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| **Neighbourhood Forum 5**  **Wollongong’s Heartland** | Nike | Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City. |

# Agenda for meeting at 7.00 pm Wed. 6th November 2019 in the Town Hall Ocean Room

1 Presentations Paul Tracey (Parks + Open Space Manager), and William Murray, (Arborist, Public Tree Management) on " the right tree in the right place planted the right way and at the right time".

2 Apologies

3 Minutes of meeting of 2nd October and matters arising.

4 Comments from residents, Councillors, Council staff and/or the University.

Jane Robertson: DA/2019/1008 8 storey flats, 1 Smith St.

Geoff Kelly: DA2019/284 townhouses 58-60 Murphys Ave.

5 Responses draft Community Participation Plan:see p. 5 & comment

Pop-up Beach Club: **see rec p.6**

SkyDive the Beach: **see rec p. 6** & comment

Place Management: see p. 6 & comment p. 7

Commercial Uses or Events in Public Parks: **see rec p.** **7**

Trucks on Mount Ousley: see 7

Walking and Cycling Funding: see p.8

6 Reports City Deals: **see rec p.** **8**

Flooding: **see rec p.9**

Land categories for Crown Reserves: see p 10 & **rec p.11**

Uralba Street Figtree, bridge closure; **see rec p.11**

Emissions Reduction Targets: see p 11 **& rec p. 12** & attachment p16

7 Activities Projects: see p.12

Neighbourhood Forums Alliance: see p.12

University Liaison: see p.12

BHP Liaison: see p.13

8 Planning DAs: **see recs pp.13 & 14**

9 General Business:

10 Snippets see p. 15

**Next Meeting**: **7.00 pm on Wed. 11th December 2019, Town Hall Ocean Room.**

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| Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 401` households |

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| **Neighbourhood Forum 5**  **Wollongong’s Heartland** | Nike | Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City. |

# Minutes of meeting at 7.00 pm Wed. 2nd October 2019 in the Town Hall Ocean Room

Present 18 members and Acting Lord Mayor Tania Brown.

1 Presentation David Winterbottom was thanked for his presentation on Medium Density Development.

It was resolved that his notes be distributed with the minutes.

2 Apologies were accepted.

3 Minutes of meeting of 4th September were adopted with no matters arising.

4 Comments **Cllr Tania Brown** reported on the World Cycling Event in 2022; the need to upgrade the WIN Stadium; and that Council's Emissions targets are to go on exhibition.

**Clare Rhodes** re-iterated the invitations mentioned in the agenda. Guests can register for the [Wollongong Campus Tour](https://www.uow.edu.au/events/2019/community-campus-tour---wollongong-campus.php) online or view other activities on our [Events calendar.](https://www.uow.edu.au/events/)

**Residents** opposed to the Murphys Avenue townhouses spoke of their concerns.

It was agreed that Council be requested to ensure that any revised proposal was put on public exhibition, together with correct technical assessments, given serious concerns about:

1 the advice being proffered on DA's in relation to flooding, is such that a moratorium on development in flood plains should be imposed until revised Studies have been completed;

2 the advice being proffered on DA's in relation to traffic and parking, specifically in relation to development west of Robsons Road;

3 The dangerous traffic situation on Robsons Road;

4 the advice being proffered on DA's in relation on-site traffic movement, specifically turning circles;

|  |
| --- |
| Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 398 households |

5 the advice being proffered on DA's in relation to the assessment of local character, which flies in the face of any rational interpretation;

6 tree removals and landscaping;

7 the protocols and attitude of the Wollongong Local Planning Panel in relation to community presentations.

It was also agreed to seek urgent meetings with the Director of Infrastructure + Works and with the Director of Planning + Environment to discuss the situation.

5 Responses **Crown Street Markets:**  noted.

**Trees under Power Lines**

It was agreed to defer consideration on this to the November meeting.

**Council Website Improvements**

It was agreed to ask Council when improvements to the Development Application components of the website will be available.

