

## ITEM 5

## POST EXHIBITION - 'PLACES FOR THE FUTURE' SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN 2023-2036'

On 12 December 2022, Council resolved to exhibit the *Places for the Future* - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2022-2036 (*'Places for the Future'*) for a period of 28 days. This report provides an overview of the *Places for the Future* - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2022-2036 (*'Places for the Future'*) exhibition process and recommends that the draft plan is adopted by Council, with the date for the plan's commencement amended to 2023. *Places for the Future* documents the implementation phase of Council's Social Infrastructure Planning Framework. It considers future needs for places and spaces that enhance community life and flags projects for consideration in long-term social infrastructure planning.

## RECOMMENDATION

The draft *Places for the Future* - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2023-2036 is adopted.

## REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Jenny Thompson, Manager Library and Community Services  
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

## ATTACHMENTS

- 1 'Places for the Future' Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2023-2036
- 2 Draft Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2022-2036 Engagement Report

## BACKGROUND

Council delivers a diverse range of social infrastructure to the Wollongong community, ranging from public halls and community facilities, through recreation and sporting facilities to cultural venues. In late 2018 Council endorsed the *Places for People* – Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework: 2018- 2028, to provide strategic direction and guiding principles for Council to identify where and when new community assets are required and when existing assets should be renewed, re-purposed or retired.

The Draft *Places for the Future* - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2023-2036 (*Places for the Future*) has been developed through application of the *Places for People* methodology to analyse the provision, distribution, and quality of existing social infrastructure across the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) and to identify opportunities and priorities for future provision.

This evidence-based, needs assessment approach includes consideration of current and projected population trends; social, geographical, and environmental factors; principles, standards and benchmarks; and community felt and expressed needs for existing and future community and cultural facilities. It will flag items for consideration during the development of Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program and inform decision-making in relation to the type and scale of Social Infrastructure required to service Wollongong residents over the next 14 years and beyond.

## PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Draft *Places for the Future* – Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2023-2036 is adopted by Council following public exhibition that allowed for community feedback.

The *Places for the Future* Plan supports Council's drive for robust asset planning processes regarding the construction, renewal, or divestment of social infrastructure, for the purposes of:

- driving existing assets and resources to increase their contribution to public value;
- identifying opportunities to co-locate and diversify the use of assets; and
- increasing the capacity and efficiencies of facilities to improve 'soft' social infrastructure (service, program, activity, and project) outcomes.

It is intended that *Places for the Future* will inform planning for Council's future infrastructure and maintenance budgeting cycles and that the merits and feasibility of each proposed asset will be evaluated as part of due diligence within infrastructure planning process.

On 12 December 2022 Council resolved –

*that the draft Places for the Future - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2022-2036 is approved for public exhibition for a period of 28 days.*

The draft *Places for the Future - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2022-2036* was exhibited from 28 January 2023 to 26 February 2023 (28 days).

## CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Each phase of the Social Infrastructure Planning Framework to date has involved extensive community engagement.

The *Places for the Future* Plan was initially informed by a community engagement program in Planning Area 5 and a stakeholder engagement program in Planning Area 10, which were undertaken as part of needs studies for these planning areas, as outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1 Initial Community Engagement - Needs Analysis**

Planning Area Engagement	Current / Future Social Infrastructure	Engagement Method
<u>Planning Area 5</u> Community and Cultural Needs Assessment – Community Engagement	Wollongong Library, IPAC, Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong Town Hall, Youth Centre, Illawarra Museum, Pioneer Hall, Old Court House & Studio	Online survey
<u>Planning Area 10</u> West Dapto Open Space, Recreation and Community and Cultural Needs Assessment	Horsley Community Centre, Wongawilli Hall, Darkes Town Centre Sports Park & Community Hub, Bong Bong Community Centre and Library, Yallah-Marshall Mount Community Centre, (future Avondale Community Centre)	Consultation with stakeholder organisations (eg: Greater Cities Commission; Careways Community; Office of Sport; etc)

The public exhibition of the draft *Places for the Future* provided the opportunity for further community feedback. This feedback is now presented to Council.

The engagement program was open from 28 January to 26 February 2023 with key stakeholders and the community notified through email, media releases, newsletters, Illawarra Mercury Community Update, Council website and Council social media posts. A project page was created on the Our Wollongong website with links to the draft *Places for the Future* and an online feedback form.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Twenty-four submissions were received from the community, including sixteen via the online feedback form, three emails and five hardcopy submissions. The project page on Council's website received 671 unique views. Submissions and comments were received from five individuals, two community organisations, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and Neighbourhood Forum 5. A copy of the Engagement Report is at Attachment 2.

The feedback received was mostly positive, with many comments praising the document's comprehensive nature, and focus on community and cultural facilities. Many submissions emphasised the importance of, and value of such facilities citing their ability to enhance social connections and cohesion, provide inclusivity, promote, and enable health and wellbeing, and support many diverse community groups and organisations.

Many suggestions were related to planning and design stages of facilities, with encouragement for Council to consider the following:

- Adaptable use of space
- Multi-purpose and shared use of spaces
- Sustainability
- Accessibility
- Quality and amenity of facilities
- Locations, and co-location with other activity centres

These suggestions align with Council's social infrastructure planning principles, which inform planning and design of Council facilities.

Commentary relating to specific centres or facilities, or geographic areas, was also provided:

- Support for the proposed plans for Fairy Meadow Community Centre; Figtree Community Hall; Thirroul Community Centre and Wollongong Library
- Improvements to heating and cooling, and accessibility of Coledale Community Hall
- The benefit to the Dapto community of a large multi-purpose centre to cater for growing population and demographic
- Several submissions expressed concern at the proposal to move and integrate Unanderra Library with Figtree Community Hall, indicating that the existing location was accessible, family friendly, had historical significance, and met the needs of the community
- There was significant support for the creation of a cultural and community hub in the Wollongong CBD with several suggestions to enable this such as the co-location of key facilities; a large-scale integrated centre; a commitment to a Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre; strengthened connectivity between facilities.

The submissions concerning Unanderra Library were mostly anonymous and, as such authors cannot be replied to directly. However, advice has been provided to staff at Unanderra Library regarding the long-term focus of this proposal and the imminent, formal, needs analysis project for the Figtree-Unanderra area (Planning Area 7) which will further inform decision-making.

Comments and suggestions relating to a range of other matters, which were out of scope for this engagement, were also received. These comments have been passed on to other areas of Council for review and consideration in their project planning and implementation.

Given the overwhelmingly positive response of the community to the draft Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan, major amendment to the intent, direction or content of the plan is required. However, some minor amendments have been made to the plan, as outlined in Table 2 below. It is proposed that the final version of the plan includes these amendments.

**Table 2 Proposed Amendments to the Draft Places for the Future: Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2023-2036**

Existing Draft Document	Proposed Amendments
<p>Title of the Plan</p> <p><i>Places for the Future: Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2022-2036</i></p>	<p>Change title to</p> <p><i>Places for the Future: Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2023-2036</i></p>
<p>Page 11 - Table 2.1</p> <p>Page 60</p> <p>Yallah / Marshall Mount Community Centre, Bong Bong Library and Community Centre, Cleveland Rec and Community Centre and Darkes Town Centre Sports park &amp; Community Hub</p> <p>Amend wording from <i>'Conduct Community Cultural and Open Space (CC&amp;OS) Needs Analysis, to understand future needs and aspirations of the emerging West Dapto community and determine future requirements for recreational, community and cultural 'foundation' social infrastructure and recreation and open space'</i></p>	<p>Change wording to, <i>"Consider the recommendations of the Community Cultural and Open Space (CC&amp;OS) Needs Analysis, to address the future needs and aspirations of the West Dapto community in determining future requirements for community and cultural 'foundation' social infrastructure and recreational and open space"</i></p>
<p>Page 36</p> <p>Planning Area 4 - title</p>	<p>Include the suburbs of Towradgi and Tarrawanna in the list of suburbs for PA4</p>
<p>Page 48</p> <p>Kembla Heights Community Hall</p>	<p>Change classification of the hall from 'Regional' to 'Neighbourhood' facility</p>
<p>Page 52</p> <p>Cringila Multipurpose Centre</p>	<p>Change Usage of centre from N/A<sup>d</sup>. to Average<sup>d</sup>.</p>
<p>Page 54</p> <p>Amend footnote d. wording from <i>'There is no utilisation rate because the facility is not used by members of the community but rather several organisations that offer community-based services'</i></p>	<p>Change footnote d. wording to <i>'Utilisation rate advised by one of the 3 licensees during community engagement'</i></p>



## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goals 4 and 5. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
4.11 Quality services, libraries and facilities are available to communities to access and gather.	Libraries Community Facilities
5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community	Community Facilities
5.4 Provide a variety of quality and accessible public places and opportunities for sport, play, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community.	Community Facilities
5.12 Plan and deliver an accessible, safe, clean and inviting public domain.	Community Facilities

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Social Infrastructure Planning Framework includes the key principle that: ‘foundation social infrastructure is ecologically, socially and financially sustainable.’ The recommendations of the Future Directions Plan are based on this principle and on an evidence-based needs assessment methodology.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risks associated with this project include:

- reconciling the types and levels of social infrastructure flagged within the plan with the parameters of Council’s forward capital budget
- managing competing priorities between different classes of assets to enable projects for new or upgraded social infrastructure assets to be included in the infrastructure delivery program
- managing contingencies and unanticipated needs within the scope of the plan, including the still-emerging understanding of future social infrastructure required for the West Dapto Urban Release Area

Messaging in relation to the plan will be required to ensure Council’s commitment to managing community resources wisely is clearly communicated and to manage community expectations regarding the future of social infrastructure assets.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Some projects listed in the *Places for the Future* plan are currently included in Council’s forward Infrastructure Development Program (e.g. Warrawong Community Centre and Library and Helensburgh Community Centre and Library). However, most changes to social infrastructure assets identified within the plan are ‘proposed’ only. It is intended that the *Places for the Future* plan will inform the development of Council’s Infrastructure Development Program and planning for Council’s future infrastructure and maintenance budgeting cycles. The financial feasibility of each project identified within *Places for the Future* will require assessment according to the timeframes indicated and Council’s strategic infrastructure priorities.

Given *Places for the Future* also identifies new social infrastructure in locations such as West Dapto, it is important to note whilst Development Contributions Plans under section 7.11 (i.e the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan) can be used to fund the purchase of land for community facilities, they cannot be used to fund their construction.

## CONCLUSION

The *Places for the Future* Plan applies Council’s Social Infrastructure Planning Framework to assess current and future provision of ‘foundation’ community and cultural assets across the city’s ten Planning Areas. It provides an evidence-based assessment of the city’s existing standard of social infrastructure, identifies current and projected community needs and offers recommendations regarding upgrades and

renewals, as well as the provision of new social infrastructure assets in the future.

It is recommended that the *Places for the Future* - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2023-2036 (*'Places for the Future'*) is adopted (with cosmetic amendments as shown in Table 2), and work on the implementation actions commences.



Wollongong City Council

# **‘Places for the Future’ Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2023-2036**





### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our city is built, Dharawal Country. We recognise and appreciate their deep connection to this land, waters and the greater community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and those emerging and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who call this city home. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people to live in the area. We respect their living cultures and recognise the positive contribution their voices, traditions and histories make to the city.

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## 1 Overview and Introduction

Wollongong City Council endorsed the adoption of the *Places for People - Social Infrastructure Planning Framework: 2018-2028*, in December 2018. This document provides the strategic framework for planning for the future of Council's Social Infrastructure assets including community and cultural facilities. It is based on two key premises:

- that the location, design and scale of social infrastructure is driven by the nature, location and scale of the services Council plans to provide or see delivered - 'form follows function'
- that the nature, location and scale of the services Council provides or supports through its social infrastructure is driven by evidence-based analysis of community needs, wants and expectations

The *Places for the Future - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2023-2036*, applies the *Places for People* methodology to analyse existing and future social infrastructure priorities and opportunities across the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) to inform social infrastructure planning. It provides an evidence-based assessment of current and projected population trends and expected community demand, expectations and needs for community and cultural facilities.

It supports Council's drive for robust asset planning processes regarding the construction, renewal, or divestment of social infrastructure, for the purposes of:

- driving existing assets and resources to increase their contribution to public value;
- identifying opportunities to co-locate and diversify the use of assets; and
- increasing the capacity and efficiencies of facilities to improve 'soft' social infrastructure (service, program, activity and project) outcomes.

The *'Places for the Future'* plan provides a detailed level of planning to support the goals of Wollongong City's Community Strategic Plan - *Our Wollongong 2032 (2022)*. It informs Council's decision-making in relation to the type and scale of Social Infrastructure required to service Wollongong residents over the next 10-14 years. While the plan flags future needs and recommended responses, it must be noted that, as with all Council capital planning, decision-making for prioritisation and realisation of these recommendations rests with our Councillors, as representatives of the local community. Its implementation will be contingent on a variety of strategic and financial considerations and the parameters of Council's infrastructure delivery program.

The ongoing maintenance and upgrading of community facilities ensures older Social Infrastructure continues to be safe, accessible and available to meet the needs of the community. The renewal process contributes to the sustainability of facilities and reflects Council's commitment to delivering quality spaces, places and services to the Wollongong community.

The *'Places for the Future'* plan focuses on proposed, 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure - Council-owned community facilities that provide multi-purpose places and spaces that are accessible and flexible to meet the current and future needs of our diverse community. 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure includes libraries, community centres/halls and cultural facilities.

It does not address 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure - facilities that are licensed to a specific community or sporting groups and used almost exclusively for their own activities. 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure includes surf clubs, boy scouts and girl guides halls and sports-club meeting rooms.

