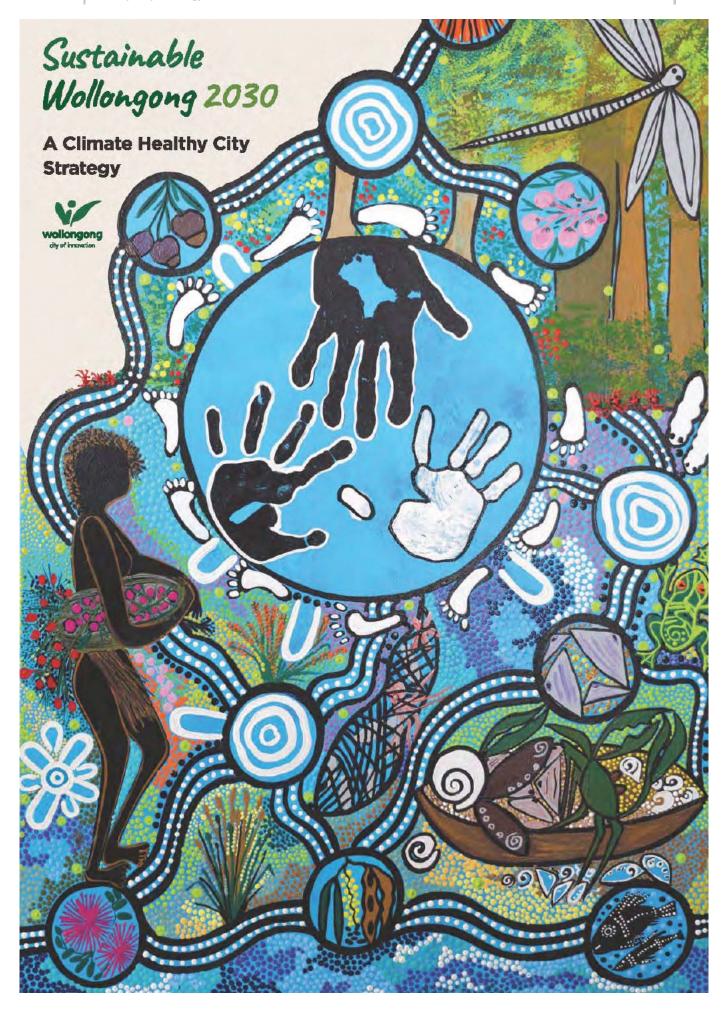
Dapto Public School Edmund Rice College (Boys) Elonera Montessori School Fairy Meadow Public School Farmborough Road Public School **Figtree Heights Public School Figtree High School** Figtree Public School **Five Islands Secondary College** Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School **Gwynneville Public School** Hayes Park Public School Helensburgh Public School Holy Cross Catholic Parish Primary School Holy Spirit College Illawarra Christian School Illawarra Hospital School Illawarra Sports High School Kanahooka High School Keira High School **Keiraville Public School** Kemblawarra Public School Koonawarra Public School Lake Heights Public School Lakelands Public School Lindsay Park Public School M.E.T. School Mount Brown Public School Mount Keira Public School Mount Kembla Public School Mount Ousley Public School Mount St Thomas Public School Nareena Hills Public School **Otford Public School** Para Meadows School Pleasant Heights Public School Port Kembla Public School Primbee Public School **Russell Vale Public School** Scarborough Public School Smiths Hill High School St Brigid's Catholic Parish Primary School St Columbkille's Catholic Parish Primary School St Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish Primary School St John's Catholic Parish Primary School St Joseph's Catholic Parish Primary School St Mary Star of the Sea College St Mary Star of the Sea College (Girls) St Michael's Catholic Parish Primary School St Patrick's Catholic Parish Primary School St Pius X Catholic Parish Primary School St Therese Catholic Parish Primary School



Stanwell Park Public School Tarrawanna Public School The Illawarra Grammar School Thirroul Public School Towradgi Public School Unanderra Public School Waniora Public School Warrawong High School Warrawong Public School Windang Public School Wollongong Flexible Learning Centre Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts Wollongong Public School Wollongong West Public School Woonona East Public School Woonona High School Woonona High School Woonona Public School Woonona East Public School 11 individuals that have provided previous submissions or correspondence



### Ordinary Meeting of Council Item 5 - Attachment 2 - Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate 16 No Healthy City Strategy





'What the earth has to provide must be saved so we can hand down to the future generations, so they can learn how to care for what we have and generate all species.' Lorraine Brown and Narelle Thomas

### Sustaining life

Painted by Lorraine Brown and Narelle Thomas

Years ago, in many parts of the world there were no shops to supply food, only hunters and gatherers.

For thousands of years our people, like many Indigenous people of the nations had to live by the seasons.

Their skills were remarkable and their knowledge of the land impeccable. If they didn't know the seasons, their foods and how to prepare the food they would have starved.

The most important part of keeping and maintaining life was to never take more than you needed.

To sustain life you have to care for your land – your country – never waste.

What the earth has to provide must be saved so we can hand down to the future generations, so they can learn how to care for what we have and generate all species.

Council commissioned this painting to represent the traditional Aboriginal perspective of sustainability and our Community Strategic Plan vision.

'From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our environment'





### Vision:

Together, we're creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Wollongong is a thriving low waste, low emissions city, in harmony with its environment.



### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Custodians of the Illawarra region, the Dharawal People. We acknowledge that the lands we live and work upon are Aboriginal lands. We recognise the important connection that the local Aboriginal people have with the land and the environment in which they live, it is a connection that goes beyond the features and physical attributes of a place. We acknowledge how Aboriginal people lived off the land and how important it was to keep the environment preserved, so it could continue to provide food, medicine and a connected relationship that is intrinsic to the culture and identity of our local Aboriginal peoples and culture.

We also pay respect to Elders past, present and those emerging. We would also like to extend our acknowledgement and pay respect to other Aboriginal people that are off country and have decided to call our beautiful region home.

In celebration of unity, culture, both traditional and contemporary, we acknowledge the rich history of our local Aboriginal heritage.





#### Ordinary Meeting of Council

Item 5 - Attachment 2 - Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy



#### Glossary of terms and acronyms

CO2 Carbon Dioxide	
CO <sub>2</sub> e	Equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide. The universal unit of measurement to indicate the global warming potential (GWP) of each greenhouse gas (GHG), expressed in terms of the GWP of one unit of carbon dioxide. It is used to evaluate the climate impact of releasing (or avoiding releasing) different GHGs on a common basis.
CPP	Cities Power Partnership
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
EV	Electric vehicle
FOGO	Food Organics Garden Organics
GCoM	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GRP	Gross Regional Product
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISJO	Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Regional Organisation of Councils
kWh	Kilowatt hours is a unit of energy equal to 1000 watt hours or 3.6 megajoules.
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LSPS	Local Strategy Planning Statement
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PV	Photovoltaic
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
Supporting Documents	Council's strategies and plans that support the delivery of the CSP, Delivery Program and Operational Plan
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to create a sustainable global future.

All key statistics in this Strategy are current as at May 2020 unless otherwise stated.



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BEIG



Ordinary Meeting of Council Item 5 - Attachment 2 - Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate 16 November 2020 Healthy City Strategy



"We can't do this alone as a community we all have a role to play in creating a sustainable future for generations to come."

Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM

#### It is my pleasure to present Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy.

The strategy outlines how we can work together to create a sustainable future for our city. There are many pathways that we can take to create a sustainable, greener, healthier, cooler and more liveable city for everyone.

The strategy provides the overarching framework and goals to create a sustainable Wollongong, with detailed actions, resourcing and timeframes included in supporting plans.

It re-affirms our long-term commitment to creating a sustainable Wollongong and ensuring that we are resilient as a community and able to adapt to a changing climate.

We will increase tree and vegetation cover across our city, improve biodiversity outcomes, reduce waste to landfill, protect our coasts and estuaries, improve stormwater management and reduce emissions.

6

As part of this work, Council has set emission reduction targets of net zero by 2030 for our own operations and net zero by 2050 for the community.

We can't do this alone - as a community we all have a role to play in creating a sustainable future for generations to come.

We look forward to working with you to create a Sustainable Wollongong.

#### Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM





# Executive Summary

From our beautiful beaches and wetlands through to the striking escarpment, Wollongong is a city with unique and diverse natural environments, an attractive destination to residents and visitors alike. Wollongong is home to many unique natural ecosystems, endangered species and communities, as well as over 200,000 residents. As our population grows, we will need to balance the social, economic and environmental needs of our city in order to create a Sustainable Wollongong.

Both Council and our community are committed to creating a sustainable and climate resilient city and this is reflected by community sentiment and in the many and varied supporting documents and programs that we prepare and implement. We recognise that, as a local government leader, we have a moral responsibility to current and future generations to preserve natural resources and minimise our impact on the environment.

This sentiment is also reflected in our Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 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.

and its first goal:

'We value and protect our environment'.

Our community have told us that they are concerned about climate change and supportive of Council being a leader, advocating for and working with all areas of our community to reduce emissions and waste, improve climate resilience and create a sustainable Wollongong. Our Aboriginal community told us that they have traditionally lived in harmony with their environment and these principles of protecting the environment to sustain life are inherent throughout this strategy.

We, as Council, are also participants in a number of global and national initiatives, such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), Climate Emergency Declaration and Cities Power Partnership (CPP), which help us to drive and guide emission reductions from Council operations, adapt to a changing climate and support the city to do the same.

The Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy (Strategy) outlines our commitment to environmental sustainability for both Council operations and our community. This Strategy identifies pathways to create a sustainable, greener, healthier, cooler and more liveable city.