**Commercial Use of Public Parks**

It was agreed to request Council to ensure events are notified publically and to require a Community Impact Statement to be provided for events on public land.

6 Reports **Deputy Lord Mayor**

It was agreed to congratulate Tania Brown on her election as Deputy Lord Mayor.

**Wollongong Director of Planning and Environment**

It was agreed that Linda Davis be congratulated on her appointment and invited to address the Forum early in the new year.

**draft Community Participation Plan**

It was agreed to adopt as policy and make a submission to Council on their Community Participation Plan that it should:

1 require major developments to be the subject of consultation at an early stage, perhaps a public meeting or a presentation to the relevant Neighbourhood Forum;

2 require a similar process when considering Planning Proposals or Planning Agreements;

3 require all developments to be discussed with any immediately adjacent householders before lodgement;

4 require application of the Community Engagement Policy principles when determining the level of notification, based on the possible environmental and social impacts of the proposal;

5 include opportunities for mediation and alternative dispute resolution in contentious or complex situations;

6 require Council to review the description of the actual proposal rather than rely on that of the proponent, as this is sometimes misleading;

7 ensure user friendly access to information on Council's web site.

8 include a reference to the free "Planning Alerts" web site which enables residents to be notified automatically when a Development Application is lodged within a nominated distance of their property (contact@planningalerts.org.au to sign up).

**Senior Citizens Centre, Gwynneville**: noted

**The NSW Government’s Your Council website**: noted

**On Call Cleanup Service for Multi Unit Dwelling**; noted

7 Activities **Projects**: noted

**Neighbourhood Forums Alliance**: noted

**University Liaison:** noted

8 Planning **DA/2019/874 Four semi-detached units, 6 Bulwarra St Keiraville**

It was agreed that the submission of objection be endorsed.

**DA/2019/922 Three attached houses, 147 Gipps Road Keiraville**

It was agreed that a submission of objection be lodged.

**DA/2019/1008 eight storey building, 1 Smith St Wollongong**

It was agreed that a submission of support be lodged subject to all site disturbance being supervised by a qualified archaeologist.

**DA/2019/980 Two units in a 4 storey Building, 82A Cliff Road Wg**

It was agreed that a submission of strong objection be lodged.

9 General/Late **Wollongong Local Planning Panel:** Noted in 4 above.

Business

**Parking at Beaton Park:** noted

**Flood Control Infrastructure**

Concern was raised at the lack of funding for flood control infrastructure.

It was agreed to defer this issue for a report to the next meeting.

10 Snippets noted.

**Next Meeting**: **7.00 pm on Wed. 6th November 2019, Town Hall Ocean Room.**

**5 Responses draft Community Participation Plan**

" The CPP encourages applicants to discuss proposals with neighbours before they lodge their development application (DA) with Council. However, this cannot be mandated under the legislation. All

DAs requiring notification are notified as soon as possible, following lodgement. This ensures that the community is notified of proposals early in the assessment process. Draft Planning Agreements and draft

Planning Proposals are notified as soon as practical.

The notification requirements within each planning function are based on the Council’s process of community engagement. The description of applications is reviewed by Council officers before notification

commences, to ensure that notification is accurate. When reviewing application descriptors, the entire proposal is considered to determine the extent of notification required. Where necessary, and with

consideration of possible impacts, notification is extended or widely notified to ensure maximum community engagement.

There can also be multiple stages of engagement, dependant on the project. This would occur when changes are made to a proposal, or additional extended notification of a project is required as a result of

new information. When complex situations arise, Council officers are able to organise meetings to discuss contentious issues, or to resolve disputes, when considered appropriate.

Council’s website was updated in August and was designed to be more accessible for everyone. If there are any specific elements that aren’t user friendly, there is a website feedback from which can be accessed from this link https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/links/feedback.