The *'Places for the Future'* plan is organised across four main themes:

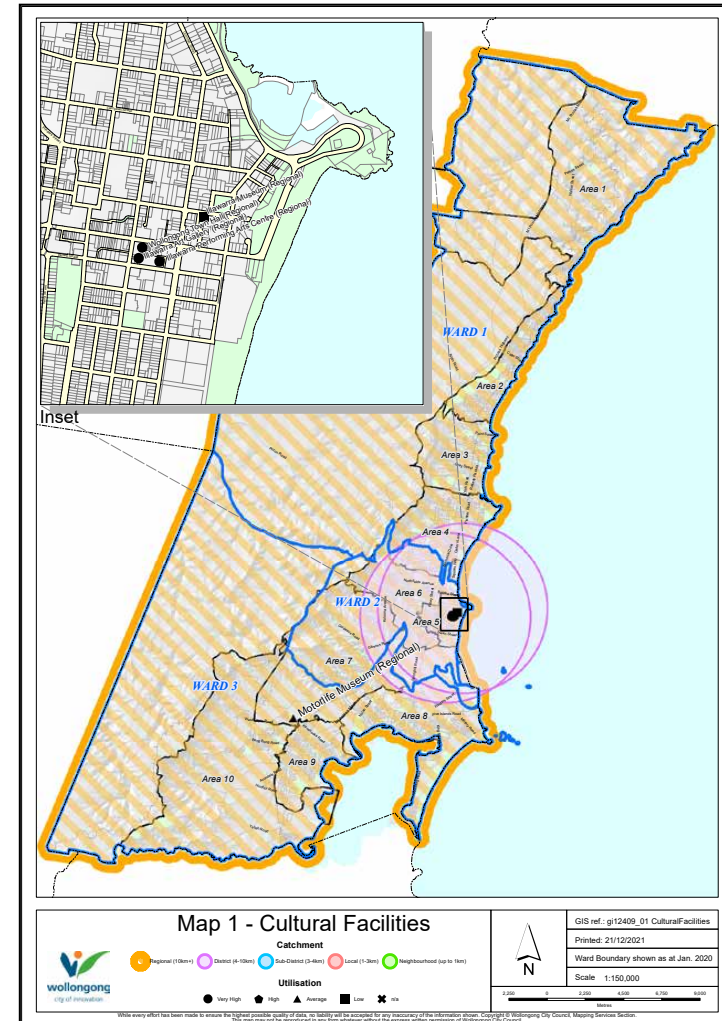
- Background information that outlines the principles that guide planning for community facilities, describes how the Plan fits with other Council documents and defines the spatial hierarchies for facilities planning
- The important role of Council's 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (eg: school halls, RSLs, church halls) in providing a network of spaces and places for community life
- The methodology used to develop the plan, that includes identification of key Social Infrastructure challenges and opportunities
- Strategic directions and recommendations for the future provision of 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure across Council's 10 Planning Areas.

'Foundation' facilities are illustrated in the following maps:

- Map 1 - Cultural Facilities
- Map 2 - Existing/Proposed Libraries
- Map 3 - Existing/Proposed Community Centres & Halls

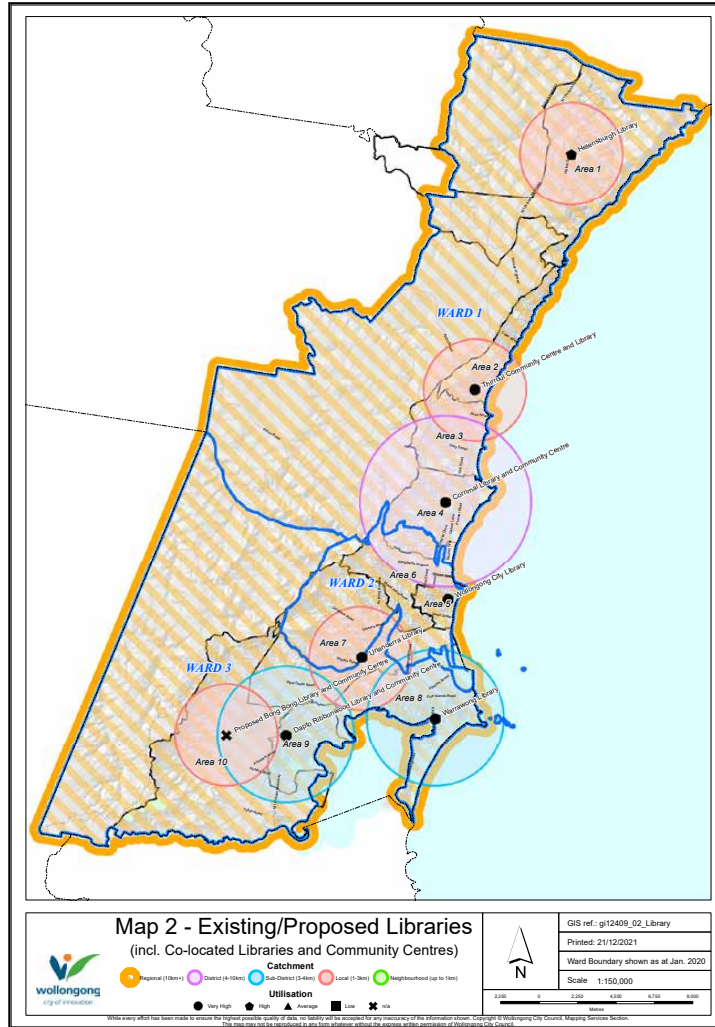
These maps show both existing Social Infrastructure and proposed Social Infrastructure assets - some of which are in preliminary stages of planning, (e.g needs assessment), some within the capital program, and others which are yet to be investigated or funded.

Map 1 Cultural Facilities

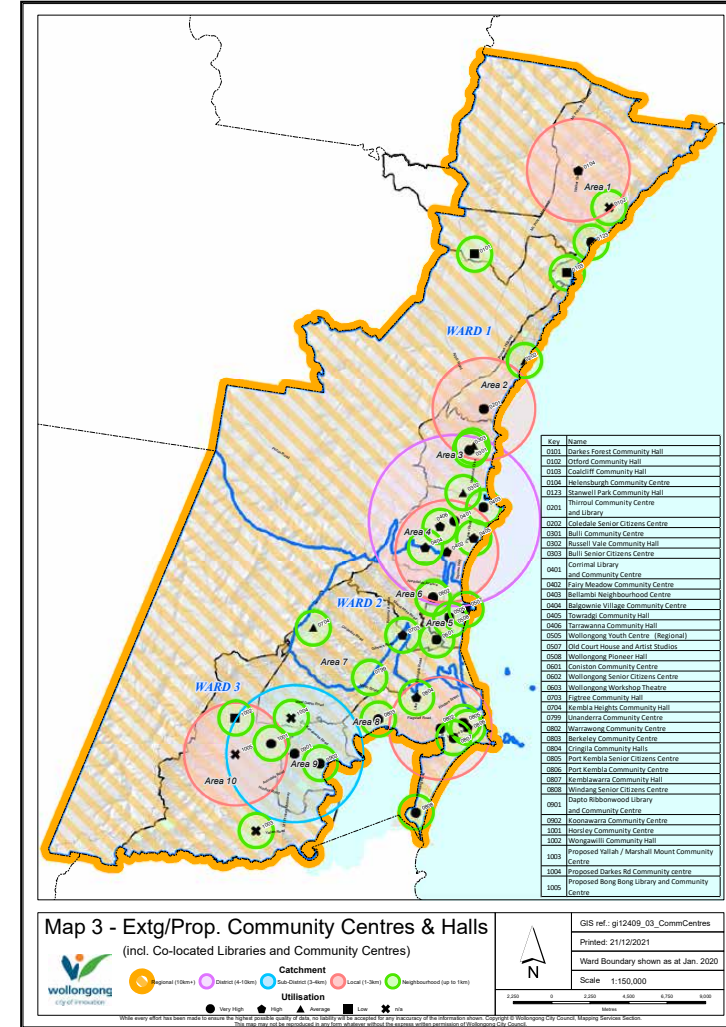




Map 2 Existing/Proposed Libraries



Map 3 Existing/Proposed Community Centres & Halls



## 2 Summary – Directions for ‘Foundation’ Social Infrastructure, Wollongong LGA

Table 2.1 below provides a summary of future social infrastructure projects for the city. It informs Council of the type of actions planned for each facility and expected timeframes of these actions.

**Table 2.1 Summary – Future Directions for Social Infrastructure**

Social Infrastructure Asset	Planning Area	Actions	In Progress	Indicative Timeframe
<b>Wollongong Pioneer Hall</b>	5	Pioneer Hall is currently closed.		
<b>Otford Community Hall</b>	1	Works to bring facility to Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance and contemporary community use.	*	Short-term
<b>Helensburgh Community Centre &amp; Library</b>	1	Secure appropriate site for a new co-located community centre and library; investigate feasibility; develop scope.	*	Short-term
		Complete concept design, due diligence and approvals processes.		Short-term
		Final design, approvals, construction and commissioning of community centre and library.		Medium -term
<b>Thirroul Community Centre &amp; Library</b>	2	Determine future use/re-design café space; and design interface between library and community centre to increase connectivity and library space.	*	Short-term
		Works to upgrade interface between library and community centre and convert café space to new purpose.		Short-term
		Review car park capacity and non-visitor use to identify options for improved access to parking.		Short-term
<b>Dapto Ribbonwood Centre/ Dapto Library</b>	9	Review design and functionality of Dapto Library to better integrate service delivery; develop scope and concept design based on review.	*	Short-term
		Design HVAC, lift replacement, lighting system upgrade, library refurbishment, amenities upgrade, foyer and office refurbishment.		Short-term
		Construct HVAC, lift replacement, lighting system upgrade, library refurbishment, amenities upgrade, foyer and office refurbishment.		Short-term

**Table 2.1 Summary – Future Directions for Social Infrastructure**

Social Infrastructure Asset	Planning Area	Actions	In Progress	Indicative Timeframe
<b>Yallah/ Marshall Mount Community Centre</b> <b>Bong Bong Library &amp; Community Centre</b> <b>Darkes Town Centre Sports Park &amp; Community Hub</b>	7	Consider the recommendations of the Community Cultural and Open Space (CC&OS) Needs Analysis, to address the future needs and aspirations of the West Dapto community in determining future requirements for recreational, community and cultural 'foundation' social infrastructure.	*	Short-term
<b>Wollongong Library</b>	5	Investigate design solutions to enhance functionality and delivery of contemporary library services.	*	Short-term
		Investigate opportunities for co-location of library services with other Council cultural facilities in PA5.		Short-term
<b>Wollongong Art Gallery</b>	5	Investigate opportunities to enhance the amenity and service scope of the Gallery and its interface with the Arts Precinct with a café. Investigate opportunities to enhance amenity and functionality, including opportunities for co-location with other cultural and community services in PA5.		Short-term
<b>Illawarra Museum</b>	5	Investigate opportunities to enhance amenity and functionality. Investigate opportunities for co-location with other cultural and community services in PA5.		Short-term
<b>Wollongong Town Hall</b>	5	Review access arrangements to support Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan.		Short-term
<b>Warrawong Community Centre and Library</b>	8	Complete detailed design and approvals for new community centre and library.	*	Short-term
		Construct and commission new community centre and library.		Short-term

Table 2.1 Summary - Future Directions for Social Infrastructure

Social Infrastructure Asset	Planning Area	Actions	In Progress	Indicative Timeframe
<b>Darke Town Centre Sports Park &amp; Community Hub</b>	7	Establish scope for Darke Town Centre Sports Park and Community Hub.	*	Short-term
		Design Darke Town Centre Sports Park.		Short-term
		Construct and commission Darke Town Centre Sports Park.		Medium-term
		Construct and commission Darke Town Centre Community Centre.		Medium-term
<b>Wongawilli Hall</b>	10	Design and approvals to extend the footprint and upgrade hall amenities.	*	Short-term
		Construct and commission hall improvements.		Short-term
<b>Figtree Community Hall</b>	7	Conduct needs analysis, to understand demographic change, future needs and aspirations of Planning Areas 6 and 7 communities and determine future requirements for 'Foundation' social infrastructure for Planning Area 7.	*	Short-term
		Investigate feasibility, scope and concept to extend and re-purpose the hall into a co-located community centre and library.		Medium-term
		Design, approvals and construction to re-purpose hall as a co-located community centre and library.		Medium-term
<b>Bong Bong Library &amp; Community Centre</b>	10	Conduct feasibility study to identify appropriate site for a community centre and library.		Short-term
		Acquire site for new community centre and library.		Medium-term
		Complete scope and concept design for the centre.		Long-term
<b>Kemblawarra Community Hall</b>	8	Consult with the licensee and local community and conduct a feasibility study re design and upgrade of parking, playground and other external areas in line with proposed masterplan.	*	Short-term
		Consult with the licensee and local community re options to increase the hall's internal functionality and capacity.		Short-term

Table 2.1 Summary - Future Directions for Social Infrastructure

Social Infrastructure Asset	Planning Area	Actions	In Progress	Indicative Timeframe
<b>Kemblawarra Community Hall</b>	8	Consult with the licensee and local community and conduct a feasibility study re design and upgrade of parking, playground and other external areas in line with proposed masterplan.	*	Short-term
		Consult with the licensee and local community re options to increase the hall's internal functionality and capacity.		Short-term
<b>Yallah Marshall Mount Community Centre</b>	10	Assess feasibility, identify site and secure land for a new community centre.	*	Medium-term
		Develop scope and complete concept design for the centre.		Medium-term
		Construct and commission new community centre.		Long-term





Table 2.1 Summary - Future Directions for Social Infrastructure

Social Infrastructure Asset	Planning Area	Actions	In Progress	Indicative Timeframe
Unanderra Community Centre & Library (Heritage Building)	7	Investigate opportunities to co-locate library at a re-developed and enhanced Figtree Community Hall.		Short-term
		Investigate options to extend the footprint of the community centre into areas formerly occupied by Unanderra Library (subject to relocation of library).		Medium-term
		Design and construct to accommodate extended footprint of Unanderra Community Centre (subject to relocation of library).		Long-term
Fairy Meadow Community Centre	4	Conduct needs analysis, to understand demographic change, future needs and aspirations of the Planning Area 4 community, and determine future requirements of the centre.		Medium-term
		Investigate feasibility, scope and concept to extend and improve the capacity of this facility.		Long-term
		Design, approvals and construction to re-purpose/ create contemporary centre.		Long-term
Corrimal Community Centre & Library	4	Investigate opportunities to extend and update the facility to service projected future community needs, including options to better leverage the co-location of this facility with adjacent recreational infrastructure.		Medium-term
Coalcliff Community Hall	1	Review the condition, functionality and capacity of the hall to meet the needs of the community. Consider options for co-location with local 'Supporting' social infrastructure to provide a contemporary facility.		Long-term
Port Kembla Community Centre and Port Kembla Senior Citizens' Centre	8	Review these facilities in line with the Port Kembla Town Centre Revitalisation Plan.		Long-term



## 3 Background

### 3.1 The Social Infrastructure: Future Directions Journey

The 'Places for the Future' plan has been developed over three phases:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Phase 1.0</b> Research, consultation and analysis of Council's Social Infrastructure assets and social trends (2016).</p> <p><b>Phase 2.0</b> Community consultation, analysis of utilisation, needs and gaps analysis resulting in the preparation of the 'Places for People' - Social Infrastructure Planning Framework: 2018-2028 (2018).</p> | <p><b>Phase 3.0</b> Application of the SI Planning Framework's principles and needs based methodology to 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure across the 10 Social Infrastructure Planning Areas of the Wollongong LGA to inform recommendations for future directions.</p> |
|--|---|

### 3.2 Guiding Principles for Social Infrastructure Planning

The 'Places for the Future' plan is based on a set of Guiding Principles that were initially outlined in the Places for People framework. These Guiding Principles state Council's strategic commitments

and practices for planning new community facilities and ensuring the quality, amenity and accessibility of existing facilities.