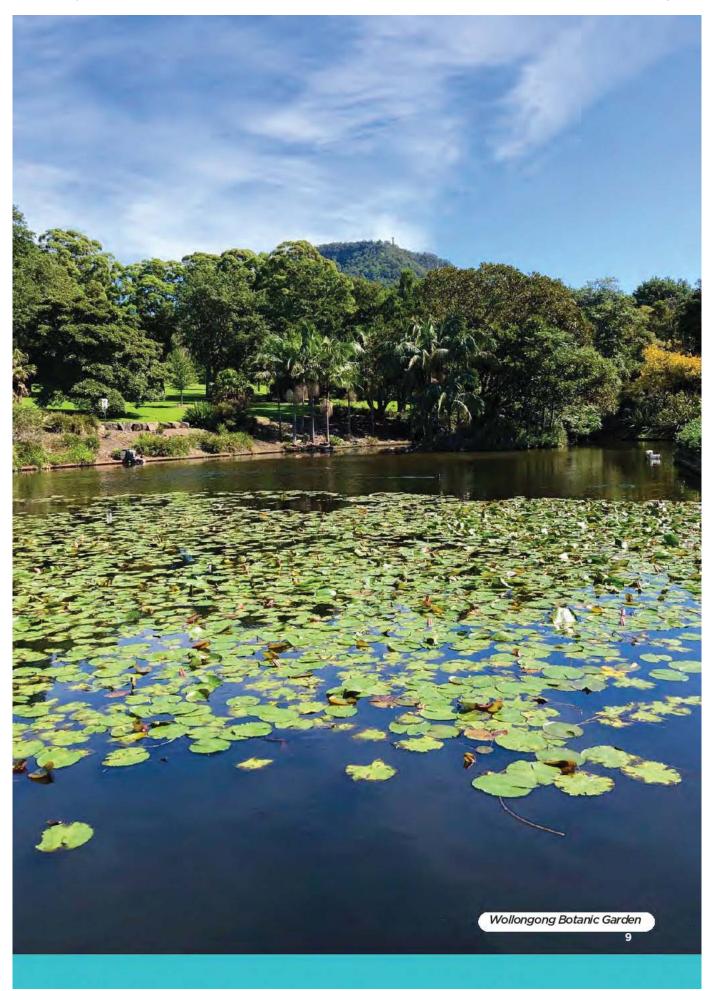
This Strategy centres around six priority areas and associated goals over the next ten years.

PRIORITY AREA	GOAL	
A city whose council shows leadership	Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision- making and service delivery which inspires the same in others	
A city that works together	Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase our resilience to climate change	
A low emissions city	We will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, and together we will a chieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the city.	
A city in harmony with our environment	Our ecosystems and waterways are enhanced, our urban areas are cooler and greener and our community is connected to our natural environment	
A low waste city	Our community only take what they need, reuse and recycle what t can and are aware of the resources that they consume	
A climate and water resilient city	Our infrastructure and community can adapt to a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource	

In order to achieve these goals a suite of high-level actions have been developed that when delivered through our service and operational programs will create a Sustainable Wollongong. To ensure that we achieve our goals in this Strategy, monitoring of the implementation of these actions and progress towards the sustainability outcomes will be undertaken and reported through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. We are also developing a 'Sustainability Dashboard' to show our progress towards achieving these sustainability outcomes and ultimately achieving our goals. This dashboard will be made available on our website, Administration Building foyer, community facilities and the Sustainable Wollongong and community newsletters.









# Our City

From our beautiful beaches and wetlands through to the striking escarpment, Wollongong is a city with unique and diverse natural environments, an attractive destination to residents and visitors alike. Wollongong is home to many unique natural ecosystems, endangered species and communities, as well as over 200,000 residents.

As our population grows, we will need to balance the social, economic and environmental needs of our city in order to create a Sustainable Wollongong.

We are the largest centre on the NSW south coast, providing important social and economic services to the region.

#### Where are We?

Located 80 km south of Sydney we are the 3rd largest city in New South Wales and the 10th largest city in Australia in terms of population

714 sq km in area bounded by the Royal National Park in the north, Lake Illawarra in the south, the coastline in the east and escarpment in the west



#### Who are We?

In 2016, there were 5,346 people in the LGA who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing 2.6% of the total population

21.5% of Wollongong's population was born overseas. The five main countries of birth are UK, China, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy and New Zealand.

63.7% of the Wollongong LGA population occupied single homes; 20.7% occupied a medium density dwelling; while 10.3% occupied high-density dwellings

In 2016, 72.5% of people who live in Wollongong said they travel to work in a motor vehicle, 5.5% by train, 2% by bus and 3.7% used active transport. 218,114 people live in the City of Wollongong, by 2036, 254,805 will call the city home

There are approximately 103,797 employed residents with 95,936 local jobs. Wollongong's diverse economy provides employment for 20,000 residents of surrounding LGAs

Almost 23,000 Illawarra residents commute to Greater Sydney for work

Wollongong is the regional capital of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven, producing \$12.2B (60%) of the region's \$20.4B Gross Regional Product (GRP).

29% of households are vulnerable (with an income of less than \$750 per week)

16.6% of households do not have an internet connection

Information has been taken from the 2016 ABS Census Data and REMPLAN



# Aboriginal Heritage

The area we know today as Wollongong was originally inhabited by the Dharawal people (Tarawal or Thuruwal), who remain the Traditional Custodians of this land. The name Wollongong is said to originate from the Aboriginal word woolyungah, meaning 'five islands'. Wollongong has a proud Aboriginal community that encourages everyone to learn about and celebrate local cultural traditions.

'Connection to Country can be fostered today by keeping our culture documented - by keeping our kids connected and by learning the wider community of what's around them - stopping development in areas where there are significant plants carving art grooves - the more we ourselves and the wider community knows the better connection to culture and fostering our knowledge can surely preserve 'connection to Country' belongs/belonging.'

Aboriginal Engagement Participant

Our natural environment sustained our local Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers. They lived in harmony with the local environment and they lived seasonally, within the climatic conditions and food availability. Nature was their supermarket and so looking after it was of top priority. Aboriginal people sporadically burnt parts of the environment to prevent wildfire and regenerate the landscape. This ensured the sustainability of the local environment and of their people through taking only what they needed to survive, not wasting and protecting the environment for future generations.

### Leave only footprints, leave no rubbish behind.

Aboriginal Reference Group

This connection to country, way of living and leaving only footprints is something inherent in traditional Aboriginal culture and something that we have integrated into the development of this strategy.

Artwork by Lorraine Brown and Narelle Thomas, Coomaditchie Artists





Sustainability is commonly defined as meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

To us, environmental sustainability is about improving the sustainability of and enhancing our way of life whilst minimising our impact on our natural systems. Our environment defines us; it's the spaces we play in, the places we work and build, it's our home. Protecting and maintaining our environment is essential if we want it to create a sustainable city and to support the liveability and prosperity of our region. Healthy ecosystems and waterways support all life in our city and provide spaces for us to work, rest and play in.

## Creating a Sustainable Wollongong means:

- protecting our ecosystems,
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions,
- reducing natural resource consumption,
- becoming resilient to the impacts of climate change,
- increasing active transport and walkability of our city,
- designing and constructing buildings to minimise their environmental impact,
- connecting with and appreciating our natural environment.



This requires us to balance protecting our environment, economy and social fabric of our city. We are aiming to preserve our identity as a city, what makes us unique and wonderful, as we continue to grow and evolve and pursue opportunities to be a leader as a climate healthy city.

#### Climate change

Climatic changes are naturally occurring phenomena that have been rapidly increased due to human activities, including burning fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture.

Climate change is arguably the most significant issue of our time, with the potential to impact on the environmental, economic and social sustainability of our city and beyond. These impacts are already being felt around the world.

Globally, the top 5 hottest years on record were recorded between 2015-2019 and the severity and frequency of other natural disasters such as bushfires, floods and droughts continue to increase . If we continue with our current practices, global temperatures are predicted to increase by 2-5.5 °C by the end of the century, which will further exacerbate these impacts.

Climate change is affecting many of the basic elements of life, such as access to water, food production, health and well-being, use of the land and biodiversity values. In addition, these impacts will not be evenly distributed, with the poorest and most vulnerable people anticipated to be impacted the most. Economists have advised that without action the impacts of climate change are estimated to annually cost at least 5% of global domestic product GDP.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that the need to address climate change is extremely urgent and we need to keep global temperatures to less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels to mitigate catastrophic impacts of climate change.

<sup>1</sup>Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

<sup>2</sup> https://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/graphics/top-10-warmest-years-on-record

<sup>3</sup> STERN REVIEW: The Economics of Climate Change, Executive summary, Nicholas Stern, Cambridge University Press 2008. Garnaut Climate Change Review: Final Report Commonwealth of Australis, 2008







#### Global changes, local impacts

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has published the Illawarra Climate Change Snapshot 2014, which summarises the key climatic projections for the Illawarra as a result of climate change (Figure 1).

Projected temperature changes	
Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.4 – 0.9°C	Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.6 – 2.3°C
Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.4 – 0.7°C	Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.5 – 2.4°C
The number of hot days will increase	The number of cold nights will decrease
Projected rainfall changes	
Rainfall is projected to decrease in winter	Rainfall is projected to increase in summer and autumn
Projected Forest Fire Danger Index	(FFDI) changes
Average fire weather is projected to increase in spring	Severe fire weather is projected to increase in summer and spring in the far future

Figure 1: Projected climatic changes for the Illawarra. Source: Illawarra Snapshot 2014

The impacts anticipated as a result of these projections include:



#### Extreme temperatures

Discomfort, ill health and even premature death due to temperature extremes

Increased risk and discomfort to the most vulnerable in our community

Increased heating and cooling costs

Increased strain on electricity grid due to increased demand

Increased strain on community and emergency services

Increased stress to our natural vegetation



Decreased rainfall and drought

Increased dust

Lower rainfall predictability

Botanic garden, sports fields and parks become harder to maintain

Increased occurrences of plant and tree mortality in our parks

Frequent sports field closures due to unsafe playing surfaces

More frequent water restrictions

Estuary water quality issues



Other Impacts

Increased storm surge, flooding, and bushfire risk

Damage to infrastructure and property

Increased strain on emergency services

Increased health impacts

Damage to natural environments

Increasing clean-up costs

Increasing insurance premiums

Increased pollution entering our waterways, estuaries and beaches



## 'environmental sustainability matters, without it a place becomes unliveable'

Online engagement HQ participant





## What is the role of Council?

As a Local Government authority, we have a responsibility to our community to promote a healthy, resilient and productive environment. Under the Local Government Act one of the guiding principles for councils is that councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) in their decision-making.