The recommendation to include a reference to the ‘Planning Alerts’ web site is proposed to be incorporated into the CPP, as it is agreed that this will be beneficial to the community. A report summarising submissions and outlining any necessary changes to the draft CPP is scheduled to be reported to the Council meeting on 18 November 2019, for endorsement.

Strategic Project Officer (Acting)

Comment

A preliminary response has been sent making the points:

1 make it clear pre-application discussion with neighbours speed up and simplify the process;

2 confirm community engagement principles will be followed;

3 confirm Council is not prepared to consider mediation and alternative dispute resolution;

4 the new web site remains a disaster;

5 glad about the inclusion of free ”Planning Alerts" web site.

**Pop-up Beach Club at North Wollongong**

"Council resolved at its meeting of 5th September 2019 that it will work collaboratively with Destination Wollongong to investigate running a pop-up trial "Beach Club" to find a suitable foreshore location. A report to Councillors will outline the scope of the term pop-up "Beach Club" and outline times that would be suitable for operation, any possible environmental impacts, as well as any other possible implications and/or risks.

The results of these investigations are to be provided to Council by the end of April 2020 prior to any consideration to running the trial during the months of December, January and February 2020/2021"

Property Services Manager (Acting)

Recommendation

Council be thanked for their advice and request to include a review of the extent to which the intended sites are used currently and assess the impact on access to the foreshore by the local community.

**SkyDive the Beach**

"Council advises that the status of this matter has not significantly changed since their last response dated 8 August 2019. Therefore, as this matter is still the subject of ongoing commercial in confidence negotiations, it would not be appropriate for Council to disclose the requested information at this time. It is to be noted, however, that Council relies on independent registered valuers to assist with the determination of the market rental payable in respect of leases" Property Services Manager (Acting)

Comment

This response seems to indicate that the daily alienation of public use of the 130 year old Stuart Park Crown Land for the past 20 year by unapproved daily landings on the Oval/village green for commercial skydiving will continue;  that secret negotiations will deny the community arguably about half a million dollars per year due to Council’s peppercorn landing fees; that moving landings to the approved all weather landing site on Council’s Fairy Meadow land is still not being considered; and that the right of public access to Stuart Park Oval under the Crown Lands and Local Government Acts is routinely being ignored.

Recommendation

Council and the State Government be advised of our ongoing concerns.

**Place Management**

"Council has been working within a framework in key localities where a range of projects are underway (often centred around town and village planning activities) and a coordinated approach is required. This framework can involve senior management representation having oversight of the gamut of activities.

As the operational plan has continued to evolve, precinct coordination groups have been set up and facilitated by executive or senior management. This has worked effectively and provides for cross-function coordination and collaboration. In some cases, a senior manager has continued to have suburb based oversight - such as Helensburgh where a multitude of activities are now underway."

Director Community Services

Comment

It appears that the concept of "Place Management" has been abandoned.

**Commercial Uses or Events in Public Parks**

In respect of the lease or licence of Community Land owned by Council, statutory advertising undertaken by Council gives a minimum 28 days’ public notice of any proposed lease or licence arrangements for the use of the land. This statutory advertising occurs whether the proposed use is of a temporary nature (e.g. an Event, like the Ironman/Ironwoman event) or a licence/lease for a defined term (e.g. commercial fitness trainer, or a kiosk/cafe).

Where a Development Application is required, Council as local consent authority considers, among other things, whether the temporary use will adversely affect the amenity of the neighbourhood. In respect of Events in general, Council’s Event Team have a wide range of DA-approved event sites including:

Stuart Park

Lang Park

Wollongong Foreshore

The Arts Precinct

MacCabe Park

Osborne Park

Dalton Park

Wollongong Botanic Garden

Property Management Coordinator

Recommendation

That Council be requested to advise the standard conditions of consent in the approved DAs for events in the nominated parks.

**Trucks on Mount Ousley Road**

Ryan Park, MP has had a response for us from the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads. She advises that existing vehicles have been approved as conforming to the Performance-Based Standards level 2. Transport NSW has investigated safety related issues and found that the new vehicles have more traction to safely ascend and descend Mount Ousley, especially in wet and greasy conditions.