Table 3.1 Guiding Principles for Social Infrastructure Planning – Wollongong City Council

Principles	Definitions
<b>Holistic</b>	The operation of the facility achieves Community Strategic Planning goals, public value and integrated 'foundation' 'supporting', 'hard' and 'soft' outcomes.
<b>Strategic</b>	'Foundation' Social Infrastructure is well-located to other Council, non-council facilities and strategically networked with other Social Infrastructure across the Local Government Area.
<b>Fit for Purpose</b>	The form and design of 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure will follow desired facility function by offering flexible spaces to enable users to share spaces and deliver a range of services and programs.
<b>Equitable</b>	'Foundation' Social Infrastructure is accessible and welcoming to all; and changes to facilities along with fees and charges are transparent, fair and consistent.
<b>Quality</b>	The facility adds to the local identity, is well maintained, people centred and allows for innovative services to be delivered.
<b>Sustainable</b>	'Foundation' Social Infrastructure is Ecologically (design), Socially (good governance) and Financially (holistic asset management) sustainable.

### 3.3 'Place for Futures' Plan and Council's Strategic Planning Framework

Wollongong City Council's strategic planning framework nests the various plans and strategies that inform the delivery of services to the community in a hierarchical or cascading manner. The 'Places for the Future' plan is classed as a 'Supporting Document', providing a detailed road map to achieve Council's vision for a city where:

*Residents, workers and visitors will have access to quality, sustainable social infrastructure that meets their needs and reflects Wollongong's status as a leading regional city, now and into the future.*

Figure 3.1 Council's Strategic Planning Framework

The graphic below shows Council's Strategic Planning Framework – how actions in the Community Strategic Plan result in the preparation of studies and strategies, which then guide Council's Delivery Program, Operational Plan and implementation.



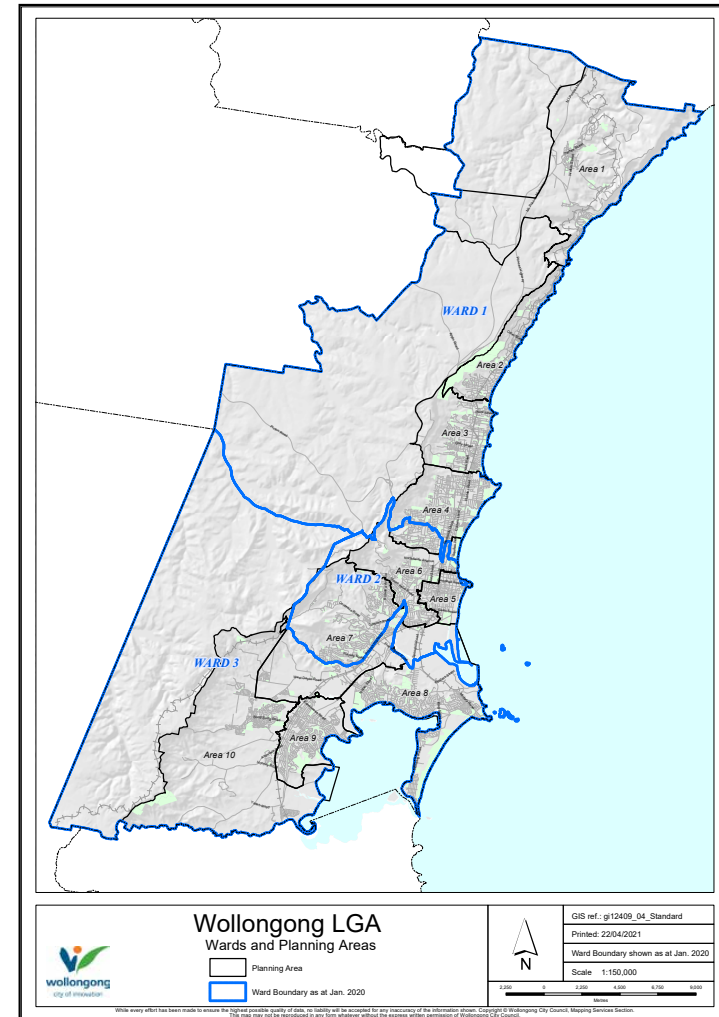
### 3.4 Council's Planning Areas and Wards

The 'Places for People' framework divides Wollongong Local Government Area into 10 Planning Areas (PAs), based on geographic and demographic factors. The 'Places for the Future' plan considers 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure by Planning Area, while recognising the interface

between Planning Areas, patterns of work and community connection (for example, residents' relationship to the city centre). The 'Places for the Future' plan also recognises the Ward structure of the LGA and the relationships between Wards and Planning Areas, shown in Map 4.



Map 4 Wollongong Local Government Area: Planning Areas and Wards





## 4 Role of Council and Non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure

*Places for People* categorises 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure against three infrastructure types, based on the service delivery functions of these assets:

1. Cultural Facilities
2. Libraries
3. Community Centres/Halls.

The framework recognises that the services delivered from these facilities are complemented by services delivered via Council-owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure. These are defined as follows:

- **Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure** - buildings licenced to and used by sporting clubs, Surf Life Saving Clubs, Scout and Girl Guide organisations etc. They are generally used by the licensees for

their sole purposes, however they represent potential opportunities for access and hire more broadly by community groups, to complement 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure and increase the city's total Social Infrastructure capacity.

- **Non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure** - includes school and church halls, community-based clubs, conference centres and other assets. These venues may offer spaces suitable for community use, complementing Council provision.

'Supporting' Social Infrastructure is considered in the planning and delivery of 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure to make the best use of public and private resources, to avoid duplication of facilities and to achieve 'Places for People' Framework principles.



## 5 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure Location Hierarchy

Wollongong City Council's Social Infrastructure planning is based on the premise that the scale and functionality of community and cultural facilities is directly related to the size of the geographic area and the characteristics of the population group/s they service. Within the hierarchy, Social Infrastructure is categorised against one of the following facility types:

*Regional, Sub-Regional, District, Sub-District, Local and Neighbourhood.*

Figure 5.1 shows the categories within the hierarchy, the indicative radial area served by each category of Social Infrastructure and the assumed means of transportation used by the community to access each category.

Figure 5.1 The Social Infrastructure Hierarchy

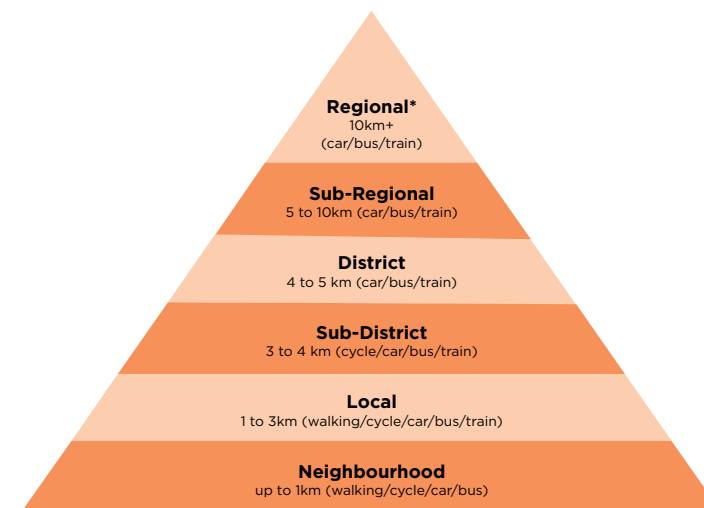


Figure 1. 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure Location Hierarchies

\*Regional category mainly encompasses the needs of residents within the Wollongong City Council area.

## 6 Needs-Based Assessment Approach

The methodology underpinning the *Places for People* framework and the *Places for the Future* plan is based on Bradshaw's Taxonomy of Social Need (The Concept of Social Need, J Bradshaw, 1972) as presented in Figure 6.1. The taxonomy is premised on the principle that need should be assessed not only against the dimension of 'demand' or 'expectations' but across three objective and one subjective dimensions: felt need (what community members say they want and expect); expressed need (levels of utilisation and other performance indicators); comparative need (what is provided to communities or population groups of comparative size, demographic characteristics, etc); normative need (what 'should' be provided, based on standards and principles).

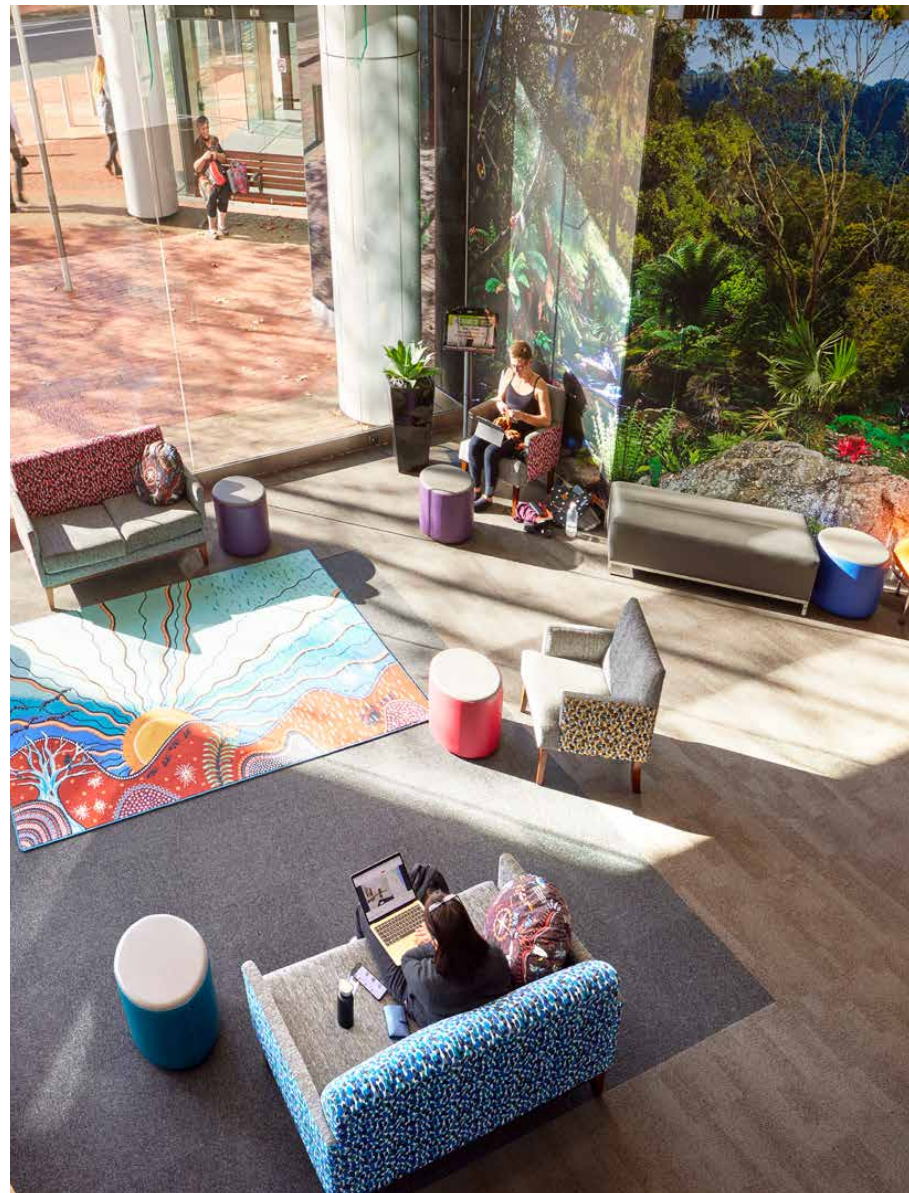
**Figure 6.1 The Needs Analysis Framework – Bradshaw's Taxonomy**

### THE NEEDS ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK



The *Places for the Future* plan has been prepared by assessing community needs in relation to Social Infrastructure, across the four dimensions of the taxonomy. This has been achieved through the following assessment methods:

- SIPF principles and needs captured during the development of *Places for People* and other supporting documents
- Facility utilisation rates - visitation numbers and hours of venue hire
- 'Right Facility Type and Mix'
- Meets 'Condition' and 'Functionality' quality standards
- Community characteristics, including relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage
- User distance/travel times and means to facility
- Population size, density, distribution and projected growth to 2036
- Facility Gross Floor Area (GFAM<sup>2</sup>) ratio servicing 1000 population against NSW State and Local Government benchmarks



## 7 Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment

### 7.1 Social Infrastructure Planning Key Challenges

- Like other cities in NSW, Wollongong is experiencing several demographic pressures: population ageing and a growing divide in terms of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage, as well as housing affordability. The ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local economy and social connectivity of the community are yet to be determined.
- Various licensing and leasing arrangements and the voluntary nature of membership of the boards and committees of non-government organisations that are the licensees of most Council-owned Social Infrastructure adds a layer of complexity to achieving management sustainability, quality, and maintenance of facilities.
- Provision of 'soft' social infrastructure programs by community or voluntary organisations in Council owned facilities are impacted by changing State and Federal funding priorities.
- Most older facilities (i.e 40 years +) are not fit for purpose to meet new and evolving community needs and do not align with the SIPF principles. Council needs to continually assess these facilities to determine if they need to be repurposed to offer the quality and scale of spaces expected by the community.