The highest level of influence we have is directly implementing actions to reduce the environmental impact of our operations and this will be a priority for Council (Figure 2).

We, as Council, have a role in urban planning, transport, economic and community development; waste and water management, community education, public land management and the delivery of specific climate, environment and sustainability programs. We will act as a steward, facilitator, advocate, service provider, regulator and partner in helping the community achieve these outcomes.

We can make a valuable contribution towards improving environmental sustainability through our own operations and service delivery through sustainable infrastructure, waste, water, energy and resource use and procurement. We will lead by example and implement actions to reduce our environmental impact and emissions from Council operations. Council cannot achieve the goals in this strategy on its own. Residents, businesses and schools have an important role to play in creating a better Wollongong for all. Council has limited direct influence on the uptake of environmental behaviours within our community.

However, we are committed to providing education, support and advice to our community, business and industry to reduce their emissions and environmental impact.

We also collaborate and partner with government agencies in delivering important programs within our community to secure funding to implement local and regional programs. We will work collaboratively with Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven Councils and the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) to advocate for and implement programs within our community.

As Council, we represent the voices of our community and will advocate for what is best for our community at the state and national levels.

Together we can work to make our urban and natural environment, and social and economic systems more resilient to climate change and other environmental challenges.



Figure 2: Spheres of influence for the different roles of Council.



# Why do we need this strategy?

The inaugural Environmental Sustainability Strategy was adopted by Council in 2014 and to date has guided Council's works and programs to reduce environmental impact. Over 82% of scheduled actions from the 2014 Strategy were implemented, such as the Urban Greening Strategy, sustainability review of the DCP and joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), to name a few.

It is evident that the 2014 Strategy has been effective in facilitating programs and activities that have led to improvements in our environment. However, it is important to review our strategic direction and update it in a current context; in response to environmental issues, community concern and government policy, legislation and commitments.

We are seeing the impacts of climate change and environmental harm around our city and it is important that we recognise that we have a collective role to play in improving the sustainability of our community, our environment and our land. We have big challenges ahead of us, but this also provides us with exciting opportunities to improve the way that we do things to enhance quality of life for all.

To create a Strategy that is practical and focused, we are concentrating on activities that lead to measurable improvements in Wollongong's environment, whilst considering social and economic factors. This Strategy provides a high-level strategic direction for Council's operations by identifying actions to be delivered through the supporting documents and programs.

By consolidating all our environmental priorities, goals and sustainability outcomes into one document, we will improve the integration of environmental considerations into all decision-making and operations.

Adoption of this Strategy will also enable Council to build on its commitment to a sustainable future, embed environmental sustainability into the core business of Council and influence the continuing quality of life, prosperity and liveability of our city.

In preparing this updated Strategy, we have worked hard to understand the community's thoughts and concerns as well as identify the most important and effective opportunities for us to pursue. This Strategy has been developed

### 'we moved based on the seasons, food availability and environmental changes'

#### **Aboriginal Reference Group**

with rigorous community engagement, attracting a high level of community participation reflecting the importance that our community has in protecting our environment and creating a sustainable city. This Strategy also pays homage to the traditional Aboriginal culture, connection to country and way of living, and integrates these principles into the goals and direction of this Strategy.

This Strategy supports our 2018 Climate Emergency Declaration, adoption of emissions reduction targets for Council and the city, and other works under the Global Covenant of Mayors and Cities Power Partnership program.

Delivering this Strategy will create a legacy for change now to create a brighter, healthier, and more resilient future for our city.



This Strategy is about more than doing the right things. It is about working with our community to do things better and to do things differently. This is the only way to embrace the challenges we face and seize the opportunity to create a sustainable future for all.





### **KEY STATISTICS 2018/19**



Increase in population by 2036



20% <

Rainfall recorded in 2019



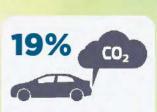
Average daily temperatures 1.85°C warmer in 2019 than previous years



Hottest day 39.6°C recorded 23 Jan 2020



Emissions from energy consumption in 2018/19



Emissions from transport in 2018/19



Puckey's Reserve Wollongong



# Strategic Context

### Global

#### **Ecologically Sustainable Development**

**(ESD)** was first introduced by the Brundtland Commission Report in 1987. The report described the principles of ESD and how it could be globally achieved. The principles of ESD are:

- The Precautionary Principle we will not undertake any actions that have a potential risk to cause serious harm to the community or the environment; even in the absence of scientific certainty;
- ii. Inter and intra-generational equity we recognise the importance of equity within and between generations;
- iii. Biological diversity we value our natural biodiversity and will work to protect and enhance local native habitat;
- iv. Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms - we will integrate long and short-term economic, environmental and social considerations into all Council decision-making processes and operations.

The four main pillars of ESD are environmental, social, economic and governance considerations, and are commonly known as quadruple bottom line (QBL) thinking and this should underpin all Council decision-making. The United Nations have held numerous Conferences on Environment and Development since the Brundtland Report, including

- Rio de Janeiro (1992) Climate Change was formally recognised
- Kyoto (1997) the first global agreement to limit emissions
- Paris (2015) a global commitment to limit global temperature increases to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5°C and a commitment to achieve netzero emissions, globally, by the second half of the century. In 2019, it was recognised by the IPCC that there is an urgent need to keep global temperatures to within 1.5°C of warming because of the impacts already being seen globally.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global strategy agreed by the United Nations General Assembly and form a blueprint to create a sustainable future for everyone. There are 17 interconnected goals for 2015-2030, including 10 directly relevant to sustainability and climate change as shown in Figure 3. Each of the priority areas also reference the SDGs that they will help achieve.



Figure 3: Sustainable Development Goals directly relevant to sustainability (United Nations 2020)



### **National and NSW**

In response to the Paris Agreement, the Australian Government has set an emissions reduction target of 26-28% of 2005 emissions by 2030.

To complement this commitment, the Australian Government has a range of responses to sustainability and climate change issues integrated into their service delivery, including biodiversity and biosecurity, environmental protection (pollution licences and air quality), waste avoidance, agriculture, forestry and water. More information on the policies, programs and legislation that can be found at <u>https://www.environment.gov.au/topics</u>

The NSW Government has also endorsed the Paris Agreement and has set a corresponding emissions reduction target of net zero emissions by 2050. The NSW Government also has a number of programs and plans to improve sustainability outcomes in the state of NSW (Table 1).

Table 1: NSW Government plans and programs with links to sustainability outcomes

PLAN/POLICY	AIMS/OBJECTIVES	KEY DIRECTIONS
14 Premier's Priorities	Aims to enhance the quality of life for the people of NSW	<ul> <li>Increasing green cover in urban spaces across the state</li> <li>Increasing canopy cover across Sydney</li> </ul>
Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan	Five (5) goals for the region, one of which is protecting and enhancing the natural environment	<ul> <li>Protect the region's environmental value by focusing development in locations with the capacity to absorb development</li> <li>Build the Illawarra - Shoalhaven's resilience to natural hazards and climate change</li> <li>Improve environmental outcomes for waste management and air quality</li> <li>Secure the health of coastal landscapes by managing land uses and water quality</li> </ul>
Shoalhaven Illawarra Enabling Regional Adaptation (SIERA) Project	To understand the climate vulnerabilities in the region and to identify opportunities to respond to them. Several vulnerable systems were identified	<ul> <li>Satellite settlements - isolation and limited road access</li> <li>Transport - growing regional population and geographical constraints</li> <li>Emergency management - increased demand and declining volunteer base</li> <li>Energy - centralised system vulnerable to network failure from extreme climate events</li> <li>Food - changing rainfall and temperature patterns and increased development</li> <li>Industrial transformation - rising energy costs, international markets and the need to reduce environmental impacts</li> <li>Water - climatic changes, population growth, increased development and seasonal demand variability</li> </ul>



### **Wollongong City Council Response**

Our Wollongong 2028: Our Community Strategic Plan sets our community's vision and the importance of our environment:

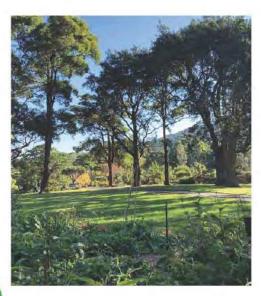
From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and we will be leaders in building an educated, creative and connected community.

The first goal of Our Wollongong 2028: Community Strategic Plan is: 'We value and protect our environment'. This further reflects the importance of our environment to both our community and Council.

The Sustainable Wollongong Strategy will be a supporting document, which will inform the Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational (Annual) Plan (Figure 4).

This Strategy will play an important part in addressing our commitments to the GCoM, CPP, Climate Emergency Declaration and United Nations SDGs.

We have many plans and programs which aim to improve the environmental and sustainability outcomes for the city and deliver on the goals of the Community Strategic Plan. This Strategy provides direction and pathways for action for our supporting documents and programs. The actions delivered through the supporting documents and programs will be reported through the Integrated Planning and Reporting process.





#### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN





#### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A level of interconnected documents that provide further detail about how we are going to achieve positive outcomes for the community



#### DELIVERY PROGRAM

Sets out the key activities and projects that will be delivered to the community during the Council term



#### ANNUAL PLAN

Provides more detail of the Delivery Program including projects, activities and budgets



Figure 4: Council's Integrated Planning Framework





### **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and** Energy (GCoM)

In 2017 we became a signatory to the GCoM, which commits us to a series of activities to achieve a resilient and low-emission society. These actions include adopting an emissions reduction target and developing a Climate Change Mitigation Plan and a Climate Change Adaptation Plan (to be revised in 2020/21).

### **Climate Emergency Declaration**

In August 2019, in support of the global climate crisis, Council recognised that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government, and at the time of writing, we are one of close to 100 Australian councils to do so. Through this declaration we acknowledge that climate changes pose a serious risk to life as we know it and that current measures being implemented are not enough to limit human caused climatic changes<sup>5</sup>. This declaration means that we need to ensure that the climate emergency response is considered as a high level of importance in all our decision-making. This includes taking all actions possible to reduce emissions through advocacy, partnerships with other councils, supporting local community action and reducing our own emissions.