The Australian Government is leading a project to investigate road use charging and www.infrastructure.gov.au has more information on this an Heavy Vehicle Road Reform. The issue of the use of the O'Briens Drift is a matter for the Minister for Planning and our correspondence has been forwarded to him.

**Walking and Cycling Funding 2019-2020**

Council have advised IBUG via Paul Scully, MP that:

" Unfortunately, Wollongong City Council was unsuccessful in all of its applications for funding in the 2019-20 Walking and Cycling Program".

The applications put forward in our area were as follows:

i Smith Street, Wollongong railway underpass;

ii Harbour Street - Smith Street - Kembla Street - Bank Street;

iii Denison Street, Wollongong between Crown Street and Throsby Drive

iv Cordeaux Road, Figtree between Princes Highway and Gibsons Road.

Council staff requested information on why these applications were unsuccessful to inform future applications, however no advice from Transport for NSW has not been forthcoming. Further, delays in advice and workshopping regarding the 2020-21 round of funding is of concern to Council noting the lack of success for 2019.

**6 Reports City Deals**

City Deals are a genuine partnership between the three levels of government and the community to work towards a shared vision for productive and liveable cities. City Deals work to align the planning, investment and governance necessary to accelerate growth and job creation, stimulate urban renewal and drive economic reforms. City Deals will help to secure the future prosperity and liveability of our cities.

The uniqueness and diversity of cities across Australia means that we will get the best outcomes by tailoring our approach to designing and delivering City Deals.

Deals have been agreed to date include: Townsville, Launceston, Western Sydney, Darwin, Hobart, Geelong, Adelaide, Perth, and South East Queensland. Deals are typically funded 50% Feds, 45% State 5% Local.

Recommendation

Council be requested to advise their proposals for a City Deal and how the community is to participate.

**Flood Risk Management Plans**

Council is currently reviewing all its Flood Risk Management Plans since flood flows and levels have been underestimated because of:

1 increased rainfall depths and intensity, particularly in areas adjacent to the escarpment;

2 rainfall "lost" overestimates;

3 "pre-burst" rainfall underestimates;

4 the use of an inappropriate "temporal pattern".

Further, ever since Council adopted its unique but flawed blockage policy in 2002, locally experienced flooding experts have expressed serious concerns about the management of flood factors in considering development applications in the Wollongong local government area. It is recognised that the area’s topography is challenging and the proximity of the escarpment can contribute to occasional localised flooding

It is also understood that reliable data on local flooding events is very limited, which makes it extremely difficult for Council’s flooding staff resources to arrive at correct, defensible decisions for flood affected lots Unfortunately for residents, landowners and potential developers,  the overall management of flood prone land seems to be confusing and poorly addressed.

Particularly within the past decade Council has engaged a variety of consultants and expended considerable funds on floodplain studies and plans. However there are still major concerns, as experienced recently at a WLPP hearing on a DA in Murphys Rd Keiraville.

Regarding development applications, a fundamental problem seems to be the reliance on computer outputs using unreliable data, as an inflexible factor in determining DAs, resulting in the *sterilisation of flood prone land*, rather than Council’s DCP and the NSW Government’s Floodplain Policy requiring *a merit-based approach taking into account social, economic and ecological as well as flooding considerations.*

John Riggall & Felix Bronneberg

Recommendation

That Council be requested to place a moratorium on development in flood prone areas unless supported by a flood study using up-to-date data and assessed taking into account social, economic and ecological as well as flooding considerations.

**Proposed Community Land Categories for Crown Reserves**

8th November

Council’s Community Lands Management Officer has advised that the “Have Your Say“ section of Council’s website provides information on proposed community land Categories for 46 Crown Reserves.