### 7.2 Impacts of Climate Change

- The emerging impacts of climate change will require Council to review and adopt climate-proofing measures to ensure facilities continue to offer amenity and, in future, climate-safe places for community use.
- Council's commitment to achieving zero net emissions by 2030 will require new ways of planning for and resourcing the construction and operation of our social infrastructure assets
- This plan does not include specific directions for Council's response to the impact of climate change on 'foundation' social infrastructure. This will be addressed via a separate study that will identify climate change impacts, risks and opportunities, to inform planning for each social infrastructure asset.

### 7.3 What the Community Said/Expectations...

Whole-of-community aspirations and expectations were collected through engagement during the preparation of *Places for People*.

They include:

#### 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure

- Improve perceptions of safety at some facilities.
- Provide more outdoor play areas adjacent to facilities.
- Offer more flexible and creative programs at community centres.
- Provide more informal and comfortable gathering spaces.
- Provide more storage space and include commercial-scale kitchens.
- Offer more, large multipurpose facilities that include large meeting rooms for big gatherings (100 people +).

- Provide more active spaces for hobby and craft groups, as well as community gardens and other green spaces.
- Provide more cultural centres, museums, art galleries and theatres.

#### 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure

- Create better access to sporting clubrooms during the week or outside clubhouse times for community meetings, activities, and events.
- Upgrade amenities to encourage greater female participation in sports.

### 7.4 General Implications and Opportunities for Future Social Infrastructure

- Focus on improving and maintaining the quality, amenity, and accessibility of existing community spaces.
- Explore opportunities to integrate digital and information technologies into Social Infrastructure.
- Explore using under-utilised 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure where 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure is at capacity.
- Adopt a holistic strategic approach to Social Infrastructure planning ensuring other physical assets and hazards are considered such as traffic, pedestrian/cycle access, parking, drainage, stormwater, flood, and

coastal management issues.

**Section 8** of this plan provides a detailed analysis of future needs and directions for Social Infrastructure for each planning area on a facility-by-facility basis.

After a brief overview of key Planning Area considerations, it offers a colour coded, 'traffic light' analysis of the quality and capacity of existing Social Infrastructure provision to support services and activities. It also identifies a range of proposals and recommendations for future provision.

A summary of these key findings and considerations is at Table 2.1 of the plan.

### 7.5 Introduction to Section 8 – Future Directions for Wollongong City Council Social Infrastructure

**Section 8** of this plan presents future directions for Wollongong City Council's 'Core' Social Infrastructure on a facility-by-facility basis, applying the Places for People assessment methodology. After a brief overview of key Planning Area considerations, it offers a colour coded, 'traffic light' analysis of the capacity of existing social infrastructure assets to meet the future needs of the community, while maintaining service quality and service levels at contemporary standards. Section 8 also provides a range of proposals and recommendations for future provision.

The 'future directions' tables reference particular criteria which are defined below:

#### 'Right Facility Type and Mix'

Is used to describe each SI asset within the context of the planning area within which it is located - 'yes' means that there is at least one or

more non-Council provider using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (eg: sporting clubhouse) to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (eg: school hall, church hall) located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

#### 'Gross Floor Area (GFA)'

The use of Gross Floor Area (GFA) as a benchmarking measure for provision of Social Infrastructure is well established within the state and local government sectors. The GFA benchmark provides a minimum estimate of the area in square metres (m2) of social infrastructure required to meet the needs of a community, on a per capita basis. It is used in assessing the functionality of existing assets and developing the scope of new social infrastructure assets. The benchmarks are presented in Table 7.1:

**Table 7.1 Facility Location Type GFAM<sup>2</sup> Ratio Benchmarks by Social Infrastructure Type**

Facility Location Type	Community Centre / Hall GFAM <sup>2</sup> Ratios per 1000 Pop Benchmarks	Co-located Library & Community Centre GFAM <sup>2</sup> Ratios per 1000 Pop Benchmarks	Library or Cultural Facility GFAM <sup>2</sup> Ratios per 1000 Pop Benchmarks
Regional/District/Sub District	60	53.5	47
Local/Neighbourhood	100	84.5	69

NSW State and Local Government Benchmarks

A summary of the key findings and considerations outlined in Section 8, has been provided at Table 2.1 of this plan.



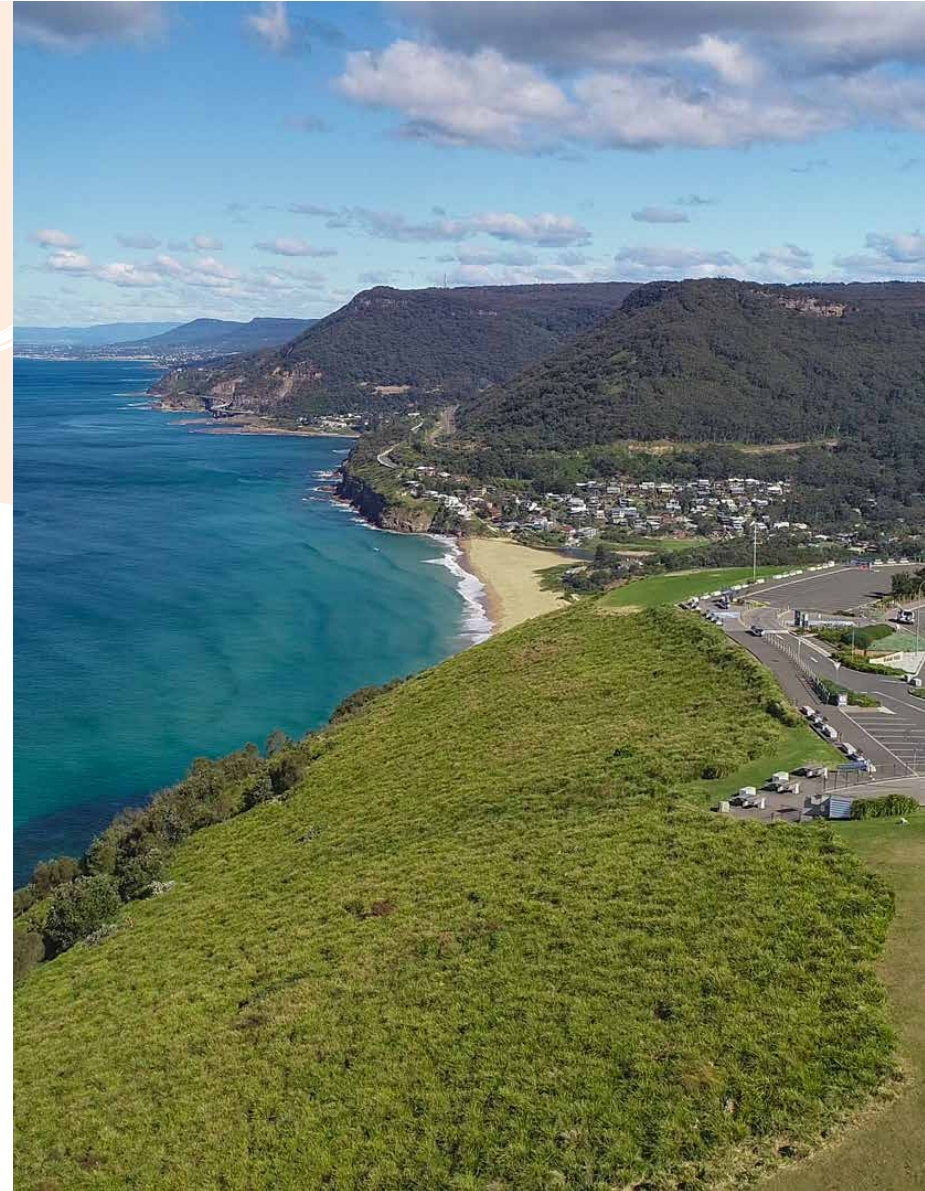
## 8 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure: Future Directions

### Colour code/'traffic light' key

Adequate scale and functionality to service current/future community needs, however considerations include: activation and promotion strategies to increase utilisation; climate change readiness; functionality to meet emerging/diverse community needs; investigation of co-location opportunities; or increased use of 'Supporting' SI to provide additional capacity within the Planning Area.

Does not meet GFAM<sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 population benchmark or SIPF principles.  
Work in progress to provide a new facility.

Does not meet GFAM<sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 population benchmark or SIPF principles.  
Consideration of new future directions required.



**Planning Area 1:**  
**Coalcliff, Darkes Forest, Helensburgh, Lilyvale, Otford,**  
**Stanwell Park and Stanwell Tops**

**Key Planning Considerations:**

- Limited projected population growth 2022-2036, due to environmental zoning constraints.
- Potential for future residential development at Coalcliff Cokeworks site.
- Vision, strategies and priorities of the Helensburgh Town Centre Plan.
- Recognise the geographic isolation of PA1 communities and the potential benefit of the geographic location of some PA1 SI in a natural setting that offers community benefit.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Darkes Forest Community Hall, 90m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Low	There is no Council or non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure within a 1km radius.	100	600	616	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	Increase the hall's usage by broadening its availability to other community users by promoting its unique isolated location and natural surroundings to cultural, creative or outward-bound type users.
<b>Stanwell Park Community Hall, 160m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	There is Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Stanwell Park Surf Life Saving Club and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Stanwell Park Public School and CWA Hall within a 1km radius.	100	115	117	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised and meets the needs of the local community. It has capacity to accommodate future community needs.
<b>Otford Community Hall, 57m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	N/A	There is no Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure, but one non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Otford Public School within a 1km radius.	100	191	195	Capital project proposed.	Increase the hall's usage by broadening its availability to other community users by supporting the licence holder to increase utilisation, by promoting its unique location and natural surroundings to cultural, creative and recreational users.  Work is scheduled to upgrade the kitchen, car parking and amenities to DDA standards
<b>Helensburgh Library, 175m<sup>2</sup> (Local)</b>	High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie several sporting clubhouses at Rex Jackson Park and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Helensburgh Public School and Tradies located within a 3km radius.	69	26	212 <sup>c</sup>	Major Capital Project in progress.	The library is well used. However, it is undersized and poorly designed for contemporary community uses.  A new library (co-located with a community centre) is planned to open in 2027 at which point this facility will be demolished.  Council is completing feasibility work to site a co-located library and community centre within the Helensburgh town centre. This work is ongoing.
<b>Helensburgh Community Hall, 1270m<sup>2</sup> (Local)</b>	Low	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie several sporting clubhouses at Rex Jackson Park and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Helensburgh Public School and Tradies located within a 3km radius.	100	189	212 <sup>c</sup>	Demolition of centre proposed.	The facility incurs high maintenance cost which is not sustainable over the long term.  A new community centre (co-located with a library) is planned to open in 2027.  The facility is scheduled for demolition due to intractable safety and maintenance issues. Council is completing feasibility work to site a co-located library and community centre within the Helensburgh town centre. This work is ongoing.
<b>Coalcliff Community Hall, 290m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Low	There is one Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Coalcliff Surf Life Saving Club, but no Non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure within a 1km radius.	100	1534	1567	No change to 'hard' SI proposed.	Undertake a review of the hall's future viability. Although the facility is a much-loved 'local' building and is under-utilised. However, a local group has expressed interest in its use in 2022. This opportunity is being explored.  Longer term investigate opportunities to integrate the Coalcliff Community Hall and Coalcliff Surf Life Saving Club within the Coalcliff beach area.

**a.** One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

**b.** .id forecast data update July 2021

**c.** This ratio is based on a new co-located library and community centre having a minimum GFAM<sup>2</sup> of 1500 with a population size projected by 2036.

Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Helensburgh Community Centre and Library</b>	Secure appropriate site for a new co-located community centre and library; investigate feasibility; develop scope.	X		
	Complete concept design, due diligence and approvals processes.	X		
	Final design, approvals, construction and commissioning of community centre and library.		X	
<b>Otford Community Hall</b>	Upgrade kitchen, car parking amenities to DDA standards.	X		
<b>Coalcliff Community Hall</b>	Review the condition, functionality and capacity of the hall to meet the needs of the community. Consider options for co-location with local 'Supporting' social infrastructure to provide a contemporary facility.			X
<b>Helensburgh Community Centre and Youth Centre</b>	Demolish this facility during 2022/2023 due to intractable problems with air quality, damp and mould. It will be replaced by the new community centre and library by 2027.	X		





## Planning Area 2:

Austinmer, Clifton, Coledale, Thirroul, Scarborough, Wombarra

## Key Planning Considerations:

- Limited projected population growth across the Planning Area.
- Increased residential densification in Thirroul in response to the Thirroul rail hub.
- Limited residential land options for low-rise development.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Thirroul Community Centre &amp; Library, 1650m<sup>2</sup> (Local)</b>	Very High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Thirroul and Austinmer Surf Life Saving Clubs and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Thirroul Public School within its 3km radius.	<b>84.5</b>	101	94	Minor works proposed  Investigate use of other local 'supporting' SI to meet future demand	The facility is well utilised and runs at capacity. The library lacks space for activities and events. The café has been unsustainable as a commercial business. Car parking at this facility does not meet demand and is regularly accessed by non-users. Future directions to improve the facility's operation and accommodate projected growth in community demand for spaces and activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review unused café space - future use as café, beverage point, library or community centre space</li> <li>Review interface between library and community spaces and investigate options to improve connectivity and increase space for library programs</li> <li>Review car park arrangements - extend and/or identify strategies to limit access by non-users</li> <li>Investigate the use and functionality of other Council owned 'foundation' facilities (eg: Coledale Seniors Citizens Centre) to deal with over-demand</li> <li>Investigate increasing access to/utilisation of 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure such as the Thirroul and Austinmer Surf Life Saving Clubs to meet future demand</li> </ul>
<b>Coledale Senior Citizens' Centre, 502m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Average	One Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure asset (Coledale Surf Life Saving Club) and one non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Coledale Public School) within a 1km radius.	<b>100</b>	323	330	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	Explore with the licence-holder ways to increase patronage by promoting its availability to residents, community and business organisations.

a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

b. .id forecast data update July 2021

Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1 -5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Thirroul Library &amp; Community Centre</b>	Determine future use of former café space and design interface between library and community centre to increase connectivity and utilisation, including for library programs.	X		
	Works to upgrade interface between library and community centre and convert café space to new purpose.	X		
	Review car park capacity and non-visitor use to identify options for improving access to parking.	X		

### Planning Area 3: Bulli, Russell Vale, Woonona

#### Key Planning Considerations:

- Planning Area (PA) 3 is mid-way between Areas 2 and 4, affording access to both Thirroul Community Centre & Library and Corimal Library & Community Centre within a 5km radius.
- There is a large number of 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure facilities in this PA.
- Proposals for future development of Bulli Showground as a regional 'cultural events precinct' need to be taken into consideration in determining future provision of SI in this PA.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Bulli Community Centre, 450m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets ie Bulli Old Pavilion and Woonona Girl Guide Hall and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Bulli Primary and High School within a 1km radius.	100	55	51	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed. Investigate use of other local 'supporting' SI to meet future demand.	The facility is well utilised, runs at full capacity and currently meets the needs of the local community.  To accommodate potential growing community demand for community space investigate the availability at other Area 3 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure or at one of the many 'Supporting' facilities eg Ocean Park Clubhouse.
<b>Russell Vale Community Hall, 330m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Average	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Cawley Park Soccer Clubhouse) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Russell Vale Primary School) within a 1km radius.	100	51	49	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	Increase the hall's availability to other community users by exploring opportunities to increase utilisation and activation, in consultation with the facility licensee.
<b>Bulli Senior Citizens' Centre, 440m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Average	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Bulli Old Pavilion and Woonona Girl Guide Hall) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure	100	54	50	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	Increase use by other groups by exploring opportunities to increase utilisation and activation, in consultation with the facility committee.

a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

b. id forecast data update July 2021

#### Planning Area 4:

**Balgownie, Bellambi, Corrimal, East Corrimal, Fairy Meadow, Fernhill, Mt Ousley, Mt Pleasant, Tarrawanna, Towradgi**

#### Key Planning Considerations:

- Increasing density/medium height residential development in the Corrimal Town Centre resulting in projected higher demand for community facilities.
- Vision and strategies of the Corrimal Town Centre Plan (2015-2025).
- Increase densification of residential lands eg: medium high-rise development in the Bellambi /East Corrimal areas by Housing NSW, may trigger a review of the scale and functionality of the Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre.
- Large number of Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure in this PA.
- Good supply of non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre, 540m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Bellambi Surf Life Saving Club; Elizabeth Park Football Club) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Holy Spirit College; Bellambi Public School) located within a 1km radius.	100	85	85	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed. Investigate use of other local 'supporting' SI to meet future demand.	The facility is well utilised, runs at full capacity, is well maintained and currently meets the needs of the local community. Explore opportunities to meet demand beyond current capacity by activation of local 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure in consultation with the Bellambi Surf Club.
<b>Balgownie Community Centre, 530m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	High	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Balgownie Football Club) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Collegians Rugby League Club Balgownie and Balgownie Public School) located within a 1km radius.	100	55	54	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed. Investigate use of other local 'supporting' SI to meet future demand.	The facility is well utilised, runs at near full capacity and while of older design and functionality, is currently fit for purpose to serve the local community. Options to accommodate potential growing community demand include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed future enhancement of Fairy Meadow Community Centre would satisfy increased and changing community needs for Social Infrastructure in Area 4.</li> <li>Investigate the use and suitability of Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure such as the Balgownie Junior Football clubhouse.</li> </ul>
<b>Towradgi Community Hall, 200m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Towradgi Surf Life Saving Club) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Towradgi Park Bowls and Recreation Club) located within a 1km radius.	100	22	22	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed. Investigate use of other local 'supporting' SI to meet future demand.	The facility is well utilised, runs at near full capacity and is currently fit for purpose to serve the local community. Options to accommodate potential growing community demand include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed future enhancement of Fairy Meadow Community Centre would satisfy increased and changing community needs for Social Infrastructure in Area 4.</li> <li>Explore opportunities to increase utilisation and activation of local supporting social infrastructure, in consultation with Towradgi Surf Club.</li> </ul>
<b>Tarrawanna Community Hall, 166m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Average	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Tarrawanna Soccer Clubhouse) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Tarrawanna Public School) located within a 1km radius	100	15	15	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is utilised and meets current licensee needs. Options for the future include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed future enhancement of Fairy Meadow Community Centre would satisfy increased and changing community needs for Social Infrastructure in Area 4.</li> </ul>

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Corrimal Library and Community Centre, 1930m<sup>2</sup> (District)</b>	Very High	All Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Surf Life Saving Clubs and sporting clubhouses and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets Corrimal Public School, Corrimal RSL etc located within a 5km radius.	<b>53.5</b>	30	28	Major Capital Project proposed.	The facility is well utilised, runs at full capacity and undersized to meet projected increased population size and density in Corrimal and surrounding suburbs. Options to address future community demand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the use and suitability of other 'Foundation' and Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure such as Surf Life Saving Clubs in Area 4.</li> <li>Investigate opportunities to extend this facility to a size and functionality appropriate to service projected future community need. This could include exploring options to better leverage the co-location of this facility with adjacent recreational infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Fairy Meadow Community Centre, 600m<sup>2</sup> (Local)</b>	High	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Guest Park Tennis Clubhouse) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Fraternity Club) located within a 3km radius.	<b>100</b>	13	12	Major Capital Project proposed.	The facility is well utilised, runs at full capacity, undersized and poorly designed to meet existing community demand. Options to address projected increased population size and density in Fairy Meadow include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the use and suitability of other 'Foundation' and Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure such as the Guest Park Tennis Clubhouse.</li> <li>Investigate opportunities to extend and enhance design of the facility to create appropriate size and functionality to service projected future community need. This would alleviate the need to redevelop other Area 4 community facilities such as Balgownie, Tarrawanna and Towradgi neighbourhood facilities.</li> </ul>

a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

b. .id forecast data update July 2021

Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Corrimal Library and Community Centre</b>	Investigate opportunities to extend and update the facility to service projected future community needs, including options to better leverage the co-location of this facility with adjacent recreational infrastructure.		X	
<b>Fairy Meadow Community Centre</b>	Conduct needs analysis, to understand demographic change, future needs and aspirations of the Planning Area 4 community, and determine future requirements of the Community Centre.		X	
	Investigate feasibility, scope and concept to extend and improve the capacity of this facility.			X
	Design, approvals and construction to re-purpose/create contemporary community centre.			X

## Planning Area 5: Wollongong City

### Key Planning Considerations:

- Area 5 is the region's major commercial hub and, as such, is the focus for recreational and cultural life of residents and workers from across the city and the broader Illawarra region, as well as catering to the needs of city centre residents.
- Key 'regional' SI assets have been unchanged for 30-40 years and require review in the context of community expectations, service levels and future needs.
- Significant LGA and Area 5 population growth of 20% and 43% respectively projected from 2022 to 2036.
- Proliferation of high-density residential development resulting in a growing demand for city centre Social Infrastructure and open space.
- Goals, objectives and strategies of the Wollongong's 'City for People' City Centre planning strategy and Development Control Plan.
- Supply of non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure is good, but affordability may hinder use.
- PA 5 Needs Analysis (2022) indicates there are several gaps in provision with key community and cultural facilities including Wollongong Library, Wollongong Art Gallery, Illawarra Museum and Pioneer Hall, and future work is required investigating options that will be appropriate to meet future community needs and expectations.
- A variety of Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club; Whales Clubhouse) and several non-Council owned facilities (Illawarra Leagues Club; Master Builders Club; Smith's Hill High School; St Mary's College) located within Area 5.
- The Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong Town Hall, Illawarra Museum and Old Court House & Artists Studio have 'local' heritage listings.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, 4552m<sup>2</sup> (Regional)</b>	Very High	Its regional reach means it is assessed in relation to Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure across the LGA.	47	20	17	Further investigation proposed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility is currently adequate to continue operating (with programming coordinated with the Town Hall) as a key regional performing arts facility.</li> <li>Investigate opportunities to strengthen physical connectivity with the Arts Precinct.</li> </ul>
<b>Wollongong Town Hall, 1800m<sup>2</sup> (Regional)</b>	Very High	Its regional role means it is assessed in relation to Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure across the LGA.	47	8	6	Further investigation required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility is currently of adequate size to continue operating (with programming coordinated with the IPAC) as a cultural facility.</li> <li>Components of this building are heritage listed and the building has local historical significance.</li> <li>Review of access arrangements required to ensure the facility supports Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan and complies with the Disability Discrimination Act.</li> <li>Investigate opportunities to strengthen its physical connectivity with the Arts Precinct.</li> </ul>
<b>Old Court House and Studio, 250m<sup>2</sup> (District)</b>	Very High	A variety of Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club; City Beach Function Centre; and Whales Clubhouse Continental Pool and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Illawarra Steelers Club; St Mary's College; Novotel) located within a 5km radius.	47	3	3	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised and runs at full capacity. It is heritage listed and has local historical significance.
<b>Wollongong Youth Centre, 1250m<sup>2</sup> (Regional)</b>	Very High	Its regional reach means it is assessed in relation to Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure across the LGA.	60	5	4	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised and runs at full capacity. It meets the needs of Wollongong's young people aged 12 to 24. Refurbishment to enhance décor and amenity is required.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Wollongong Art Gallery, 1500m<sup>2</sup> (Regional)</b>	Very High	Its regional role means it is assessed in relation to Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure across the LGA.	47	7	6	Further investigation required.	<p>The scale of the facility is appropriate for a regional facility serving a city the size of Wollongong. The absence of regional galleries in adjacent LGAs extend the role of and demands on the gallery.</p> <p>Occupying a non-purpose design building - its nine galleries over multiple levels, makes programming of exhibitions inefficient, costly, and challenging. The interior design and layout, scale and heritage qualities make it not fit for purpose to offer a contemporary gallery experience and efficiently operate as a modern regional art gallery. It cannot provide the appropriate storage conditions for its collection to grow whilst benefitting from future technologies.</p> <p>Investigating options to address the gallery's standard of provision to achieve a contemporary regional art gallery experience include undertaking a feasibility study examining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of a shop/café that would act as a catalyst to connecting the gallery with the Arts Precinct; and/or</li> <li>Opportunities to relocate the gallery to another building (existing or purpose built) with other GLAM (galleries, libraries and museums) sector services within the CBD with the aim of establishing a facility that would be contemporary in design and meet modern regional art gallery standards.</li> </ul>
<b>Illawarra Museum, 380m<sup>2</sup> (Regional)</b>	Low	Its regional role means it is assessed in relation to Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure across the LGA.	47	2	1	Further investigation required.	<p>The scale and functionality of this regional facility is not adequate for a city the size of Wollongong. It is under-utilised, it does not offer a modern museum experience or contribute as a strategic regional asset. The buildings small size, poor internal layout, access, circulation and inadequate amenities limits its capacity to respond to developments in museum services, such as the growing use of digital technologies.</p> <p>Future directions to provide a modern regional museum include undertaking a feasibility study examining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repurpose the internal layout of the museum modernising the building, whilst embellishing the heritage values, digitisation its collection or</li> <li>Explore opportunities to provide a purpose-designed and built regional museum that considers opportunities for co-location with other GLAM (galleries, libraries and museums) services with options to operate different collection formats and support historical inquiry.</li> </ul>
<b>Wollongong Library, 2270m<sup>2</sup> (Regional)</b>	Very High	As the largest library in Wollongong City Libraries network, it plays a regional role and as such is assessed in relation to Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure across the LGA.	47	10	8	Further investigation required.	<p>The library's layout and scale does not meet contemporary library standards expected of a regional library to serve a city the size of Wollongong. Although very well utilised, the library does not meet State Library NSW benchmarks for Gross Floor Area (GFA). Spread over multiple levels, inflexible internal areas, non-defined user zones, restricted internal sight lines and an undefined entrance compromise the library's capacity to function as a contemporary library.</p> <p>Future directions to improve the library's standard of provision and achieve the delivery of a modern library service, include undertaking a feasibility study examining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repurposing the library's layout to better support the delivery of library services with the aim of adopting design principles that would offer a modern library experience; and/or</li> <li>Opportunities to relocate the library with other GLAM (galleries, libraries and museums) sector services within the CBD, with the aim of establishing a facility that would be contemporary in design and meet modern library standards.</li> </ul>



Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Wollongong Pioneer Hall, 440m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Average (prior to closure)	One Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure asset (JJ Kelly Park Viking Clubhouse) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Wollongong RSL - City Diggers; Community Gateway) located within a 1km radius.	100	27	19	Minor Capital Project proposed	The facility is not fit for purpose as a multi-purpose neighbourhood centre and does not meet Council's condition and functionality standards. Pioneer Hall is currently closed to the public.  Future directions to provide a community centre suitable to meet the needs of Area 5's growing population include undertaking a feasibility study into the viability of establishing a multi-purpose facility in central Wollongong.