### Cities Power Partnership Program (CPP)

In January 2020 we also became members of the CPP program to help reduce our emissions and to promote opportunities to our community and businesses. This program will support the city's transition to a clean energy future by providing access to a range of resources to help evaluate and monitor actions and opportunities to collaborate and share knowledge with other councils.





# Listening to our community

### How did we engage?

In developing this Strategy, we held a series of engagement activities to gain community input (see Figure 5). We asked our community what was important to them in terms of sustainability, why it was important and what we as a community could do. There was a high level of participation, with over 500 responses and over 1200 peer votes received. This information has been used to identify the key issues of concern to the community and their aspirations in creating a Sustainable Wollongong.



#### Figure 5: Community engagement participation

We have also included three artworks from local Aboriginal artists as visual inspiration throughout this Strategy. These artworks are reflective of Aboriginal connection to country, the importance of our environment and of living sustainably, and serve to encourage commitment and action to achieve the goals of this Strategy.



<sup>6</sup> Smith's Hill High, Woonona High, Dapto High, Woonona Public and Northern Illawarra Academically Gifted Program



# What did our community say?

Through engagement on this Strategy, our community have expressed their love and appreciation for the environment. They have told us that they are very concerned about climate change and supportive of both the Climate Emergency Declaration and setting an emissions reduction target.

#### The community told us that their priorities are:

- Council demonstrating environmental leadership
- Council working in partnership with the community
- Reducing our City's emissions
- Increasing renewable energy
- Improving resilience to climate change
- Moving towards zero waste

Our Aboriginal community told us that they have traditionally lived in harmony with their environment, using the principles of low consumption, low waste, eating sustainable locally sourced food and protecting native vegetation and wildlife. These principles of protecting the environment to sustain life are inherent throughout this Strategy.

Our community identified that Council should be a leader and advocate for bold environmental and climate change initiatives. Reducing emissions and waste, preserving biodiversity, reducing urban heat stress and creating a climate resilient city is of high importance for the liveability of our city.



School Responses

- More green space, green corridors and trees
- Improved water quality and water resilience
- Increased sustainability requirements for all new developments
- Improved active transport opportunities in the city
- Improved public transport systems and car/ ride share schemes



**Community Responses** 

We have used these comments and priorities to develop the priority areas, goals and sustainability outcomes for this Strategy. We have incorporated the Aboriginal connection to country in this Strategy, especially encouraging our community to embrace living sustainably and fostering their own connection to country and our environment.

The feedback, comments, concerns and priorities are important to us and we will continue to use them when reviewing or updating future supporting documents and programs.



# Structure

Each of the following chapters addresses a key priority area to achieving a 'Sustainable Wollongong'. Based on stakeholder engagement we have identified six priority areas as depicted in Figure 6. The priority areas are interdependent and impact or influence each other.



Figure 6: Key priority areas that are key to a Sustainable Wollongong.



Each of the priority areas and goals in this Strategy align with, and the delivery of the high-level actions in the priority areas will assist in, achieving the goals in Wollongong 2030 Community Strategic Plan (Table 2).



 Table 2: Links between the priority areas and goals in the Sustainable Wollongong Strategy and the goals in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

SUSTAINABLE WOLLONGONG PRIORITY AREA	SUSTAINABLE WOLLONGONG GOAL	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
A city whose council shows leadership	Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision-making and service delivery which inspires the same in others	Goal 1 - We value and protect the environment Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy Goal 3 - Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city Goal 4 - We are a connected and engaged community Goal 5 - We are a healthy community in a liveable city Goal 6 - We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport
A city that works together	Together, protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase our resilience to climate change	Goal 1 – We value and protect the environment
A low emissions city	We will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, and together we will achieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the city.	Goal 1 - We value and protect the environment Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy Goal 6 - We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport
A city in harmony with our environment	Our ecosystems and waterways are enhanced, our urban areas are cooler and greener, and our community is connected to our environment	Goal 1 - We value and protect the environment Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy Goal 4 - We are a connected and engaged community Goal 5 - We are a healthy community in a liveable city
A low waste city	Our people only take what they need, reuse and recycle what they can, and are aware of the resources that they consume	Goal 1 - We value and protect the environment Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy Goal 3 - Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
A climate and water resilient city	Our infrastructure and community can adapt to a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource	Goal 1 - We value and protect the environment Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy Goal 5 - We are a healthy community in a liveable city



Each priority area has a goal that depicts what 'Sustainable Wollongong' would be and a series of sustainability outcomes for us to strive towards to achieve the goal. It is envisaged that these goals and sustainability outcomes will be accomplished through the delivery of a series of strategic actions identified for delivery under each priority area (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Sustainability Strategy framework



Exploring Stanwell Park



Exercising at Lake Illawarra



These strategic actions have been developed at a high level to provide flexibility to program managers in achieving and delivering on their intent, particularly as technology, practice, understanding and the organisation evolves. They are primarily being delivered through supporting documents and programs. Where gaps in our existing programs have been identified, actions have been developed and will be incorporated into future programs as they are created or revised (Figure 8). Reporting on the progress towards the sustainability outcomes and achievement of actions through our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework will provide accountability to the community and other key Council stakeholders. Refer to the sections on Implementation and Monitoring & Reporting.



Figure 8: The link between the CSP, Sustainable Wollongong Strategy, action delivery and reporting



## 'Council as a leader taking action and inspiring our community to act ' Community workshop participant

Residents cycling in our northern suburbs



#### Ordinary Meeting of Council Item 5 - Attachment 2 - Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy



# Goal: Environmental and climate leadership underpins Council decision-making and service delivery which inspires the same in others.

As a local government entity, Council is in an important strategic position to demonstrate leadership to the community, business and industry. We can set an example by making direct change through how we conduct our own business. We have a unique and close connection to the community and are therefore well placed to promote environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability is considered in the decisions we make every day, from the energy and water we use, the waste we generate and manage, our purchasing choices, staff fleet and travel, planning and development assessments, infrastructure design and delivery, land management, and policies and processes.

In 2017 we joined the GCoM and as part of this program we have set emissions reduction targets to help drive emissions reduction, being:



These targets are ambitious, but we believe that they are important to achieve in order to limit impacts and improve the health and wellbeing of our community and our environment.

#### Our commitments

#### Governance

Whilst only 5% of the city's emissions are generated from Council's operations, Council is committed to minimise the use of valuable natural resources and play its part in mitigating against and adapting to climate change and its impacts. Environmental sustainability is a whole of organisation issue and as such requires a whole of organisation commitment. Effective governance will help to ensure that environmental sustainability is considered in our services and operations; that staff are made accountable for their decisions and actions and are equipped with the knowledge, capacity and confidence to deliver appropriate environmental outcomes in undertaking their roles.

#### **Our Services and Operations**

Local governments are diverse in their business; they have significant procurement needs and have the ability to influence suppliers and markets to adopt environmentally sustainable practices and standards through their procurement decisions. We will increasingly seek and require our prospective suppliers to demonstrate their environmental practices and considerations in their operations, products and services and promote local economic capacity.

One of the key challenges faced by Council is planning for and supporting our thriving community, their housing and recreation needs and our evolving city whilst balancing environmental factors. The way that a city, its suburbs, its buildings and transport are designed, built and managed can have a large impact on the long-term sustainability of our city and the livelihood of our community. We will work to strengthen and implement planning mechanisms to protect and enhance our environmental assets and reduce the impact of development. This includes encouraging the inclusion of green technologies, renewable energy production and sustainable design features through planning controls, policies and guidelines for developments in all sectors of our community, as well as striving to reduce environmental impacts associated with construction and performance of Council's infrastructure and assets.



#### Guidance and support for the city

We recognise that we are civic leaders and will need to work to encourage and support Wollongong's community, business and industry in their transition to a 'Sustainable Wollongong' and adapting to climate change. We will advocate for stronger environmental leadership, funding and support from the state and federal governments.

As a city it is crucial that we continue to support local business and industry to reduce their environmental impact. They are an essential part of the social and economic function of Wollongong. Often the goods produced by local industry are far more sustainable, and are subject to stricter environmental rules and requirements, than those produced elsewhere. The importance of meaningful employment for the people of Wollongong cannot be understated in maintaining the stable social fabric that underpins our community. The Economic Development Strategy 2019-29 promotes Smart Cities, innovation, local jobs and technological advances and will provide a vehicle for the development of a green jobs industry and sustainable technology innovation in the LGA.

There are a number of economic benefits of Sustainability for Wollongong and these include: creating a green industry, research and innovation, eco tourism, smart infrastructure and cities. It is important for Council to support and work with business and industry so that they can transition to more sustainable ways of operating, whilst continuing to do business, sustain and foster employment and contribute to the financial sustainability of our city.

#### **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- Declaring a State of Climate
   Emergency
- Setting emissions reduction targets for Council operations and our community
- Joining the Cities Power
   Partnership program



#### WHAT CAN YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS DO TO SHOW LEADERSHIP?

- Talk about climate change and the positive actions you are taking
- Install solar panels
- Improve the energy and water efficiency of your home and business
- Drive less and use public transport, cycle or walk
- · Buy a hybrid or electric vehicle
- Compost food scraps and garden waste
- Buy 2nd hand items and rehome good quality items
- Join a community group or organisation promoting environmentally friendly behaviour
- Be an environmental champion in your workplace
- Businesses can buddy with smaller businesses to help them improve their environmental impact
- Invest ethically



SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

- Council projects and operations incorporate sustainable design, procurement, construction and delivery practices
- Council projects and operations showcase environmental technologies and support local businesses
- · Actions within this Strategy are being implemented effectively
- Reduced emissions from Council operations, including increased energy from renewable sources
- Our community is supported to reduce emissions
- · Council's planning instruments actively encourage sustainable development
- Council staff have the knowledge, skills and capacity to make decisions to reduce the environmental impact of Council's operations

#### OUR SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

## Delivery of the following key supporting documents:

- Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2009
- Community Strategic Plan: Our Wollongong 2028
- Delivery Program and Operational Plan
- Economic Development Strategy 2019-29
- City Libraries Strategy 2017-22



Wollongong City Council tree management

## AND THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS:

- L1 Advocate for policy changes at state and federal government levels to reduce plastics and packaging
- L2 Review and pursue opportunities for resource recovery associated with Council operations
- L3 Incorporate sustainability principles, requirements and standards into all decisionmaking, including strategic planning projects and documents, asset management planning, procurement processes, licence and lease agreements for Council-owned facilities
- L4 Review and update development controls and associated policy to encourage environmentally sustainable development, including water efficiency, energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, and integrated transport management
- L5 Advocate for stronger sustainability requirements in Federal and State Government planning controls
- L6 Advocate for increased investment in an improved and integrated public and sustainable transport system within the region.
- L7 Celebrate and promote Council's efforts and achievements in improving the sustainable outcomes of its services and operations



Wollongong Botanic Garden Rainforest Collection



Ordinary Meeting of Council Item 5 - Attachment 2 - Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate 16 November 2020 Healthy City Strategy

### 'Encouraging community action to reduce resources, energy and water use and waste'

509

Community workshop participant

Friends of the Botanic Garden volunteer





# Goal: Together we protect our environment, reduce emissions and increase our resilience to climate change.

Creating a Sustainable Wollongong will require Council to work in partnership with the community, private sector and other levels of government to ensure that we continue to protect and enhance our environment for current and future generations and to support and learn from each other. We will also collaborate with key local, state and federal agenciesand businesses to develop and trial new and innovative projects.