This is the first of a 3 stage process, ie

Stage 1: Preliminary Community Consultation (Oct - Nov 2019)

Stage 2: Council prepares draft Plans of Management (PoM) for exhibition subject to the Minister’s approval (Nov 2019 – June 2021)

Stage 3: Draft PoM exhibited for public comment (Nov 2019 – June 2021)

Legislative change

On 1 July 2018 the Crown Lands Act 1989 was repealed and replaced by the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act). This authorises Council to manage certain Crown Land as if it were public land under the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act). The CLM Act requires Council to:

i Nominate a Classification for the Crown Land as either Community land or Operational land (similar to how Council land is classified under the LG Act);

ii Nominate an initial Categorisation of the Community land that reflects the reserve purpose, based on the LG Act categories;

iii Prepare Plan(s) of Management (PoM) for Community land by 30 June 2021.

Classifications and Categories

Land Classifications are either Operational or Community. Categories of Community land are: Park; Sportsground; General Community Use; Natural Area (with sub-categories); and Area of Cultural Significance. Each Category has Core Objectives that guide the land’s use, management and leasing or licensing.

In October 2018 Council endorsed the proposed Classification and initial Categories for 51 reserves where Council is the Crown Land Manager, and they were submitted to the NSW Department of Industry – Crown Land. A report to Council in May 2019 advised approval for 46 Crown Reserves Classified as Community land, and that their initial Categorisation has been confirmed. Council staff have now added Categories to the 46 Crown Reserves which are listed along with supporting information including plans on the Have Your Say site, inviting community feedback.

Of the 46 Crown Reserves, 12 are in the NF5 area, and it seems that the proposed Categories are reasonable. However members are advised to check Council’s Have Your Say site and make a submission if they see fit.

Plans of Management - Specific or Generic

As the report to Council in May 2019 indicates, Council previously adopted a Generic Plan of Management (2018) for Council owned Reserves, as well as 8 PoM for Specific locations, 2 of which that include Crown Reserve land are in the NF5 area, ie Andrew Lysaght Park and Wollongong City Foreshore. But none of the 46 Crown Reserves have a PoM that meets the requirements of the CLM Act.

Therefore new PoM must be developed. Most Crown Reserves will be managed through a Generic PoM, but some will require site-Specific PoM. It is understood that Council is currently seeking community input on which Crown Reserves would require Specific PoM.

It has been obvious since the mid 1990’s when Council relocated cricket to Dalton Park that the regionally significant Stuart Park area requires a Specific PoM, and this was adopted by the Minister in October 2000. It is expected that another Specific PoM required is for the Wollongong City Foreshore area from Stuart Park to Swan St.

John Riggall

Recommendations

1 Council be advised that the proposed Categories for the 46 Crown Reserves seem to be reasonable;

2 Council be requested to develop separate Specific PoM for the Stuart Park area and for the Wollongong City Foreshore area from Stuart Park south to Swan St,

3 Council be requested to ensure collaboration with the NF5 executive throughout the PoM development process.

4 members are advised to check Council’s Have Your Say site and make submissions if they see fit.

**Uralba Street Bridge, Figtree**

Council advise that major works on the bridge over Byarong Creek requires closure of Uralba Street to traffic for 10 -12 weeks in the first half of 2020. Temporary pedestrian access will be available most of the time.

Recommendation

Residents requiring further information or wishing to comment on the design contact the Design Engineer, Structural, by 8th November.

**Wollongong Emissions Reduction Target**

The report on this is attached at page 16. 8th November

Recommendation

That Council be requested to develop a Climate Change Action Plan which involves:  
 1. Mitigation - Management and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;  
 2. Adaption - Making adjustments to existing activities and practices so that vulnerability to potential impacts associated with climate change can be reduced or opportunities realised.  
 3. The setting of the following measurable targets:  
 ◦ Net-zero emissions from the community by 2050  
 ◦ Net-zero emissions from council operations by 2030  
 4 Council to take a leading role in the community to implement  
 climate action strategies by:

a) Managing Council’s own carbon footprint and leading by example;

b) Transforming the behaviour of individuals, households, businesses and organisations on how they manage their carbon footprint through;

c) Providing both general and targeted services and programs;

d) Developing and brokering partnerships with other organisations (including businesses, community organisations and other government agencies) to provide products, services and programs;

e) Advocating for change of policies, laws and programs that will enable the local community to reduce its carbon footprint, and;

f) Building community engagement and networking opportunities around climate change action.

