

# 3 SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS

The NSW Government recently legislated for elections for Wollongong City Council to be held on 3 September 2011, and for the Local Government Area to be divided into three wards for electoral purposes.

Wollongong's three wards will each be represented by four councillors. There will also be an election on the same day for the City's Lord Mayor.

Ward boundary maps and further information can be viewed on Council's website [www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au)


**Trivia 3:** How many Councillors in total will be in our Local Government Area?

SEE BELOW FOR ANSWER

## Building Our City

Significant projects across our city that have been constructed or are currently underway:

- Upgrade of King George V Cricket Oval and car park
- New baseball (diamond) playing field at Fred Finch Park, Berkeley
- Relocation of Warrawong Library to new premises
- New section of cycleway at Fred Finch Park in Berkeley, Princes Highway and Victoria Street in Unanderra and Parks Street in Helensburgh
- Refurbishment of Wollongong Town Hall
- Upgrade of a regional playground at Towradgi Park
- Major repairs to Bellambi rock pool
- Reconstructing sections of cycleway along Northcliff Drive in Lake Heights and Bellambi Beach
- Upgrade to facilities at Thomas Gibson Park in Thirroul
- Refurbishment of Bulli Community Centre
- Refurbishment of Coledale rock pool
- New car park at Mike Dwyer Reserve in Coledale



Council will continue to focus its spending on upgrading and maintaining our roads.

General Manager David Farmer and students from Towradgi Public School open the playground.

# Understanding Your Rates

## WHY DO I PAY RATES?

The income Council receives from rates goes toward a whole range of services and facilities including beaches, pools, parks, gardens, sportsfields, libraries, community centres, development assessments, health and safety, environmental protection and waste services.

Your rates also go towards repairing and maintaining roads, footpaths, cycleways, drains, bridges and buildings across the Local Government Area.

Rates and charges make up around 72 percent of Council's income.

## HOW DOES COUNCIL DECIDE HOW MUCH I HAVE TO PAY IN RATES AND CHARGES?

Rates are based on the value of your land and the rate category of your property. There are four main rate categories; residential, business, farmland and mining.

In the residential rate category, 50 percent of Council's total rate income is collected from a 'base rate' which is a flat amount paid by all rate payers. The other half is based on your property value. A base amount helps to even out rate increases in areas where there has been an unbalanced increase in land values.

## WHO DETERMINES THE LAND VALUE OF MY PROPERTY?

Land is valued by the Department of Lands (not Council) about every three years.

Enquiries about land values can be made to the Department of Lands by phoning 1800 110 038 or visit the website [www.lpma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au)

## WHEN DO I HAVE TO PAY MY RATES?

You have the option to pay your rates in full or by quarterly installments. Payments in full or the first quarterly installments are due by 31 August 2011.

If you pay your rates and any other outstanding payments in full by 31 August, you can go into the draw to win great prizes (see flyer enclosed).

If you choose to pay quarterly, you'll receive a reminder notice 30 days before each installment is due.

## DOES COUNCIL CHARGE INTEREST?

If you don't pay your rates and charges by the due date you will be charged interest. Interest for overdue rates and charges is set by the Minister for Local Government and will appear on your rates notice.

## HOW CAN I PAY MY RATES?

You have several choices when it comes to paying your rates and charges. You can pay by direct debit, online payment, Bpay, Post Billpay, credit card, EFTPOS, by mail, in person and by phone.

Credit card payments incur a processing fee of 0.72 percent.

## WHAT IF I CAN'T PAY MY RATES AND CHARGES BY THE DUE DATES?

We encourage you to contact us on (02) 4227 7111 to discuss your options.

## WHO IS CONSIDERED AN 'ELIGIBLE PENSIONER'?

If you've been issued with a Pensioner Concession card or receive a War Widows or TPI Pension and live at your rated property, you may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$250.

If you received a pension rebate last year and Council has been able to confirm your eligibility with Centrelink, your rebate for this year should be shown on your current notice. If not, you'll need to complete a form.

Eligible pensioners can pay their rates and charges at any date, as long as they're paid in full before 31 May 2012 (otherwise interest charges will apply).

## WHAT IS THE 'DOMESTIC WASTE CHARGE' ON MY RATES NOTICE?

The state government requires Council to charge for domestic waste services. This charge covers the cost for Council to provide domestic waste services to residents, including picking up your bin and disposing of your waste.

Households are issued with a 240 litre yellow lid bin for recyclable material, a 240 litre green lid bin for green waste and an 80 litre bin for general waste. Households have the option of switching the red lid bin to a 120 or 240 litre red lid bin for a 'switching fee'. Contact Council to arrange for the switch or during the month of February 2012 you can apply to switch your red lid bin size for the following financial year at no charge.

## WHAT IS THE CHARGE FOR 'STORMWATER MANAGEMENT' ON MY RATES NOTICE?

Wollongong is prone to high rainfall and potential flash flooding. The Stormwater Management Charge helps fund projects to upgrade infrastructure, improve drainage systems and fund stormwater reuse projects to reduce the risk of flooding in our city.