Across Wollongong there are many individuals, community groups, businesses and organisations showing leadership, encouraging others, implementing solutions to problems and making sustainability part of their lives. There are also many in our community who are advocating for stronger leadership at the state and federal levels and their efforts will assist us in achieving the outcomes in this Strategy.

#### **Our commitments**

#### **Collaboration and partnerships**

We will work with our key partners in our city to deliver actions to achieve the goals in this Strategy; this will require significant collaboration with individuals, community groups, schools, businesses and business, industry and community organisations and other government agencies to work towards the vision of a healthy and sustainable future for all (Figure 9).



Figure 9: Key priority areas that are key to a Sustainable Wollongong.



Our relationships with our partners will change over time, with different projects we are working on and as we progress along our sustainability journey.

We will work with our Aboriginal community to learn from their traditional culture, living in harmony with the land and connection to Country, and incorporate learnings into future projects, plans and programs.

We will work with our community to ensure that they are supported in reducing the environmental impact of their lives, homes and businesses, and ensuring that they have access to the important services to become resilient to the impacts of climate change.

#### Recognition

We will explore opportunities to promote positive environmental actions being implemented by our community and other stakeholders, which will support and encourage others to do the same.

#### Education

We are active in providing environmental education programs; reconnecting people with the natural environment, encouraging environmental protection and empowering people with the skills, capacity and motivation to live more sustainably. We will continue to explore opportunities to enhance our existing programs and explore new and innovative initiatives to support our community and other stakeholders to implement actions to reduce their environmental impact and associated emissions.

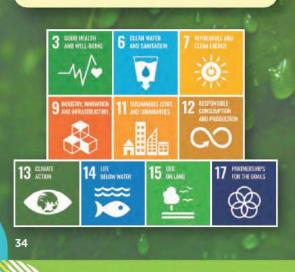
#### **Business and Industry**

A sustainable community means a healthier environment and a happier, healthier and productive community. As Council works towards delivery of its Economic Development Strategy and creating 10,500 new jobs for the city by 2028, we have the opportunity to attract innovative sustainable new industry to our city. The plan recognises Wollongong's fast changing and diversifying advanced manufacturing sector, with significant operations in industrial, chemicals, mining, defence, construction, textiles and food and beverage as well as exploring opportunities in emerging fields such as renewable energy.

Council through its participation in the Invest Wollongong partnership (along with the NSW Government and University of Wollongong), has identified clean energy as a target investment sector. Wollongong is envisaged to play a key role in Australia's decarbonised energy future, with Port Kembla identified as a superior location for Australia's first large scale hydrogen facility.

#### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Rise and Shine program
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Bushcare, Landcare & Dunecare programs
- South eastern bioregion ex-situ conservation program
- Friends of the Botanic Garden
- Schools Enviro' Day



#### HOW CAN YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS WORK TOGETHER?

- Improve the sustainability of your home and business and support others to do the same
- Connect with your local Aboriginal community and explore their culture, learn about their connection to country and their ways of living sustainably
- Join a Bushcare, Landcare or Dunecare group or other environmental or community-based programs
- Help vulnerable people to adapt to climate change
- Work with local schools to help them improve their local environment
- Start your own group with like-minded individuals
- Businesses can work with
  - larger businesses to deliver environmental programs in the community
  - smaller businesses to reduce their environmental impact



#### SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

- Continued and increased access to, and a high level of engagement in, community sustainability engagement, education and volunteer programs
- Aboriginal culture and connection to country forms part of the process for developing new programs, policies and plans
- Businesses and industry within Wollongong are exploring and adopting environmentally sustainable technologies and opportunities
- All communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change, including those most vulnerable

#### OUR SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

## Delivery of the following key supporting documents:

- Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2009
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016
- Ageing Plan 2018-22



Waterdragon in Wollongong Botanic Garden

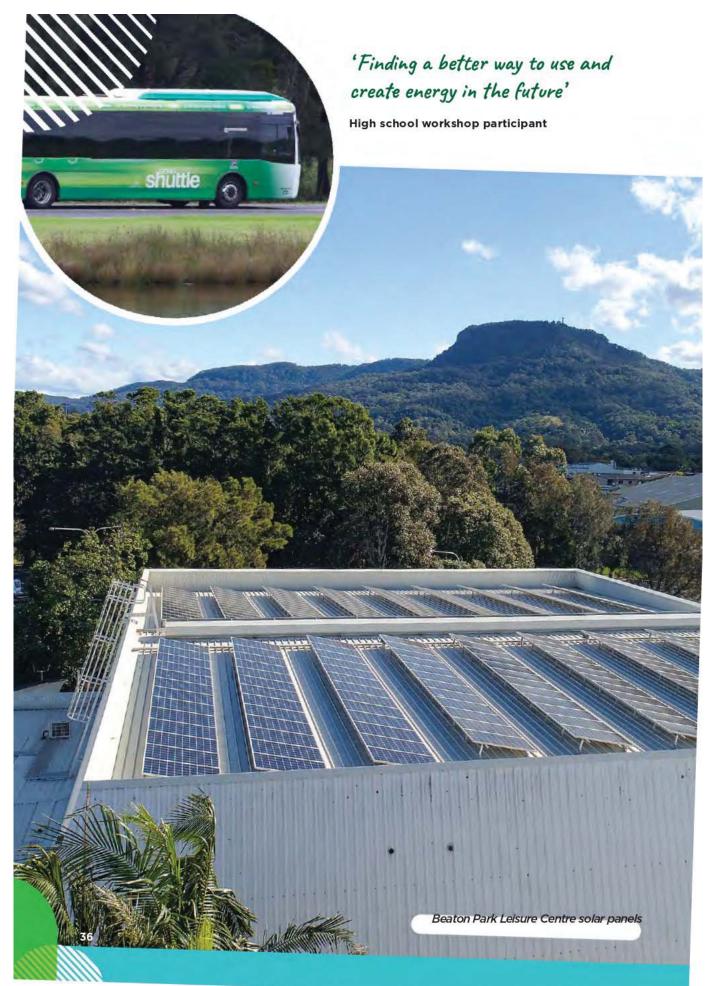


Puckey's planting day volunteers (Yours & Owls 2018)

#### AND THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS:

- T1 Continue to coordinate and expand Council's community environmental programs - events and sustainability initiatives, such as: Bushcare, Dunecare, FIReady, Greenplan, Greenhouse Park, National Tree Day, Rise and Shine, Community Service Order Program, Schools Enviro Day, Green Team waste education programs and Discovery Centre activities
- T2 Investigate opportunities to increase the sustainability of local businesses through programs that increase energy efficiency and increase uptake of renewable energy sources
- T3 Prepare and deliver environmental and waste education plans to guide Council's program delivery and promote positive sustainable behaviour within our community
- T4 Develop and strengthen relationships with UOW, TAFEs, innovation and research organisations to enhance the development of green technologies and best practice sustainability outcomes
- T5 Pursue opportunities to encourage businesses, industry and the community to adopt environmentally sustainable practices and technology and promote associated employment
- T6 Work with our Aboriginal community, organisations, Elders and groups, to learn and understand their traditions and cultural connection they have with the land, water and environment and incorporate these learnings when developing new Council supporting documents and programs
- **T7** Recognise and celebrate sustainability improvements achieved by local individuals, schools, businesses, and community organisations









Priority Area 3: A low emissions city

#### Goal: We will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations, and together we will achieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the city.

A low emissions city is one where the built environment and natural environment complement one another. It's a place where infrastructure and systems aim to reduce their impact on the natural environment from design, to construction and use.

The highest emissions source for the city is from stationary energy consumption, followed by transport (Figure 10). In Wollongong, stationary energy emissions comprise 16% from residential buildings, 7% from commercial buildings and 55% from industry. Council's operational emissions equate to 5% of community emissions, with our largest emissions source being Whytes Gully landfill (Figure 11).

### **Our commitments**

#### Strategic Planning

In order to play our part in meeting Australia's commitments under the Paris Accord we must take immediate action to reduce our emissions as a city.

In response to this, Council has declared a state of climate emergency and we have set emissions reduction targets for both Council operations and city-wide emissions as part of our GCoM commitments:



To guide us on our path to achieving our emissions reduction targets we have developed the first of many Climate Change Mitigation Plans. This inaugural plan outlines actions to reduce emissions from Council operations, establish partnerships with government agencies, business, industry, schools and community groups, and pilot innovative solutions to reduce emissions.

#### **Development controls**

Our built environment is what helps make our lives comfortable and can impact on the health of both our people and our ecosystems. What we build and how we build it affects our natural environment. Many buildings constructed today have an energy legacy for many years to come. Therefore, our built environment plays a key role in reducing our emissions. To create a low emissions city, we need to improve the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings by using low emissions materials and energy efficient technologies. This means we will review our practices, policies and systems to identify opportunities for improvement and alternatives such as renewable energy.