Felix Bronneberg

**7 Activities Keiraville/Gwynneville Access Study:** nothing more.

**South Wollongong:**  nothing more.

**Neighbourhood Forums Alliance:** nothing more.

**University Liaison**

The inaugural [Illawarra Design Excellence Symposium](https://designsymposium.innovationcampus.com.au/) will explore how lives are enriched with thoughtfully designed homes, buildings, environments and public spaces. The University of Wollongong Innovation Campus, in partnership with the Property Council of Australia, invite you to share strategies and bold ideas that innovate and articulate principles of great design in the built form. This is a FREE event for anyone wanting to be inspired and connect.

Details: 8 November 2019, 8am -  7pm, UOW Innovation Campus, Level 2, The Central building. Register for FREE: <https://designsymposium.innovationcampus.com.au/>

**BHP Community Liaison**

The quarterly meeting, chaired by the Lord Mayor, was advised:

1 domestic market is up due to building boom, coke is being exported due to the middle-east conflict, but the international market for steel is down due to sagging demand;

2 strategically, BHP is consolidating industrial uses on site from elsewhere;

3 Bans on the import of waste by both China and Indonesia are likely to cause major problems in Australia;

4 infrastructure investment continues for example the sinter plant waste gas-cleaning by-pass;

5 plastic which would otherwise go to landfill is replacing 20% of coal in the coke making process with by-products recycled;

6 they are reducing emissions at 1% per year;

7 an organic waste recycling program is in place;

The LM advised that Council is trialling a 7 litre organic waste bin to be emptied into the green bin via a plastic bag.

The issue was raised of the concentration of potentially explosive uses under State Development provisions which could lead to a chain reaction of catastrophic proportions.

**8 Planning** **DA/2019/874 town houses 2-8 Highway Ave West W'gong**

30th October

This is a proposal for 17 two-storey townhouses in three blocks, and a separate house, on a very large site, backing onto the freeway, at the end of a cul-de-sac. It seems to comply with all Council requirements although most elements are only just within limits. 33 A rated SULE trees are to be removed. The street is almost completely single storey houses although some are over garages. It does not comply with our Locality Plan for Figtree, nor the character of the street or neighbourhood.



Recommendation

That the submission of objection be endorsed.

**DA 2019/1123 14 storey building 35-37 Atchison St W'gong**

13th November

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This is a proposal for 54 flats over a commercial level above basement parking on the east side of Atchison St between a recently approved 12 storey building and the Greek Orthodox church. It complies with height, floorspace and parking requirements but not with building separation, deep soil zone, or maximum building depth. The applicant argues, with some justification, that compliance with these is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances. |  |

Recommendation

That a submission of support be lodged subject to the Design Review Panel being satisfied that the juxtaposition between this building and the Orthodox Church is acceptable in urban design and streetscape terms.

**DA 2019/1122 15 storey building 20 - 26 Young St W'gong**

13th November

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This is a proposal for 60 flats over a commercial level above basement parking on a site running through from Young to Belmore Streets. It complies with height, floorspace and parking requirements but not with building separation, deep soil zone, or maximum building depth. The applicant argues, with some justification, that compliance with these is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances. |  |

Recommendation

That a submission of support be lodged

**DA 2019/1149 Dual Occupancy 13 Strathearn Ave W'gong**

12th November

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This is a proposal for an attached dual occupancy in a form not dissimilar to a number of houses in the street. It seems to comply with all Council requirements and our Locality Plan for Mangerton. | Strathearn Ave dual occ.jpg |

Recommendation

That a submission of support be lodged

**9 General Business**

**10 Snippets** **Nature Strips**

You may mock the national anthem by singing “Our land abounds in nature strips” but what you might not know is how true that is. In Melbourne, for example, [more than a third of all public green space is nature strips](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1618866719300718). (That figure includes roundabouts, medians and other green bits of the street.) Urban wildlife uses street greenery for habitat and food and as green corridors for movement.