This publication is printed on recycled paper made from 100% post-consumer waste, and uses soy based offset printing inks.

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Wollongong City Council publishes the newsletter every three months.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

**(1)** The cost for the free pick up service is included as part of your Domestic Waste Management Charge which appears on your Council rates' notice. **(2)** The Bathers Pavilion was built in 1938 and opened on 12 November 1938 in front of several hundred spectators by the Minister for Works and Local Government, E S Spooner. **(3)** 12 Councillors and 1 Lord Mayor.

## Crown Street Mall Facelift

**A Development Application for the design of a refreshed and vibrant Crown Street Mall has been lodged and work is planned to start in early 2012.**

After consultation, Council incorporated the community's ideas and concepts and worked with the Government Architects Office on new designs for Crown Street Mall.

The new designs include a water feature, extra lighting and high canopy trees to create the sense of an avenue with views up and down the hill.

### What Next?

Council is considering all submissions and reading your comments and then the Joint Regional Planning Panel will determine the DA approval over the coming months.

Subject to the determination, we will start planning construction and call for tenders towards the end of the year.

### KEY FEATURES

- A children's interactive water play area in front of the Church on the mall (that can be turned off when needed).
- An interactive musical play area west of the Church Street intersection.
- Timber seating to add natural colour and texture.
- Light coloured pavement.
- Illawarra Flame trees to add colour and create the sense of an avenue.
- Light poles, which can fly banners.
- Feature lighting under the tree canopy, in a variety of colours.
- A new stage area and access to power at key points in the mall to encourage more entertainment.

*Council will invest \$14.2 million into the Crown Street Mall refurbishment over the next two years.*



Artist impression of the refurbished Crown Street Mall at night.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

IN EVERYTHING WE DO WE WILL STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE  
OUR FOCUS WILL BE ON DELIVERING:

- A VIBRANT AND LIVEABLE CITY
- VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ASSETS AND SERVICES
- AN INNOVATIVE AND PROGRESSIVE ORGANISATION

To find out more about Council visit  
[www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

Our website contains a wide range of information about Council services and activities.

Wollongong City Council, 41 Burelli Street Wollongong

General enquiries: **(02) 4227 7111**

(including emergency after hours assistance)

Email: [council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

# ON-CALL HOUSEHOLD CLEANUP SERVICE

We have a new on-call cleanup service for all households which allows for more items to be collected, tidier streets and better recycling.

Book your annual cleanup service at a time that suits you online at Council's website [www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au) or call Customer Service. All properties have one free pick up each year (1 July to 30 June).

The service benefits to you are more items are accepted for collection including computers, televisions, tyres and mattresses and for the environment more materials can be recovered for recycling.

## How much can I place out for collection?

Each household can place 2 cubic metres. 2 cubic metres = 2 metres in length x 1 metre in width x 1 metre in height.

*To date Council and Theiss contracting service has completed 11,128 kerbside pick ups, including 4035 mattresses and over 1 tonne of e-waste.*

Items for collection must be:

- Placed out no earlier than the day before the booked collection service and no later than 6am on the morning of the collection.
- Tied, wrapped or boxed as neatly as possible.
- Able to be handled by two people ie. less than 2 metres in length.
- Placed between the gutter and footpath in front of your premises.
- Placed so they won't fall on the roadway or footpath.
- If you live in a unit complex, the Body Corporate, Strata Manager or Department of Housing Officer will liaise with all residents in your block as well as with the contractor regarding the location for your pickup.



**Trivia 1:** Where does Council get the money to provide all properties with one free pick up each financial year?  
SEE BACK PAGE FOR ANSWER



**FIVE WEEKLY PRIZE DRAWS OF \$200 VOUCHER**

# DRAW WRITE SNAP SHARE

*I love Wollongong because...*

## Draw Write Snap Share your Ideas

Council is seeking your creative expression that captures the feeling of the city; Draw Write Snap Share is a competition seeking photos, stories, poems or other expressions of what you love about the city, these ideas will be used in drafting the Community Strategic Plan.

**Competition closes 7 August.**

Visit 'Draw Write Snap Share' Facebook page for entry details or email [dws@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dws@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

Find us on: **facebook**

# WEST DAPTO

## Providing land for the future.

The Joint Regional Planning Panel has approved a 290-lot subdivision on Bong Bong Road, Dapto, the first land release of Council's West Dapto Plan.

Work is already well underway on the project, which will see one new and two improved access routes into

the growing suburb. A link will be built between Fairwater Drive and Cleveland Road connecting to the Princes Highway, providing an alternative route in and out of West Dapto. The new road will provide much improved access during floods. Projects also nearing completion include the extension of Fairwater Drive to Bong Bong Road and the extension of Fowlers Road to Marshall Street.

*Over the coming decades West Dapto will house over 50,000 people and provide 184 hectares of employment land.*

Detailed information on Council's West Dapto Access Strategy can be found on the website.

The West Dapto land release is important as it will provide an additional 17,000 homes and local employment opportunities over the coming decades.