Buildings that are sustainably designed, constructed and operated often achieve substantial financial savings and have significant social and environmental benefits, when compared to conventional buildings. The NSW Government has the highest level of jurisdiction in relation to planning controls and frameworks, such as complying development codes and BASIX. Council cannot require higher standards than NSW Government requirements, however we can advocate for more stringent environmental outcomes. We are well positioned to provide leadership in reducing the environmental impacts from the built environment; encouraging energy efficiencies, good design and use of less or low impact materials.



# Renewable energy and energy efficiency

Reducing reliance on fossil fuels and using energy from renewable sources, such as solar PV systems, batteries, green power purchasing and investigating opportunities for solar farms and power purchase agreements (bulk purchasing etc) will increase energy security for Council operations, businesses and residents. Partnerships with UOW, TAFE and other research organisations to trial new technologies and best practice outcomes will further improve energy security for our city.

#### Transport

One of the greatest challenges for Council as the city grows is to provide sufficient and effective sustainable transport options; this is made more complicated by the spatial context of our city. Opportunities for sustainable transport such as walking or cycling, working from home opportunities and electric vehicle infrastructure will help to reduce our emissions as well as providing health, social and other environmental benefits. Active transport outcomes, including access and walkability, can be achieved through planning and design.

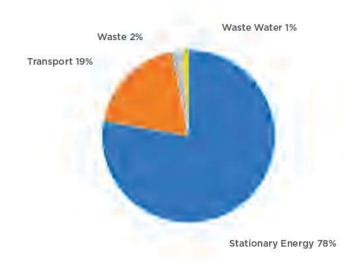
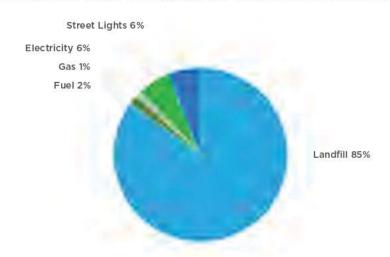


Figure 10: Emissions profile for the Wollongong Local Government Area (2016-17)







### **KEY STATISTICS 2018/19**



Total emissions city-wide 3,091,346 tonnes CO2ein 2018/19

Total emissions council operations 130,971 tonnes CO2e- in 2018/19



Shared paths 137 km



Footpaths

430km



Roads



Streetlights 19,191 street

lights

7,089 LED street lights, with 2,500 to be replaced within 18 months

#### **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- Declaring a State of Climate Emergency
- Setting emissions reduction tar gets for Council operations and our community
- Joining the Cities Power
   Partnership program
- New landfill gas capture contract at Whytes Gully Landfill for enhanced capture of landfill gas and potential for power generation.



#### WHAT CAN YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS DO TO REDUCE EMISSIONS?

- Create energy efficient homes and businesses - solar PV, insulation, energy efficient appliances and lighting, green power, turn off standby power
- Insulate walls and ceilings in your home or business
- Adjust your thermostat to reduce heating costs in winter and cooling costs in summer
- Drive less, buy an alternate fuel vehicle, car/ride share, cycle or walk, catch public transport
- Reduce waste to landfill, recycle more, say no to single use plastic, buy less stuff
- Eat more locally produced food
- Plant more trees
- Buy 2nd hand and repair broken items
- Borrow online library materials



## SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

- Increased investment in renewable energy
- Increased proportion of energy obtained from renewable sources
- Reduced energy consumption and emissions for Council and the city
- Improved access to and utilisation of sustainable transport
- Reduced emissions from Whytes Gully Landfill

#### OUR SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

# Delivery of the following key supporting documents:

- Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020
- Wollongong City Cycling Strategy 2030
- City of Wollongong Pedestrian Plan 2017-21
- Wollongong City Centre Access and Movement Strategy 2013
- Illawarra Regional Transport Plan 2014



EV charging station Wollongong

# AND THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS:

- E1 Review, adopt and incorporate sustainable building design and performance standards for all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities
- E2 Continue to work towards the emissions reduction targets through ongoing climate change mitigation planning, informed by regular inventories of Council and community emissions, success stories, learnings and technological advances
- E3 Continue to pursue commitments and actions under the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, including equitable access to energy
- E4 Progressively install additional landfill gas capture infrastructure at Whytes Gully Landfill
- E5 Work towards the achievement of pledges under Council's Cities Power Partnership membership



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## Ordinary Meeting of Council Item 5 - Attachment 2 - Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy

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'We really need more trees and flora this will give us more shade and homes for our animals'

Primary school workshop participant



Keira Corridor - Puckey's Reserve





#### Goal: Our ecosystems and waterways are enhanced, our urban areas are cooler and greener, and our community is connected to our natural environment.

From our beautiful beaches and wetlands through to the striking escarpment, Wollongong is a city with unique and diverse natural environments. However, the projected population growth for Wollongong will place increasing pressure on our natural resources.

## **Our commitments**

#### **Biodiversity programs**

Healthy ecosystems are vital for the health of our community and for the future sustainability of our city. Protecting and enhancing our ecosystems is important to ensure that local plants and animals, including endangered species, are protected and can adapt to a changing climate. We have many beautiful parks, coastal and bushland areas and a world class Botanic Garden which act as biodiversity hot spots and green corridors which provide habitat and allow animals to move through our suburbs. We will continue to maintain and enhance these assets through our natural areas program, promoting their values and encouraging connection with the community.

Implementing programs in partnership with other agencies and our community are crucial to ensuring the resilience of endangered species. We will continue to deliver programs such as the natural area restoration progam, Bushcare volunteer program and participate in the South-East NSW Bioregion Working Group, which all aim to conserve, protect and restore the most threatened flora in our region. Green corridors and remnant vegetation provide valuable habitat for a variety of threatened flora and fauna in our region. Council continues to work with other land managers and Local Land Services to implement a coordinated pest management program aimed at reducing the impacts of the priority pests affecting our city, including deer, rabbits and Common Myna birds.

#### Urban design and planning

Through careful planning, action and investment we can all play a part in improving the quality of life for all. Liveability, amenity and adapting to climate change impacts are key drivers to protecting and enhancing our natural environment. Increasing tree canopy and preserving biodiversity values of our city is of high importance, and investing in programs that preserve these values is something we take seriously and will ensure they are protected for future generations.

Implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy and the natural area restoration program will help communities adapt to a changing climate. These habitats provide a range of 'ecosystem services'; offering shade, reducing ambient air temperatures, filtering air and water and assisting in pollination, all of which makes the city much more comfortable and inviting to live, work and play in. The value of trees and vegetation in providing habitats for native animals and birds is becoming increasingly important.

As population and housing densities increase, the provision of quality open space is becoming more important for the community. Open space contributes significantly to the liveability and sustainability of the urban environment, providing a range of environmental, social and economic benefits. We need to continue to provide natural places to play, relax and connect with nature. Inviting outdoor spaces promote social interaction and helps to build a sense of community, promoting positive mental health for all ages.

#### Food system resilience

We also need to ensure that public spaces are available for food production, such as community gardens, and that our community is aware of where they can access low cost and free meals. Local food system resilience needs to be increased and Council can assist through supporting local agencies in their response to food security and equitable access to fresh food.





#### Stormwater management

Stormwater management is another key responsibility for Council, and it will become increasingly important as storm surges, inundation and flooding frequencies increase. Stormwater flows and quality impact on our local waterways and beaches. Our beaches are arguably our social epicentre, a core of our city's identity, as well as a drawcard for visitors to the area. Their usability and health is vital for a range of recreational activities as well as amenity and city pride.

In this regard, we need to continue to manage our stormwater systems; reducing and removing litter and other pollutants before they enter our waterways and eventually the ocean. Water Sensitive Urban Design systems offer opportunities to naturalise stormwater treatments, generally improving water treatment and increasing amenity. We will need to continue to work with our key stakeholders to identify, install and manage these systems.

## **KEY STATISTICS 2018/19**



994 environmental programs and workshops

44Ha restoration works at 132 natural area sites

Total of 6860Ha across 499 natural areas

1,200 trees planted, replacing removals with a ratio of 2:1

20,595 plants sold at the GreenPlan Nursery

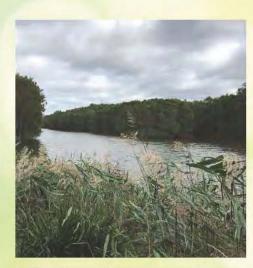
70 Bushcare, Dunecare and FIReady groups, approximately 16,000 volunteer hours

Successful implementation of pest animal management programs including deer, rabbit and Common Myna bird

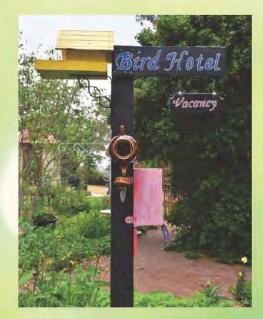


Beaches, Sports Facilities, Parks and Open Spaces

17 patrolled beaches 600km stormwater pipes 154 playgrounds 18 pools 220 sportsfields 5 skate parks 500 park sites 6 outdoor exercise facilities



Puckey's Reserve Wollongong



Wollongong Botanic Garden bird hotel



#### **Conservation program statistics**

Wollongong Botanic Garden (WBG) participates in the South-East NSW Bioregion Working Group to deliver conservation outcomes. We collect and propagate endangered species to support scientific research and conservation and hold exsitu collections to help safeguard wild populations including:

#### Pomaderris walshii (Critically Endangered)

- 200+ plants replanted into wild sites (more than tripling existing wild numbers). Approx. 100 plants held in ex-situ collections at WBG, constantly under propagation.

#### Pomaderris adnata (Endangered)

- 20 plants held in ex-situ collections at WBG constantly under propagation. Seed collections by WGB staff from wild plants have also been deposited into National Seed Banks.

#### Zieria baeuerlenii (Endangered)

 - 300+ plants replanted into a wild site for research. Approx. 100 plants held in ex-situ collections at WBG, constantly under propagation.

#### Banksia vincentia (Critically Endangered)

- Approx. 70 plants held in ex-situ collections at WBG for ongoing research and future replanting.

#### Melaleuca biconvexa (Vulnerable)

- Germination trials carried out on behalf of OEH/ DPIE to research this species.