a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

b. .id forecast data update July 2021

Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Wollongong Library</b>	Investigate design solutions to enhance functionality and delivery of contemporary library services.	X		
	Investigate opportunities for co-location of library services with other Council community and cultural facilities.	X		
<b>Wollongong Art Gallery</b>	Investigate opportunities to enhance the amenity and service scope of the gallery and its interface with the Arts Precinct with a café, including opportunities for co-location with other Council community and cultural facilities.	X		
<b>Illawarra Museum</b>	Investigate opportunities to enhance the amenity and functionality of the Museum, including opportunities for co-location with other Council community and cultural facilities.	X		
<b>Wollongong Pioneer Hall</b>	Pioneer Hall is currently closed.			
<b>Wollongong Town Hall</b>	Review of access arrangements required to ensure the facility supports Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan.	X		



**Planning Area 6: Coniston, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mt Keira, Mt St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong**

**Key Planning Considerations:**

- Good proximity to Areas 4, 5 and 7 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure.
- Opportunities to access redeveloped 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure such as the Beaton Park Leisure Centre.
- Good supply of non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure.
- Proximity to the city centre and rail connections indicates future increases in housing density as single occupancy dwellings are replaced with townhouse and low-rise apartment development.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Coniston Community Centre, 224m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	There is no Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure, but several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Phoenix Theatre; Coniston Public School; WEA Illawarra; ITEC) within a 1km radius.	100	33	26	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised, runs at full capacity and currently meets the needs of the local community. Any projected growth in community demand at this centre can be met by proposed or improved provision within Areas 5 and 7.
<b>Wollongong Seniors Centre - Gwynneville 345m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Beaton Park Leisure Centre; Wollongong Tennis Club) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure facilities (Wiseman's Park Bowling Club; University of Wollongong, Wollongong TAFE) within 1km radius.	100	55	46	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed..	The facility was upgraded in 2020, is well utilised, runs at full capacity and serves the needs of the local community. In light of the future re-development of the Beaton Park Leisure Centre with the provision of a new multi-purpose community space, the future use of this facility will need to be reviewed. This additional space will meet the needs of Area 6 residents as well as provide improved provision in Areas 5 and 7 required to meet increased demand from future population growth and densification.
<b>Wollongong Workshop Theatre, 156m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Adjacent to Gwynneville Senior Citizen's Centre. Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Beaton Park Leisure Centre) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure facilities (Wiseman's Park Bowling Club; University of Wollongong, Wollongong TAFE) within 1km radius.	100	25	18	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised, runs at full capacity, and serves the purpose of being a community theatre space.

- a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.
- b. .id forecast data update July 2021

**Planning Area 7:**  
**Cordeaux Hts, Farmborough Hts, Figtree,**  
**Kembla Grange, Kembla Hts, Mt. Kembla, Unanderra**

**Key Planning Considerations:**

- High projected population growth in Kembla Grange - suburb situated in the southern part of Planning Area 7.
- Figtree town centre serves as a major retail hub for this Planning Area.
- Vision and strategies of the Unanderra Town Centre Plan.
- Recognise the relative isolation and natural environment setting of the Kembla Heights Community Hall.
- Heritage status constrains options to re-purpose Unanderra Library to improve operational capacity.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Illawarra Motorlife Museum, 3285m<sup>2</sup> (Regional)</b>	Average	Its regional reach means it is considered within the network of Council owned/non-Council owned 'Supporting' cultural Social Infrastructure across the LGA.	<b>53.5</b>	15	12	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	Explore opportunities to increase utilisation and activation of this social infrastructure asset, in consultation with the licensee.
<b>Kembla Heights Community Hall, 300m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	High	One Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure asset (Mt Kembla Bowling Club) and one non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure asset (Mt Kembla Public School) within a 1km radius.	<b>100</b>	530	542	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	Recognising the importance of this facility to the relatively isolated and close-knit Mt Kembla community, explore opportunities to increase utilisation and activation of this social infrastructure asset, in consultation with the licensee, while recognising the isolation of this facility and reliance on motor vehicle travel will continue to limit utilisation.
<b>Unanderra Library, 259m<sup>2</sup> (Local)</b> <b>Unanderra Community Centre, 555m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Illawarra Cycle Club Clubroom and Western Suburbs Pool Clubhouse) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Wests Leagues Club; Unanderra Public School) within a 3km radius.	<b>84.5</b>	26	27	Major Capital Project proposed.	Both facilities are well utilised, run at full capacity and undersized to meet projected community demand. Options to address future demand include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore options to increase connectivity between the (currently) separate library and community centre facilities</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to increase utilisation and activation of 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure such as the Illawarra Cycle Club Clubroom or Western Suburbs Pool Clubhouse to accommodate demand</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of relocating Unanderra Library and integration with an extended/re-designed Figtree Community Hall</li> <li>• Following re-location of Unanderra Library, extend the footprint of Unanderra Community Centre into the former library area</li> </ul>
<b>Figtree Community Hall, 338m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' SI assets (Figtree Scout Hall and Figtree Junior Soccer Clubhouse) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Figtree Anglican Church; Figtree High School; Illawarra Hockey Stadium) within a 1km radius.	<b>100</b>	46	41	Major Capital Project proposed.	The Hall is well utilised, runs at full capacity but its scale is inadequate to meet projected community demand. Options to address future demand include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to increase utilisation and activation of 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure such as the Figtree Scout Hall to accommodate additional community activities</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of extending and re-designing the hall, including provisions to re-locate and integrate the Unanderra Library</li> </ul>
<b>Darke Town Centre Sports Park and Community Hub, 600m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	N/A	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (planned AFL clubhouse adjacent to community centre) but no non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure within a 1km radius.	<b>100</b>	135 (yr. 2030)	<b>111</b>	Major Capital Project proposed.	Proposed Neighbourhood Community Centre situated within the Darke Town Centre Sports Park and Community Hub operating by 2030. The proposed facility will meet community needs with the aim of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-location with public domain and surrounding recreational and sports precinct</li> <li>• Providing a quality state-of-the-art multi-functional community centre/resource hub including cultural components, digital and information technologies</li> <li>• Combined focus on recreation and community use, determined by emerging local community characteristics.</li> </ul>

a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

b. .id forecast data update July 2021



Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Unanderra Library and Unanderra Community Centre</b>	Investigate opportunities to co-locate the library with the Figtree Community Hall.		X	
	Investigate options to extend the footprint of the community centre into areas formerly occupied by the library building (subject to relocation of library).		X	
	Design and construct to accommodate extended footprint of Unanderra Community Centre (subject to relocation of library).			X
<b>Figtree Community Hall</b>	Conduct needs analysis, to understand demographic change, future needs and aspirations of the Planning Area 5 and 6 communities and determine future requirements for 'Foundation' social infrastructure for Planning Area 7.	X		
	Investigate feasibility, scope and concept to extend and re-purpose the hall into a co-located community centre and library.	X		
	Design, approvals and construction to re-purpose hall as a co-located community centre and library.		X	
<b>Darakes Town Centre Sports Park and Community Hub</b>	Secure land required to accommodate Darakes Town Centre Sports Park & Community Hub.	X		
	Establish scope for Darakes Town Centre Sports Park and Community Centre.	X		
	Construct and commission Darakes Town Centre Sports Park.		X	
	Construct and commission Darakes Town Centre Community Centre.		X	



**Planning Area 8:**  
**Berkeley, Cringila, Lake Hts, Primbee,**  
**Port Kembla, Springhill, Warrawong, Windang**

**Key Planning Considerations:**

- This Planning Area is characterised by a high level of inter-generational social disadvantage, poor public transport linkages, ageing population and cultural diversity.
- Vision and strategies of the Port Kembla Town Centre Revitalisation Plan (2018).
- Vision and strategies of the Warrawong Town Centre Plan (2012).
- Limited Social Infrastructure for creative and cultural activities.
- Increasing property values in some parts of this Planning Area (Port Kembla, Lake Heights) reflecting a changing socio-economic mix.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Berkeley Community Centre, 1118m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Berkeley Sports and Social Club, Port Kembla Sailing Club) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Berkeley High School, Illawarra Yacht Club, Berkeley Public School) within a 1km radius.	100	172	170	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility was developed through re-design and extension of the Berkeley Community Hall in 2016. It is well utilised, fit for purpose, and has capacity to accommodate future community service needs.
<b>Cringila Community Halls, 289m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	High	There are no Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure, but several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Cringila Public School; Warrawong High School and Bilal Mosque) within a 1km radius.	100	138	135	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised and meets the needs of the local community. It was refurbished in 2018. It has the capacity to accommodate future community service needs.
<b>Cringila Multipurpose Centre 470m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Average <sup>d</sup>	There are no Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure, but several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Cringila Public School; Warrawong High School and Bilal Mosque) within a 1km radius.	100	224	219	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The centre is licenced to several not for profits (Southern Youth & Family Services, Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) and Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District). It has space available for community use. Explore opportunities to increase utilisation and activation of this facility, in consultation with the licensees.
<b>Windang Senior Citizens Centre, 320m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Windang Memorial Park Tennis Clubhouse and Windang Surf Life Saving Club) and one non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure asset (Club Windang) within a 1km radius.	100	145	138	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed. Investigate use of other local 'supporting' SI to meet future demand.	The facility is well utilised, in good condition and meets the needs of the local community. However, the design of the centre prevents multi-purpose use. Investigate opportunities in the future for co-location with re-developed local 'supporting' SI (eg: Windang Surf Club).
<b>Port Kembla Community Centre 510m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	High	This is the Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Port Kembla Surf Club and King George V oval facilities) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Port Kembla Public School, Port Kembla Baptist Church) within a 1km radius.	100	95	94	Further investigation required.	The facility is well utilised and currently fit for purpose to serve as a neighbourhood centre. A new kitchen was installed 2020/2021 and new amenities/office space will be constructed during 2022/2023. Review this facility and the Port Kembla Senior Citizens' Centre within the context of the Port Kembla Town Centre Revitalisation Plan.
<b>Port Kembla Senior Citizens' Centre, 655m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	This is the Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (King George V oval facilities) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Port Kembla Public School, Port Kembla Baptist Church) within a 1km radius.	100	143	142	Further investigation required.	The facility is well utilised and meets the needs of the local community. Review this facility and the Port Kembla Senior Citizens' Centre within the context of the Port Kembla Town Centre Revitalisation Plan.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Warrawong Library, 785m<sup>2</sup> (Sub-District)</b>	Low	Several Council owned 'Foundation' SI assets (Kemblawarra Hall, Cringila Community Halls), 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Primbee Park Tennis Clubhouse and Port Kembla Surf Life Saving Club) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Warrawong Public School, Warrawong High School, Portuguese Club; Illawarra Yacht Club; Futureworld) within a 4km radius.	47	32	121 <sup>c</sup>	Major Capital Project in progress.	The library is poorly located in rented premises, underused and does not meet State Library NSW benchmarks for size. A project to design and construct a new library (co-located with a community centre) is progressing on land at the corner of Greene St and King St - the current site of Warrawong Community Centre. The new facility is planned to open in 2025.
<b>Warrawong Community Centre incl. Illawarra Legal Centre, 802m<sup>2</sup> (Local)</b>	Very High	Several Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Primbee Park Tennis Clubhouse and Port Kembla Surf Life Saving Club) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Warrawong Public School, Warrawong High School, Portuguese Club; Illawarra Yacht Club; Futureworld) within a 3km radius.	100	39	121 <sup>c</sup>	Major Capital Project in progress.	The community centre is well used, undersized and not fit-for-purpose. Planning for a new community centre (co-located with the library) is underway on land at the corner of Greene St and King St - the current site of Warrawong Community Centre. This centre will house the Illawarra Legal Centre, Warrawong Residents Forum and the Vietnamese Association. The new facility is planned to open in 2025.
<b>Kemblawarra Community Hall, 320m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	There is no Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure, but a non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Portuguese Sports and Social Club) within a 1km radius.	100	32	30	Further investigation proposed.	The hall is well utilised and runs at full capacity. However, it offers limited functionality. Any future exploration of options to provide a facility in line with GFAM <sup>2</sup> benchmarks or to increase functionality of this facility must be in consultation with the local First Nations community and CUAC, the licensee. A project to upgrade surrounding outdoor amenities (car parking, playground equipment) is in train.

- a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.
- b. .id forecast data update July 2021
- c. The ratio is based on the new co-located library and community centre having a minimum GFAM<sup>2</sup> of 2600 with a population size at 2036
- d. Utilisation rate advised by one of the three licencees during community engagement.

Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Warrawong Library and Community Centre</b>	Complete detailed design and approvals for new library and community centre.	X		
	Construct and commission new library and community centre.	X		
<b>Kemblawarra Community Hall</b>	Consult with the licensee and local community to undertake a masterplan/feasibility study to design and upgrade parking, playground and other external areas in line with proposed masterplan.	X		
	Consult with the licensee and local community re options to increase the hall's internal functionality.	X		
<b>Port Kembla Senior Citizens' Centre and Port Kembla Community Centre</b>	Review this facility and the Port Kembla Senior Citizens' Centre within the context of the Port Kembla Town Centre Revitalisation Plan.			X

**Planning Area 9:**  
**Brownsville, Dapto, Kanahooka, Koonawarra**

**Key Planning Considerations:**

- High representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.
- Vision and Strategies of the Dapto Town Centre Plan.
- Limited availability of Social Infrastructure for cultural and creative activities.

Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, 3750m<sup>2</sup> (District)</b>	Very High	All Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Koonawarra Sailing Club) and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure (Dapto Leagues Club located within a 4km radius.	<b>53.5</b>	96	60	Minor Capital Project proposed.	The whole facility is well utilised and has additional capacity to accommodate future community demand. However, there is limited interface between the library and the community centre.  Review the design and functionality of Dapto Library, with a view to better integrate the community centre and support the delivery of contemporary library services.  Monitor adjacent site redevelopment proposals by the Dapto Agriculture & Horticultural Society Inc.
<b>Koonawarra Community Centre, 1072m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Dapto Pony Club; Lakeside Leisure Centre) and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets (Kanahooka High School; Koonawarra Public School) within a 1km radius.	<b>100</b>	137	118	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised, runs at capacity, and meets the needs of the local community.