# Bathers Pavilion Precinct

Update on the \$12 million refurbishment of the iconic Bathers Pavilion Precinct.

**Council, with the help of \$863,000 in funding from the Federal Government's Regional and Local Infrastructure Program, is now one third of the way through transforming this historic building into a showpiece of the Blue Mile precinct.**

Significant upgrades to the North Beach precinct are also being undertaken including coastal protection works, widening footpaths, retaining walls, creation of a viewing platform and improved lighting and access to the area.

You may have seen the fences, heard truck movement and perhaps had to take a detour up along the Cliff Road footpath, we are on track to have majority of the work complete so the shared cycleway and footpath will be open by Christmas.

We apologise for the temporary inconvenience while we continue to widen the pathway to make this busy thoroughfare safer and more comfortable for pedestrians and cyclists.



**Trivia 2:** What year was the Bathers Pavilion built? And who was it officially opened by?

SEE BACK PAGE FOR ANSWERS

**Did you know?** The Bathers Pavilion was built so people had a place to dress before and after bathing in the ocean.



## WHAT'S ON WOLLONGONG

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2011

Council and its affiliates have many events, exhibitions and programs for you and your family to enjoy.

# VIVA LA WOLLONGONG

Wollongong's premier community arts and cultural festival will be held on Saturday 12 November 2011 in McCabe Park and this year's theme is *Spirit & Place*. Find more information on Council's website.

### What's on @ IPAC

Bell Shakespeare and Queensland Theatre Company's

#### Faustus

Michael Gow's startling adaptation of Marlowe's play takes a closer look at temptation and the price we pay for instant gratification.

27 - 30 July • Tickets: \$25 - \$62

Kim Carpenter's Theatre of Image and Belvoir's

#### The Book of Everything

Australia's master theatre-maker Neil Armfield brings to life Guus Kuijer's award-winning novel.

10 - 13 August • Tickets: \$20 - \$56

Bookings: Illawarra Performing Arts Centre  
32 Burelli Street, Wollongong  
Phone: (02) 4224 5999  
Web: www.merrigong.com.au

### Wollongong Botanic Garden

#### Traditional Japanese cooking, Bokashi

9 August, 10:30am to 12noon • Cost: \$8

#### Jam Making & Preserves

Learn the basic techniques of turning fresh fruit and vegetables into preserves.

30 August, 10:30am to 12noon • Cost: \$20

#### Composting Weeds & Grass Clippings

Yes, you really can compost weeds from your garden.

13 September, 1pm to 3pm • Cost: \$8

#### Chook Care Workshop

Chickens make great pets, eat kitchen scraps and provide a fresh source of eggs and manure.

27 September, 10am to 1pm • Cost: \$20

Bookings: Wollongong Botanic Gardens Discovery Centre  
Email: botanicgarden@wollongong.nsw.gov.au  
Phone: (02) 4225 2636

### Wollongong City Libraries

#### Healthy Heart - Blood Pressure Checks

18 July, 9am - 12noon, Corrimal District Library  
8 August, 9am - 12noon, Dapto District Library

#### Knit In

Bring in your knitted clothing and toys for the charity Wrap with Love.

All Libraries • Until 5 August

Wollongong Central Library  
41 Burelli Street, Wollongong  
Phone: (02) 4227 7428  
Web: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library

### Leisure Centres

#### School's Out Program

Until the end of July school holidays.

Phone Beaton Park on (02) 4227 7755 or

Phone Lakeside on (02) 4261 3693

Web: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/Leisurecentres

### Town Hall

#### Smart Living Community Expo

The inaugural Smart Living Community Expo offers sustainable living solutions for your home.

24 July, 10am to 4pm • Free

#### Soweto Gospel Choir

Heralded as the most exciting group to emerge in World Music in recent years. Traditional and contemporary songs infused with irrepressible spirit.

20 July, 8pm • Cost (Reserved Seating):  
Adults \$79, Juniors (Aged 2-16) \$40, Seniors \$69

#### 2011 South Coast Ballroom Dance Sports Spectacular

14 August, 12noon • Tickets: Ticketek

Bookings: Wollongong Town Hall  
Contact Pegasus Venue Management  
Email: hire@wollongongtownhall.com.au  
Phone: (02) 4254 7600

### Wollongong City Gallery

#### An Active Edge: Col Jordan

6 August - 25 September

Exhibition Opening: Friday 12 August

#### In Search of Gravity: Arthur Apanski

13 August - 18 September

Exhibition Opening: Friday 12 August

#### The Promised Land: The Art of Lawrence Daws

13 August - 16 October

No Official Exhibition Opening

#### Unearthed: Sarah Smuts-Kennedy

17 September - 13 November

Exhibition Opening: Friday 30 September

#### Leaping Chair: Anita Larkin

24 September - 20 November

Exhibition Opening: Friday 30 September

Wollongong City Gallery  
Cnr Kembla & Burelli streets, Wollongong  
Phone: (02) 4228 7500  
Web: www.wollongongcitygallery.com