#### **KEY SPECIES STATISTICS**



Overall species sighted in LGA

Flora 2,472

Fauna 629 Communities 30



Threatened under Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Flora 95

Fauna 121

Endangered Communities 29



Pomaderris walshii



Pomaderris adnata



Zieria baeuerlenii



Banksia vincentia



Melaleuca biconvexa germination



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## **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Urban Greening Strategy
- Rise and Shine Program
- South-East NSW Bioregion ex-situ conservation program
- Biodiversity certification and Bio banking projects – Puckey's Estate and Redgum Ridge
- Natural area restoration works at priority sites
- Botanic Garden Greenplan

#### WHAT CAN BUSINESSES DO TO BE IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT?

- Increase vegetation cover around your business if you can
- Increase shade around your business if you can
- Provide low cost or free meals from your business or support an organisation that does
- Donate excess food from your business to food rescue organisations
- Support a community garden initiative



#### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT?

- Plant a tree at home, or take part in an organised volunteer tree planting activity
- Increase vegetation cover around your home and business if you can
- Increase shade around your home and business if you can
- Reduce hard surfaces around your home
- Join a Bushcare, Landcare or Dunecare group
- Join a community garden or an organisation that provides low cost or free meals
- Create a habitat and vegetable garden in your back yard
- Make your own compost for your garden to improve plant growth & help soil to retain moisture
- Plant native plants in your garden to provide habitat and food for native wildlife.
- Create an insect hotel in your backyard to provide homes for essential pollinators. Did you know that most native bees are stingless?
- Remove environmental weeds
   from your garden
- Keep cats indoors at night
- Place a bird bath in your yard to provide water for native wildlife
- Keep the stormwater drains free of leaf litter and rubbish
- Never put chemicals, paints or detergents down the stormwater drains
- Put rubbish in the bin or take it with you when you are out
- Pick up dog poo when you walk your dog
- Wash your car on the lawn or in a car wash
- Replace your lawn with a native meadow garden
- Don't ride mountain bikes or motorbikes
   in environmentally sensitive areas



#### SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

- Increased tree canopy and vegetation cover to provide shade and reduce heat intensity, 35% canopy cover in urban areas
- Increased opportunities for active and passive recreation in public open space to improve the health and wellbeing of our community
- Increase in the populations / extent and condition of ecosystems within our city
- Reduced pest and weed species / populations in our city
- · Increased opportunities for active transport, such as walking and cycling within our city
- Increased access to sustainable locally produced fresh food
- Improved flood and stormwater management through water sensitive design and infrastructure

#### OUR SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

# Delivery of the following key supporting documents:

- Botanic Garden Master Plan 2020
- Urban Greening Strategy 2017-37
- Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy 2011
- Floodplain Risk and Stormwater Management
   Plans
- Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2017-21
- Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program
- Play Wollongong Strategy 2014-24

- Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan 2015
- Wollongong Access and Movement Strategy 2013
- Wollongong City Cycling Strategy 2030
- Town and Village Plans
- West Dapto Vision Strategy 2018 and West
   Dapto Integrated Transport Plan
- Urban Design Framework
- Places for People Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028

#### AND THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS:

- H1 Delivery of Environmental Education Programs and key strategic events with focus on biodiversity
- H2 Ambition to increase seed banking vulnerable local species with partner agencies
- H3 Continue support for the Botanic Garden GreenPlan Nursery to enhance community access to local native plant species
- H4 Continue to participate in the South-East NSW Bioregion Group threatened species conservation programs
- H5 Continue to implement the Illawarra District Weeds program
- H6 Continue to implement the Illawarra Wild Deer Management, Wollongong Myna Pest Action and Rabbit Control Programs
- H7 Continue to implement, and plan to expand, the Natural Areas Management Program to ensure conservation of remnant bushland, wetlands and riparian areas
- H8 Increase the community's knowledge of locations and availability of low cost and free meals

- H9 Increase local food system resilience through supporting local agencies in their response to food security
- H10 Continue to support the establishment of community gardens on appropriate public spaces through the Community Gardens Policy
- H11 Ensure that sufficient and high-quality open space are planned for and delivered throughout the city including the upgrade of existing and the construction of new open spaces in urban release areas
- H12 Beaches and Lake Illawarra are monitored under the NSW Beachwatch and estuary health monitoring programs
- H13 Develop a landscape succession guideline to ensure new vegetation in urban areas is climate resilient, reduces weed potential and biosecurity pest risk.



## 'our land is our supermarket, we need to look after it or we won't survive'

Greenhouse Park

Aboriginal engagement participant







## Priority Area 5: A low waste city

#### Goal: Our community only take what they need, reuse and recycle what they can, and are aware of the resources that they consume.

The creation and management of waste is a significant environmental issue; Australians are reported to be one of the highest generators of waste in the world per capita. Our society has become increasingly consumer-driven, dismissive of the resources required to manufacture materials and products, and accustomed with disposal of outdated or unwanted things. Litter and waste have been identified as issues of concern to our community.

## **Our commitments**

#### Waste Management

We play an important role in waste management; providing garbage collection, fortnightly recycling, fortnightly green waste and two on-call annual clean up collections, which include separate collections for scrap metal, tyres, mattresses and electrical items, in addition to managing the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park (Whytes Gully).

Currently we collect over 83,000 tonnes of waste annually from households; this is made up of waste to landfill, recycling and green waste. Wollongong's population is projected to increase by 15% by 2036 and more people means more waste and more pressure on Whytes Gully, where there is limited space available. Furthermore, the emissions generated by waste decomposition at Whytes Gully represent the biggest source of emissions for Council – being over 100,000 tonnes CO2e- per year.

In partnership with other service providers we offer recycling collections for businesses that help to reduce recyclable waste going to landfill. Community members can also take excess recyclables and difficult to recycle items, such as paints, oils, batteries, gas bottles and electrical items to the Community Recycling Centre and Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park.

In 2019 we commenced a trial of a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program to explore ways of keeping organic matter out of landfill and reusing it for compost. The trial is currently ongoing, involving 1,600 homes throughout Austinmer, Cordeaux Heights and Warrawong. It is seeing high levels of participation and low levels of contamination. Results are being used to inform potential expansion of the program.

#### Litter

Litter is of high concern to our community, causing harm to our terrestrial and aquatic environments and is a hazard to many animal species, in addition to impacting on the amenity of our city. Council collects an estimated 4,000 tonnes of litter per year through its public place waste collection, street sweeping, litter collection and water quality improvement devices.

In 2016 the NSW Government set a target to reduce litter by 40% by 2020. This target has driven a number of state-funded programs. Council runs a number of education and litter collection programs including Picitup, Rise and Shine and Clean up Australia Day activities. These programs contribute to the collection of 50 tonnes per year and are important for Council to continue to implement to reduce litter around our city.

#### Single-use plastics

Single-use plastics are extremely environmentally damaging as they contribute significantly to our litter and waste streams and are difficult to recycle; this is compounded by plastics being unable to be transported to China for recycling. Our community is very concerned about single-use plastics with many calling for them to be banned. While Council cannot ban single-use plastics, we can discourage their use. We have a Single-Use Plastics Management Policy, which aims for single-use plastic free Council events within 5 years. We are also supporting our community and businesses to choose reusable products through our programs such as Plastic Free Wollongong and Operation Nappy. Many businesses are already reducing single-use plastics by not giving out plastic bags and changing to sustainable alternatives. We are keen to see the continued reduction of singleuse plastics throughout our city.



#### **Education and engagement**

We also coordinate numerous education, awareness and volunteer programs in our community to encourage waste reduction and avoidance.

Events typically generate significant amounts of waste from food and other activities. Council is responsible for managing, delivering and approving a variety of community events. This role provides an avenue to engage with participants, organisers and stall holders, encouraging sustainable practices. For this reason, Council has developed a Waste Wise Events program and is collecting recycling and organics from Council-run events. This has resulted in an 80% reduction in the waste being sent to landfill from these events. Despite this, further opportunities exist to reduce the environmental impact associated with events, particularly in the case of events at Council facilities or on Council-owned or managed land, and leases and licences of Council-owned facilities.

#### **Our operations**

Council itself is also a producer of waste, through its operations and delivery of products and services to the community. We are aiming to continue to reduce our own waste generation, improve the sustainability of our supply chains and increase recycling to demonstrate leadership in this area.

#### **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- FOGO trials
- Community Recycling Centre at Whytes Gully
- Single-Use Plastics Management Policy - moving toward single-use plastic free Council-run events
- Waste Wise events program
- Rise and Shine program



FOGO Trial organics bin

#### WHAT CAN BUSINESSES DO?

There are many programs offered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to reduce waste and improve the environmental impact of businesses. For more information on business programs go to

https://www.environment.nsw. gov. au/topics/sustainable-business-andgovernment

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Avoid creating waste in the first place
- Place the correct items in your bins
- Use public litter bins when you are out
- Compost your food scraps and garden organics
- Create a veggie garden
- Avoid single-use plastics by taking your own water bottle, coffee cup, cutlery and straws
- Take reusable bags and produce bags when you go shopping
- Buy second hand and rehome good quality items
- Use reusable nappies and feminine hygiene products





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## SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

- Reduced amount of waste, including food waste and garden organics, sent to landfill both from the community and from Council operation
- Reduced use of single-use plastics in the city
- Decreased litter and illegal dumping around the city
- Increased amount of material recovered for re-use and recycling
- Reduced waste produced from events across the city

# OUR SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

# Delivery of the following key supporting documents:

- Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022
- Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020
- Stormwater Management Plans



Household garden compost

## **KEY STATISTICS**

Domestic Waste tonnages

Garden organics 28,968 tonnes

Landfill 34,311 tonnes

Recycling 16,607 tonnes



FOGO Trial

Up to 65% increase in diversion rate Collected 310 tonnes of organics in 12 weeks 0.3%

0.3% contamination rate



Litter Waste Collection

4,000 tonnes of litter collected from around the city



Water Quality

96 water quality improvement devices throughout the city



#### Waste Wise Events & Education

Waste wise events 85% diversion from 20 events

91 waste education events and workshops with 9303 participants

# AND THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS:

- W1 Deliver the Waste Wise Events program for Council events, in alignment with the Single-Use Plastics Management Policy
- W2 Develop a Sustainable Events Guideline for event managers and stallholders to avoid and reduce waste, and reduce water and energy consumption of events
- W3 Continue to roll out the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) program across the city
- W4 Coordinate community environmental programs, such as Rise and Shine, Community Service Order Scheme, Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day, Schools Enviro Day, National Recycling Week, International Composting Week and other sustainability/ waste education activities



## Ordinary Meeting of Council Item 5 - Attachment 2 - Updated draft Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy

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# 'Enhance the quality of our waterways and their function as wildlife corridors'

Community workshop participant

Wollongong Water Recycling Facility irrigates JJ Kelly Park





# *Priority Area 6:* A climate and water resilient city

## Goal: Our infrastructure and community can adapt to a changing climate and water is valued as a vital natural resource

Changes to our climate will affect our health, economy and function, and inevitably these impacts will be inequitable; our most vulnerable community members are likely to be hit the hardest. Extreme temperatures and more hot days impact on the liveability of our city and the health and safety of our community. They also place significant stress on our electricity, water infrastructure and public facilities as people seek respite and try to cool down.