Even for those who mow, the lawns of nature strips are not just turf grass. They could be home to over 150 species of plants. Many of these, like the clovers, provide important resources for pollinators. Less mowing is good news for bees and butterflies.

Gardening in the nature strip adds native plants to the streetscape, increases biodiversity and add structural complexity (more layers of plants, more types of stuff), which is important for many species. [Street greenery helps](https://pubag.nal.usda.gov/catalog/1135097) water [soak into the ground](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27094440), filtering out pollutants, recharging aquifers and making rivers healthier. It [cools streets](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26828172) and [helps counter the urban heat island effect](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169204614002503). It also [promotes a sense of community](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953613003742), [encourages walking](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214140518303281) and lowers the incidence of [heart disease](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214140518303281), [diabetes](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2524191), [asthma](https://theconversation.com/children-living-in-green-neighbourhoods-are-less-likely-to-develop-asthma-96190) and [depression](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169204614002941).

One of the great things about gardening in the nature strip is that people are [more likely to do it if their neighbours do it](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1618866719302535). It’s contagious, a positive-feedback loop creating a greener street. A recent survey found residents who garden in the nature strip have a greater [sense of community](http://www.communityscience.com/news-detail.php?news=114) than those who don’t.

Adrian Marshall, University of Melbourne

**Green Street Art ?**

****

**ATTACHMENT**

**Wollongong Emissions Reduction Target** and

**Proposed Climate Action Plan**

As a first step in response to climate change, the Council needs to develop a Climate Change Action Plan which involves:

1. Mitigation - Management and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Adaption - Making adjustments to existing activities and practices so that vulnerability to potential impacts associated with climate change can be reduced or opportunities realised.
3. Setting of the following measurable targets:
   * Net zero emissions from the community by 2050
   * Net zero emissions from council operations by 2030

Furthermore it is incumbent on Council to take a leading role in the community to implement climate action strategies by:

1. Managing Council’s own carbon footprint and leading by example;
2. Transforming the behaviour of individuals, households, businesses and organisations on how they manage their carbon footprint through:
   * Providing both general and targeted services and programs,
   * Developing and brokering partnerships with other organisations (including businesses, community organisations and other government agencies) to provide products, services and programs,
   * Advocating for change of policies, laws and programs that will enable the local community to reduce its carbon footprint, and
   * Building community engagement and networking opportunities around climate change action.

**Council's Mitigation Actions:**

1. Identify opportunities for Federal or State Government funding to implement climate change mitigation actions;
2. Implement an ongoing Carbon Audit program to monitor and report on the Council’s Greenhouse gas emissions from energy usage in buildings and street lighting, fleet and waste production;
3. Undertake a sustainability assessment of all existing Council buildings to:
   * Reduce lighting and equipment loads,
   * Optimise the design of cooling systems to provide best energy efficiency under higher temperature loads,
   * Identify opportunities to retrofit existing buildings with additional insulation materials and efficient and effective cooling systems,
   * Implement identified sustainability recommendations;
4. Design Council buildings and building additions that minimise the amount of energy consumption and which allow for ease of future adaptation;
5. Undertake a review of the Council’s vehicle/plant selection procedures to ensure that increased consideration is given to the purchase of lower emission vehicles and plant;
6. Investigate the formalisation of a car pooling system for Council staff travelling to and from the workplace;
7. Undertake a review of the Council’s waste management facilities and practices as well as reintroducing gas capture to reduce landfill gas emissions.