- a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.
- b. .id forecast data update July 2021

Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Dapto Ribbonwood Centre / Dapto Library</b>	Review design and functionality of Dapto Library to better integrate service delivery - Scoping and project design based on review.	X		
	Design HVAC, lift replacement, lighting system upgrade, library refurbishment, amenities upgrade, and foyer and office refurbishment.	X		
	Construct HVAC, lift replacement, lighting system upgrade, library refurbishment, amenities upgrade, foyer and office refurbishment.	X		



### Planning Area 10:

Avondale, Cleveland, Dombarton,  
Haywards Bay, Horsley, Huntley (South),  
Marshall Mount, Wongawilli

### Key Planning Considerations:

- Planning of several new 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure required to service projected population growth in West Dapto over the next 20-30 years.
- Engage with Shellharbour City Council's plans to develop new 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure to avoid duplication and maximise utilisation of facilities.
- Consider opportunities to partner with other levels of government e.g. NSW Health, NSW School Education in the provision of shared 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure.
- Limited supply of non-Council owned Social Infrastructure.
- Outcomes of West Dapto Community, Cultural and Open Space Needs Analysis (2022) identifies existing and future gaps of Social Infrastructure provision and the type, scale and when facilities should be upgraded or constructed to meet current and future community needs. The Future Directions listed for Planning Area 10 align with the Needs Analysis recommendations.

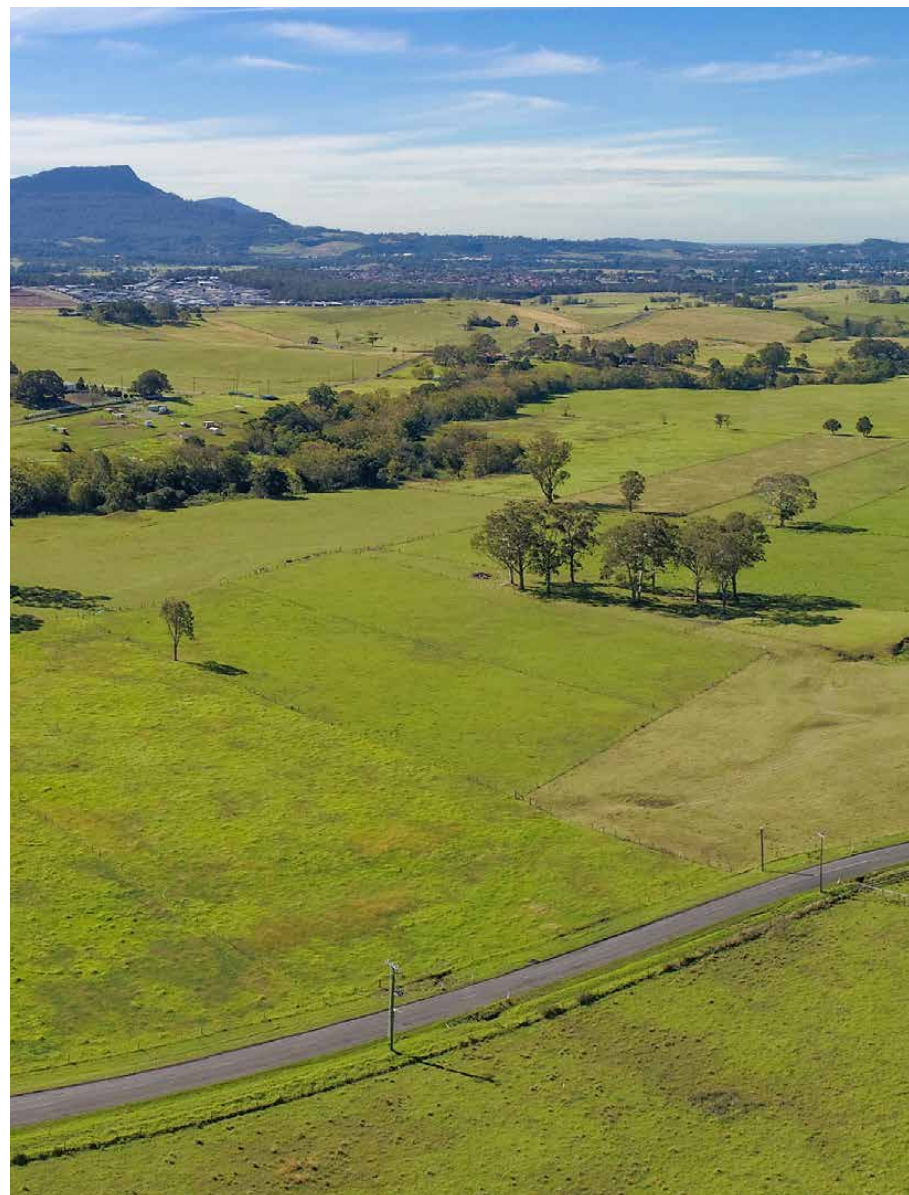
Facility, GFAM <sup>2</sup> and Location Hierarchy	Usage	Meets 'Right Facility Type and Mix' criteria <sup>a</sup>	GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop Benchmark	2021 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	2036 GFA m <sup>2</sup> Ratio per 1000 pop <sup>b</sup>	Future Direction Summary	Future Direction Details
<b>Horsley Community Centre, 558m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Very High	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Dapto League Clubhouse and one non-Council owned 'Supporting' SI ie Horsley Public School) within a 1km radius.	100	116	84	No change to 'hard' Social Infrastructure proposed.	The facility is well utilised, fit for purpose, runs at capacity and meets the needs of the local community.
<b>Wongawilli Hall, 126m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	Average	Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Wongawilli RFS and no non-Council owned 'Supporting' SI within a 1km radius.	100	933	529 c.	Major Capital Project proposed.	The facility is under used, does not meet contemporary community needs and amenities are non-compliant. Scope for refurbishment and extension has been completed and include expanding the Hall's footprint from 126 to 350 GFAM <sup>2</sup> including new amenities completed by 2023/2024.
<b>Bong Bong Library and Community Centre, 3600m<sup>2</sup> (Sub-District)</b>	N/A	All Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure ie Dapto League Clubhouse and several non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets ie Dapto Public School located within a 4km radius.	53.5	121	94	Major Capital Project proposed.	Proposed Sub-District Library and Community Centre located within the Bong Bong Town Centre. The proposed facility will meet community needs with the aim of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating the public domain, achieving a quality designed state-of-the-art library and multi-functional community centre/resource hub including cultural components, digital and information technologies etc.</li> <li>• A specific focus on art, technology and/or health services, to be determined by West Dapto community characteristics.</li> </ul>
<b>Yallah Marshall Mount Town Centre Community Centre, 1500m<sup>2</sup> (Neighbourhood)</b>	N/A	There is currently no Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure and non-Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure within a 1km radius.	100	924	796	Major Capital Project proposed.	Proposed Neighbourhood Community Centre at Yallah Marshall Mount Town Centre. The proposed facility will meet community needs with the aim of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating the public domain, achieving a quality designed state-of-the-art multi-functional community centre/resource hub facility, including cultural components, digital and information technologies etc.</li> <li>• Have a specific focus on art, technology and/or health services, to be determined when Marshall Mount Town Centre community characteristics and needs are better understood.</li> </ul>

a. One or more non-Council providers using Council owned 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure to deliver services and one or more non-Council 'Supporting' Social Infrastructure assets located within the Council 'Core' SI radial area.

b. id forecast data update July 2021

c. This figure is supported by proposed alterations increasing the GFA m<sup>2</sup> to 350 from 126.

Proposed Future Directions:		Indicative Timeframes		
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
		1-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	10 Yrs +
<b>Wongawilli Hall</b>	Design and approvals to extend the footprint and upgrade hall amenities.	X		
	Construct and commission hall improvements.	X		
<b>Part A</b>				
• Yallah/ Marshall Mount Community Centre	Consider the recommendations of the Community Cultural and Open Space (CC&OS) Needs Analysis, to address the future needs and aspirations of the West Dapto community in determining future requirements for recreational, community and cultural 'foundation' social infrastructure.	X		
• Bong Bong Library & Community Centre	Preliminary assessment of needs indicates an additional community centre at Avondale. However this proposal requires further investigation.			
• Cleveland Recreation & Community Centre				
• Darkes Town Centre Sports Park & Community Hub (located in Planning Area 7)				
<b>Part B</b>				
<b>Bong Bong Town Centre Library and Community Centre</b>	Conduct feasibility study to identify appropriate site for community centre and library.	X		
	Acquire site for new community centre and library.	X		
	Complete scope and concept design for community centre and library.	X		
	Construct and commission new community centre and library.		X	
<b>Yallah Marshall Mount Town Centre Community Centre</b>	Conduct feasibility, identify site, and secure land for community centre.	X		
	Develop scope and complete concept design for the centre.		X	
	Construct and commission new community centre.			X







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

We value and protect our environment

We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

We are a connected and engaged community

**We have a healthy community in a liveable city**

We have affordable and accessible transport



OUR WOLLONGONG JOIN THE CONVERSATION



# Draft Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2022 – 2036

## Engagement Report

March 2023



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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 issues. While it's not possible to include all the details of feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to technical experts for review and consideration.

## Executive Summary

Council asked the community to comment on the draft Places for the Future: Future Directions Social Infrastructure Plan 2022 - 2036. This Plan will inform Council's decision-making on the social infrastructure required to service Wollongong residents over the next 14 years. The draft Future Directions Plan focuses on 'Foundation' social infrastructure, which are Council-owned facilities like libraries, community centres, community halls and cultural facilities.

The purpose of this engagement was to inform the community on how Council plans for social infrastructure and seek feedback from interested people.

## Engagement details

The engagement was open from 28 January to 26 February 2023 with key stakeholders and the community notified through email, media releases, newsletters, Illawarra Mercury Community Update, Council website and Council social media posts. A project page was created on the Our Wollongong website with links to the draft Future Directions Social Infrastructure Plan and an online feedback form.

Stakeholders identified prior to the engagement period opening included:

- Facility operators
- Library users
- Community facility users
- Neighbourhood Forums
- Previous participants of related engagements
- General community

## Community Engagement Results

The community were invited to provide feedback on the draft Future Directions Social Infrastructure Plan. Twenty-four submissions were received from the community, including 16 via the online feedback form, three emails and five hardcopy submissions.

The project page had 671 unique views. Submissions and comments were received from individuals and community organisations.

The feedback received was largely positive, with many comments praising the document's comprehensive nature, and focus on community and cultural facilities. Many submissions emphasised the importance of and value of such facilities, citing their ability to enhance social

connections and cohesion, provide inclusivity, promote and enable health and wellbeing, and support many diverse community groups and organisations.

Many suggestions were made for planning and design stages of facilities, with consideration of the following:

- Adaptable use of space
- Multi-purpose and shared use of spaces
- Sustainability
- Accessibility
- Quality and amenity of facilities
- Locations, and co-location with other activity centres

Suggestions were also provided relating to specific centres or facilities, or geographic areas. These included:

- Support for the proposed plans for Fairy Meadow Community Centre; Figtree Community Hall; Thirroul Community Centre and Wollongong Library
- Improvements to heating and cooling, and accessibility of Coledale Community Hall
- Comments identified that Dapto would benefit from a large multi-purpose centre to cater for growing population and demographic
- Several submissions expressed concern at the proposal to move and integrate Unanderra Library with Figtree Community Centre, indicating that the existing location was accessible, family friendly and had historical significance, and met the needs of the community
- There was significant support to create a cultural and community hub in the Wollongong CBD with several suggestions to enable this, such as:
  - The co-location of key facilities
  - A large-scale integrated centre
  - A commitment to a Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre
  - Strengthened connectivity between facilities.

Some comments and suggestions were received on many other issues and are considered out of scope for this engagement. However, they can be reviewed and considered in other project planning and implementation.

## Background

The Places for the Future – Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan: 2022-2036 will inform Council's decision-making on the Social Infrastructure required to service Wollongong residents over the next 14 years. The draft Future Directions Plan focuses on 'Foundation' Social Infrastructure, which are Council owned facilities like libraries, community centres, community halls and cultural facilities.

Council adopted the Places for People - Social Infrastructure Planning Framework: 2018-2028, in December 2018. That planning framework was used to analyse social infrastructure priorities and opportunities across the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). From there, the draft Future Directions Plan had been developed to provide an evidence-based assessment of current and projected population trends and expected community demand, expectations and needs for community and cultural facilities.

## Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified prior to the start of the engagement period included:

- Facility operators
- Library users
- Community facility users
- Neighbourhood Forums
- Previous participants of related engagements
- General community



## Methods

A variety of communication and engagement methods were used to inform the community on how Council plans for social infrastructure and seek feedback from interested people. These methods included:

- Emails promoting the engagement to key stakeholders including community centre and library users; community centre licensees, Neighbourhood Forums; community members
- Social Infrastructure Future Directions [engagement webpage](#) with an online feedback survey
- Hardcopy information available at Wollongong City Libraries
- Illawarra Mercury Community Update.
- [Media Release – December 2022](#)
- [Media Release - February 2023](#)
- Social media posts

## Results

All stakeholders and the wider community were invited to provide feedback on the draft Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2022 – 2036.

### Engagement Participation

This section provides details on the participation in engagement activities and feedback received during the exhibition period. Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Participation in Engagement Activities**

Engagement Activities	Participation
Emails	3
Hardcopy Submissions	5
Online Participation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aware – Total number of unique visitors who viewed the project webpage.</li> </ul>	659
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed – Total number of people who clicked a hyperlink, e.g., to download the draft Plan.</li> </ul>	285
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged – Total number of people who actively contributed to the project, e.g., by submitting comments via the survey.</li> </ul>	16

## Submission results

The community were invited to provide general feedback on the draft Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2022 – 2036.