We need to act to ensure that all of our community are best equipped to cope and respond, through education, support and networks as well as provision of infrastructure and programs where appropriate.

We are already seeing the impacts of climate change around our city, with droughts, bushfires, changing rainfall patterns, extreme heat, and flooding occurring more often and at greater intensities. How we adapt and become more resilient to these changes will be made easier through good planning, action and foresight. This will require a high level of commitment from Council to understand the anticipated impacts and implement innovative solutions through individual actions and collaboration with partners.

## **Our commitments**

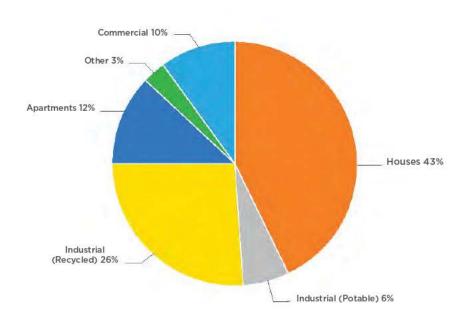
#### Infrastructure

Council owns and manages a variety of infrastructure and natural areas that will be impacted by climatic changes, including stormwater infrastructure, buildings, parks, pathways and sportsfields. As rainfall regimes change, we experience greater storm intensity and hotter temperatures; the materials used for this infrastructure will be subject to destructive forces, impacting on their life expectancy and useability. We need to ensure that these assets are resilient to the impacts of climate change, through careful planning and design and modifications and replacement where appropriate. We also need to ensure that we are providing appropriate infrastructure to help our community cope with climatic changes such as shelter and refuge. The incorporation of green and blue infrastructure solutions (water and vegetation) are so important to enhancing local resilience, responding to increased heat effects and water scarcity, and reducing the amount of hard impermeable surfaces.

#### Water security

Water is essential to life on Earth. Reductions in water availability due to drought, changes in rainfall patterns and increasing consumption mean that we need to think about our management of this vital natural resource. We are all affected by drought and limited water availability; residential water use accounts for 43% of city-wide water consumption (Figure 12). Increased density will place increased pressure on our open spaces for both active and passive recreation, which will require significant water use to maintain quality. Therefore, water reuse in our buildings and sportsfields will become increasingly important to maintain the high quality of our parks, open spaces and sportsfields and present an opportunity for Council to show leadership in this space. There are also opportunities to increase water recycling and reuse throughout the city through business and industry operations.





#### Figure 12: City-wide water consumption 2017-18

#### **Flood management**

An increase in floods and storm events is anticipated, likely to cause disruption to services and activities, and the damage and destruction of property. Wollongong has had devastating experience with the flooding of its city, which serves to highlight the need to plan and prepare for these events through construction of effective stormwater infrastructure, implementation of development controls and development of emergency response plans.

#### **Bushfire management**

Reducing the risk to infrastructure and people is extremely important, with increased extreme weather events and bushfire risk in a changing climate. The NSW 2019/2020 bushfire season was the most destructive season on record, resulting in the burning of 12.6 million hectares of land, over 5,900 buildings (including 2,779 homes), and the death of at least 34 people. Moreover, an estimated one billion animals have been lost, some endangered species may be driven to extinction, and 434 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e were emitted<sup>7</sup>. Our city was fortunate not to be directly impacted by these bushfires. In order to continue to reduce our risk to the impacts of bushfire we must continue to manage our natural assets, in particular their interface with infrastructure and residents and undertake emergency preparedness. Continuing to work in partnership with the Rural Fire Service and Illawarra Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) to implement the FIReady and Asset Protection Zone program is essential to protecting life and property in our city.



Hazard reduction Timberi Park, Dapto in May 2020

<sup>7</sup> https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-03-05/bushfire-crisis-five-big-numbers/12007716





Artwork by Allison Day, Coomaditchie Artist

#### Coastal and environmental management

Our coastal zone is highly valued by our community and visitors to the area. It includes beaches, dunes, headlands, cliffs, rock platforms, coastal lakes, lagoons and estuaries. The coastline is dynamic in nature and can be subject to coastal hazards such as erosion, storm surge and inundation. Climate change is predicted to increase the risk of these hazards due to sea level rise and increases in storm intensities. The historical development of our coastal suburbs means that land use planning decisions within the coastal zone must consider these current and future hazards to manage risk to human life, infrastructure and public and private property.

Our natural systems are also vulnerable to these changes requiring biodiversity and ecosystems to adapt. Council and its partners will be required to monitor and respond to protect, particularly sensitive, habitats, through this process.

Reviewing and implementing our Climate Change Adaptation Plan will help to reduce and manage the impact on our assets, promote and plan for our ability to deliver services and support our community to adjust to a changing climate.



Catchments in our city



## **KEY STATISTICS**



Total of 1429L rainfall on average (however this is declining)



4 Days over 35° in 2019



Average daily temperatures 1.85°C warmer in 2019 than previous years



Rainfall in 2019 was down by 22% on the previous year<sup>®</sup>



Puckey's Reserve boardwalk Wollongong

## **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Declaring a State of Climate
   Emergency
- Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program
- Urban Greening Strategy
- Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan



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# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO BE CLIMATE RESILIENT?

- Insulate your home and shade windows from hot afternoon sun
- Improve the energy and water efficiency of your home
- Install a grey water system
- Set up a wicking bed (drip irrigates from underneath)
- Reduce the amount of hard surfaces around your home by creating gardens and planting appropriate trees
- Assess how vulnerable your home is to the impacts of climate change
- During extreme weather, check on vulnerable neighbours
- Use a trigger nozzle on your hose
- Mulch your gardens and only water in the cooler parts of the day
- Protect your home or business against bushfires by clearing gutters and flammable materials from around your home



## SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

- Improved capacity of our community to adapt to climate change
- Improved capacity of our natural ecosystems and waterways to adapt to climate change
- Reduced heat intensity of our urban areas
- Reduced potable water consumption for Council facilities and the city
- Increased life expectancy of Council assets
- Decreased risk to the community and natural environment from natural disasters such as bush fires, floods and storms

#### OUR SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

# Delivery of the following key supporting documents:

- Urban Greening Strategy 2017-37
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2009
- Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy 2011
- Floodplain Risk and Stormwater Management Plans
- Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2017-21
- Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Plan 2017
- Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program

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Thomas Dalton Park Irrigation Project

# AND THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS:

- C1 Continue to implement the Asset Protection Zone (Bushfire) Management Program
- C2 Continue to implement the Natural Areas Management Program
- C3 Update the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter in the DCP
- C4 Investigate opportunities to improve the climate resilience of all new and refurbished Council buildings and facilities
- C5 Update asset management plans to include climate change provisions
- **C6** Plan for the provision of effective blue and green infrastructure through strategic urban planning processes.



Thomas Dalton Park Irrigation Site



# Implementation

A suite of high-level actions have been developed for each of the priority areas in this Strategy. The implementation of these actions will contribute to achieving the goals and sustainability outcomes prescribed, ultimately resulting in measurable improvements for our environment and the resilience of our city.

The majority of these actions will be implemented through existing strategies, plans and programs. Where there are gaps in our current programs, high-level actions have been identified for consideration through relevant planning and approval processes.

Supported actions will be included in our Delivery Program and Operational Plan for resourcing and implementation.

Funding for the implementation of actions within this Strategy will be subject to approval through our annual budgetary and planning processes. Additional feasibility assessments, external funding applications or partnerships may be necessary for large scale projects.

Effective and collaborative implementation of the actions identified in this Strategy will ensure that we, as a community, can create a thriving low waste, low emissions City which is resilient, liveable and has high biodiversity values.



Figure 13: The link between the CSP, Sustainable Wollongong Strategy, action delivery and reporting



# Monitoring and Reporting - how will we know that we have met our goals?

To ensure that we achieve our goals in this Strategy, monitoring of the implementation of high-level actions and progress towards the sustainability outcomes needs to be both measurable and meaningful. Our responses to climate and environmental issues are changing rapidly, with technological advancements, policy changes and community sentiment directly influencing what we do and how we do it.

Our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework will provide accountability to the community and other key Council stakeholders, through the quarterly and annual reports which documents our progress in implementing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. These reports are made publicly available. We are also developing a 'Sustainability Dashboard' to measure the outcomes of the programs that we implement, not just the outputs. For example, through our natural area restoration and Bushcare programs, we clear weeds and plant new trees, but this information does not tell us the improvements that we are making in the condition of our natural areas. By using an outcomes framework, we can regularly monitor and report on the impact that we are having. The Sustainability Dashboard will be specifically tailored to measure our progress towards our sustainability outcomes and ultimately achieving our goals.

The results of our 'Sustainability Dashboard' will be made available on our website, Administration Building foyer, community facilities and we will keep the community updated through our regular sustainability and community newsletters.

# Strategy review

To ensure that this Strategy remains current and reflective of political and community sentiment, it will be reviewed on a four-year cycle, coinciding with Council terms and review of the CSP. The Strategy will also undergo a major review in 2030.







# 'Leave only footprints, leave no rubbish behind.'

Aboriginal Reference Group