**Community Mitigation Actions**

1. Undertake a benchmarking project to quantify the greenhouse gas emissions produced within the LGA.
2. Develop a sustainable transport strategy in partnership with key stakeholders which considers issues including:
   * Maximising the use of public transport;
   * Reduction of commuter travel between work and home;
   * Alternative forms of transport such as bicycles and walking and
   * Minimising vehicular transportation of food.
3. Undertake a Household Sustainability Assessment and a community education program with the aim of reducing waste generation by reducing overall consumption involving a range of strategies including:
   * Diverting material from landfill in order to extend the landfill life and to reduce the future implications of greenhouse gas emissions through recycling programs that maximise recycling rates.
   * Examining the practical and economic feasibility of commercial and domestic food waste and garden organics separation at source for collection and composting.
4. Investigate the feasibility of offering rebates for the installation of solar hot water systems in homes within the LGA;
5. Develop and maintain a ‘sustainability’ section on the Council’s webpage to provide information and links on climate change, energy efficiency domestic reuse and recycling of waste materials.

**Council's Climate Adaption Actions**

1. Identify opportunities for Federal or State Government funding to implement Council's climate change adaptation actions.
2. Undertake a scientific and technical risk assessment of climate change impacts on coastal areas, including impacts on the community and Council infrastructure, assets and coastal open space. This assessment should be undertaken along with an analysis of the risk perception in the community to assure the communities acceptance to measures taken to address the risk. Measures need to address both the scientifically assessed and the perceived risk.
3. Develop Planning Controls that incorporates coastal vulnerability provisions into the Planning Scheme which is based on the current climate change science including risk factors such as risings sea levels, bushfires, rising peak temperatures and wild weather events.
4. Develop a stormwater management plan that addresses:
   * potential flooding risks;
   * potential locally appropriate alternative uses of stormwater;
   * system constraints to ensure that the system is designed to prevent overflow events from wetter than normal weather, based on climate change scenarios.
5. Promulgation of Council's urban greening strategy and a moratorium on further greenfield development.

**Neighbourhood Forum 5 Climate Action Policy**

At its July meeting Neighbourhood Forum 5 resolved to endorse the following policy for Council to adopt:

*Climate Change*

*The Climate Change Group has prepared an Action Policy and seeks*

*Council to prepare a robust Climate Change Policy and Action Plan as*

*a priority, in collaboration with the community, in particular involving*

*the younger generation, that sets key actions on climate change*

*ensuring such a policy and plan is integrated across all functions of*

*Council as well as implementation of community initiatives for climate*

*mitigation, adaptation and resilience.*

**Proposal**

In relation to climate change that the Forum adopt as policy and Council be requested to commit to the following actions:

1 Develop strategies to build community resilience and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 which incorporates the staged implementation of 100% renewable energy, including heating, cooling and transport, by 2050;

2 Develop a Wollongong City Council Energy and Emission Reduction policy to manage energy needs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Council operations including waste management, energy management and plant and fleet and built form;

3 Join over 100 other Councils across Australia in signing up to the Cities Power Partnership, a free national local government program that focuses on supporting the emission reduction successes of local councils in Australia. and like Sydney City Council sign up to the Global Climate Action Summit;

4 Immediately elevate climate change issues and risks (environmental, economic and social) in Council decision making processes;

5 Invest in more climate-resilient infrastructure;

6 Promote mitigation initiatives such as uptake of renewable energy and continue on the adaptation pathway to build local and regional climate resilience;

7 Advancing towards zero waste by meeting, or preferably exceeding, targets in the NSW Government's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2021 and comply with the requirements of the Governments 20 year Waste Strategy after it is released - due in early 2020;

8 Work with large local industrial players like BHP to achieve sustainable technologies and organisations like Green Connect as well as local farmers to establish local farmers markets;

9 Consideration of other strategies such as ensuring new buildings are net zero carbon and achieving an equitable low carbon transformation.

Felix Bronneberg