A total of 24 submissions were received via email, hardcopy and online feedback form.

## Positive Support and Value

There were several comments received that commended and provided support for a “comprehensive and inspiration plan” and “an excellent document”. The scope, content and value of the Plan was applauded and the focus on cultural facilities and future needs welcomed. A few people mentioned that were keen to see implementation and progress of the Plan, or different elements of it, and successful implementation will provide opportunities to showcase cultural richness, diversity and heritage of the city.

One submission supported and endorsed the approach in the Plan to

- provide access to a range of facilities to attract and support a diverse population.
- Respond to existing and projected community needs and current gaps in facilities and services
- provide for early delivery of social infrastructure.
- Promote an integrated approach to social infrastructure planning.
- maximise efficiencies in social infrastructure planning and provision.

Several submissions specifically mentioned the importance and value of having the right community facilities for the community, and how this contributes to positive social benefit by:

- creating and enhancing social connections and interactions
- providing inclusion for individuals and communities
- supporting different community groups and organisations
- providing appropriate and accessible spaces for community events, cultural celebrations for multicultural communities, community associations
- acting as community hubs and meeting places

## Comments and Suggestions – General

There were several general suggestions received across the submissions, relating to various issues such as planning and design, need and use of such spaces. A summary is provided below

- Social infrastructure planning including the built environment should create and support healthy and sustainable conditions and opportunities for the community (*see Appendix 1.1 for detailed recommendations*)
- Sustainable design principles including environmentally appropriate, and for adaptable and multi-use long term future use
- Consideration of shared and multi-purpose spaces to maximise use and function for all community
- Ensuring access to these spaces should remain a key consideration – these include things like
  - reasonable rents and fees for community use
  - transport to venues (active transport options, public transport options)
  - spaces and consideration for individuals or community groups with different needs e.g., mobility issues; breastfeeding parents.
- The location (or co-location) of facilities with other activity centres can such as community centre facilities, outdoor recreation facilities, shops, playground or outdoor recreation, seating, shade and water for all members is safer, more convenient and can really create 'community hub'
- There is a need for more venues with 200+ capacity especially for community and cultural celebrations
- Continue to consider and maintain the quality of the facilities
- Continue, to celebrate promote the arts, culture and heritage and the unique identity of city through dedicated places and areas
- Ensure social impact assessment is part of the DA process to better address community concerns around gambling infrastructure (particularly important for Dapto)

### Comments and Suggestions – Centre and/or Location Specific

Several submissions were in relation to a specific existing or newly identified centre or facility, or a geographic location.

Location / Facility	Comment
Coledale Community Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting room has no aircon or opening windows in the meeting room which is a health and safety issue. Needs ventilation</li> <li>• Main hall needs aircon – current heating provisions are inadequate</li> <li>• Accessibility upgrades needed including toilets and parking</li> </ul>

Location / Facility	Comment
Cringila Multipurpose Centre	<p>Usage is noted as N/A, however one of the licensees advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small office space is used daily (M-F) from 7am to 5pm for their social groups' program staff</li> <li>• The current community/commercial kitchen is used daily for meal preparation services</li> <li>• The common room, a separate meeting/activities room and the small community garden is used daily (M-F) for social group programs for elderly migrants</li> </ul>
Dapto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority and focus for Dapto and surrounds with growing population and no infrastructure</li> <li>• A new centre with all amenities for West Dapto to assist in creating a hub for activity and fun</li> <li>• A large community centre for community groups to use and for community events – it should include space for kids and bike paths and recreation like tennis courts</li> </ul>
Fairy Meadow Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support an expansion of this centre which is very well utilised for a wide range of community and multicultural programs</li> </ul>
Figtree Community Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the potential upgrade of this hall</li> </ul>
Helensburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The document indicates contradictory timeframes (completion in 2027, and then completion in 5-10 years)</li> <li>• With the loss of the old Helensburgh community centre, will an indoor (or outdoor) basketball court be provided for this community again?</li> </ul>
Thirroul Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the plans here</li> </ul>



Location / Facility	Comment
Unanderra Library	<p>Several submissions were received opposing the proposal to relocate and integrate Unanderra library with Figtree Community Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the existing location, walkable. Figtree is not as accessible – do not like the change</li> <li>• Easy to park at Unanderra, has a great family atmosphere</li> <li>• There are few services in Unanderra, leave us the library</li> <li>• Lovely sense of community, lots of activities here and at the community centre. Atmosphere and heritage should be preserved. It is family oriented and accessible</li> <li>• Perfect size and space for our community. It is friendly, and lots of heritage and history</li> </ul>
Wollongong Art Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and upgrade to include more studio space</li> </ul>
Wollongong CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs a significant multi-purpose and integrated regional scale facility with programming, services that will meet needs of changing demographic</li> <li>• Connectivity should be strengthened between existing facilities Gallery Town Hall, IPAC etc</li> <li>• Support for co-location of key facilities such as Gallery, Museum and Library</li> <li>• Investigate CBD space for Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and UOW Creative Arts</li> <li>• Improve accessibility provisions for all sites in the CBD</li> <li>• Develop Burelli St as an active cultural link</li> <li>• Commit to a Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre that is co-located in CBD; purpose built and drawcard facility and building (See <i>Appendix 1.2 for detailed recommendations and proposals</i>)</li> <li>• Would like a community square or space for events and gatherings (like Melbourne's Federation Square)</li> </ul>

Location / Facility	Comment
Wollongong Illawarra Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If plans are to relocate the Museum, local organisation Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) would be interested in the license of this to repurpose the space for the community support and service activities</li> </ul>
Wollongong Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for the upgrades as identified in the Plan</li> </ul>
Wollongong Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be updated while the historical significance is maintained</li> </ul>

### Comments and Suggestions – Out of Scope

Several people took the opportunity to provide feedback, comment and suggestions on many other matters. These comments were not within the scope of the Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan engagement, however, can be reviewed and considered in other project planning and implementation.

Theme	Comment
Events	<p>There were several suggestions for Wollongong to hold more large-scale events that would engage the community; celebrate our landscapes and natural attractions and attract tourism and foster community pride. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Markets and festivals</li> <li>Seaside food and wine festivals</li> <li>Cultural celebrations</li> <li>National sporting competitions such as surfing, motor racing</li> </ul>

Theme	Comment
Improve Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More facilities and activities around Lake Illawarra such as better toilets, shops and businesses</li> <li>• Complete the works at Towradgi Point, they are an eyesore</li> <li>• Revitalise Crown St, better maintenance and clean-up of the city (weeding, guttering – more civic pride)</li> <li>• Put toilets and a kiosk near Wollongong lighthouse</li> <li>• More toilets along the Blue Mile and city centre</li> </ul>
Space & Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider a seaside park through Puckeys</li> <li>• Skate parks and basketball courts</li> <li>• More fenced off-leash dog areas across LGA</li> <li>• Better playgrounds, trees and gardens</li> <li>• Better playgrounds</li> <li>• Maintain and improve MacCabe Park so it can be better utilised</li> <li>• Lang Park, MacCabe Park and Stuart Park all need to be used more</li> </ul>
Transport & Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility for those with limited mobility especially through city centre</li> <li>• Create 4-hour parking along the Blue Mile</li> <li>• Better public transport including bus routes between Wollongong, Warrawong, Lake Heights and Berkeley</li> <li>• Tram from Kembla Grange to Warrawong</li> <li>• Better and well-connected active transport opportunities especially around new developments</li> </ul>

Theme	Comment
Dapto and Surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better road infrastructure and maintenance needed to cope with increasing population and traffic</li> <li>• Build more playground and recreation areas for the newly developed areas including water park or water play opportunities</li> <li>• Shared / bike paths for kids and community</li> <li>• More shade needed - trees</li> <li>• Parks where ball games, and dogs are allowed</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not priority focus spending on climate change measures which are difficult to identify and measure. Focus spending on known and manageable issues like flood mitigation</li> <li>• Concern that Council does not listen to ratepayers</li> <li>• City Capital works program needs to be scrutinised and prioritised – increasing rates are significant burden on low-income families</li> <li>• Open up the mall</li> </ul>

## Next Steps

The project team will review all the feedback and use it to refine the Plan. The final Plan will be reported to Council in April 2023 for adoption.



## Appendix 1.1

### Specific recommendations that aim to increase health gains of the communities' use of social infrastructure

- Cluster facilities with activity centres. i.e., locating facilities with shops, schools, and other activity centres to create community focal points and promote safety. This can reduce the need to travel to different places and encourage active transport such as walking and cycling.
- Consider locations carefully. Facilities should be in convenient, central locations that are accessible by public transport. When they are next to open spaces, they allow for overflow activities such as children's play, festivals and markets.
- Improve accessibility to and around community facilities by walking and cycling, with a connected network of paths and end of trip facilities such as bike racks and charging points for e-bikes. People are also more likely to use the stairs in buildings with prominent staircases rather than prominent lifts. Around 400m to 500m (a five-minute walk) between destinations is seen as a comfortable walking distance for most people.<sup>5</sup>
- Promote equitable access for all population and sub population groups through distribution, design and management. Also design for flexibility to ensure facilities can respond and change to meet evolving community needs.
- Maximise efficiencies by designing facilities and the processes around them for multiple and shared uses. For example, community halls can be used by different groups for different purposes.
- Consider a mechanism to ensure sufficient early acquisition of land areas for community facilities and ensure investment is targeted where needed.
- Include a provision requiring developers to consult with Health and community services and consumers to ensure that their social infrastructure plans align with healthy built environment principles and offer the greatest opportunity to promote physical activity and healthy eating.
- Ensure fresh drinking water is available in all public spaces. Installing drinking water fountains and water bottle refilling stations in public areas can increase water intake. It can also reduce the use of single use bottles.
- Provide safe and appropriate spaces for breastfeeding mothers.
- Plan for and promote access to air-conditioned Council facilities as places of respite for community members during extreme heat events, especially in vulnerable communities.
- Encourage the establishment of community gardens and include a mix of native edibles to increase exposure to fruit and vegetables. Community gardening benefits the people who do the gardening and those who eat the fresh produce and are a powerful tool for promoting cross generational social connection.
- Comply with the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 which bans smoking and using e-cigarettes/vapes in all enclosed and certain outdoor public areas including within four metres of a pedestrian access point to a public building and in commercial outdoor dining areas. In addition, amend council's smoke-free outdoor areas policies to include e-

cigarettes/vaping.

- Ensure community facility's eateries and cafes offer healthy food options. Specifically removing sugary drinks from vending machines aligned with the Australian Dietary Guidelines. Leasing contracts could make sure this is actioned.

## Appendix 1.2

### Wollongong Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre

The working group believes that implementation of the 'Future Directions Plan' should involve the development of a major building that co-locates activities.

The group believes that a Wollongong Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre and associated projects will fulfil critical objectives of the 'Future Directions Plan' including:

- Rectify the inadequacies of the present Art Gallery and Museum premises
- Provide an improved museum/heritage education presence
- Provide a purpose designed built building collocating regional facilities
- Provide larger facilities to meet the needs of the regional population
- Create a multi-purpose neighbourhood / community centre
- Upgrade of facilities available for youth services

The 'Future Directions Plan' recognises that existing facilities lack visibility and presence. They fail to create a sense of place, are not fit for purpose, and are housed in buildings erected for unrelated purposes.

The proposed facilities need to be sited in the central business district in a purpose-built, architecturally significant building. Such a facility would bring together those community, heritage and cultural services that are currently housed in a variety of inadequate or insignificant venues.

As described in the 'Future Directions Plan' the provision of a CBD facility will not obviate the provision of services and facilities elsewhere in the city. Suburban libraries, meeting venues and special focus museums are essential components of a diverse cultural infrastructure.

The proposed development of a separate heritage centre on steelworks land is complementary to this proposal and will add to the cultural amenity of the city. It will provide scope for large exhibits not possible in a CBD location.

Transformational planning, involving finance from State and Commonwealth Governments, is achievable – as has been demonstrated by the University of Wollongong and many other regional cities.

The proposed Wollongong Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre complies with the objectives of current Wollongong Council Future Planning strategies and it is recommended that Wollongong City Council:

- Recognise the need for a world-class Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre which will also meet critical social infrastructure requirements as detailed in the 'Future Directions Plan'. Confirm the project as a key element of Council's future planning.
- Establish a small advisory group of key Council staff and potential stakeholders to specify project needs and guide the creation of a robust proposal
- Seek funding from state, federal and philanthropic sources for the business case and related initial planning costs
- Consider a range of CBD locations, sites and opportunities
- Prepare a project proposal as the basis to seek federal and state funding

## **Wollongong Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre - Indicative Project Proposal**

The following proposal is one option that could be considered:

### **Stage 1 – North End of McCabe Park**

Demolish existing buildings:

- Ex- County Council Building on Burelli St
- Youth Centre (to be rebuilt)
- Commercial buildings fronting Keira St (subject to planning design)

Construct a Wollongong Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre to include:

- Regional Art Gallery
- Meeting venues
- 'Specific' Library activities
- Museum and Heritage Centre
- Community Centre
- Youth Centre
- Café / Social Venues
- Basement carpark and service / storage / support facilities
- Outdoor Civic Plaza linking to and activating McCabe Park
- Pedestrian access and bridges to Crown St, commercial facilities and adjacent parking

### **Stage 2 – Existing Town Hall / Art Gallery (Ex Council Chambers) Building / City Library**

- Strengthen the physical connectivity of the Town Hall to the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and associated facilities.
- Upgrade the existing Art Gallery (ex-Council Chambers) to accommodate creative visual arts, music and performance studios.
- Investigate the feasibility of providing facilities for the Conservatorium of Music and University of Wollongong Creative Arts
- Update the Town Hall noting the local historical significance.
- Improve access provisions for the site and buildings
- Update the existing City Library as outlined in 'The Plan'
- Develop Burelli St as an active cultural link to facilities completed in Stage 1 and 2 and to the 25,000 seat entertainment centre proposed near WIN stadium



Image: Wollongong Community, Cultural and Heritage Centre Indicative Site Plan

