



*Wollongong 2022-
The Story So Far.....*

Wollongong City Council
Draft Engagement Progress Report
December 2011

Draft Engagement Report

An Introduction

Wollongong 2022 is a 10 year Community Strategic Plan that will identify the community's long term priorities and aspirations for Wollongong as well as the strategies for achieving these goals. The Plan will directly link to Council's resource allocation and service delivery through a Resource Strategy and Delivery Program. The Plan must be holistic in nature and address social, economic, environmental and civic leadership issues in the community. This high level document will *'identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and plan strategies for achieving these goals'* (IPR Planning and Reporting Manual).

Wollongong 2022 is not simply a council plan; it is a whole of community plan that covers the diverse range of needs and issues facing us as a community.

The NSW Planning and Reporting Legislation requires Council to achieve a Community Strategic Plan, Resource Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan by June 2012. As part of the development of the Community Strategic Plan, Council must prepare and implement a Community Engagement Strategy for engagement with the local community.

Planning for the development of Wollongong 2022 began in early 2011 with the establishment of a Community Reference Panel. The Panel was made up of 30 members from the community who represented the city's diversity. Conversations about our unique community and communication techniques for Council to engage more effectively with the local community were held over four workshops between March and May 2011. Panellists provided feedback on the best methods of engagement and communication and provided direct input into the development of a Community Engagement Strategy to support the Wollongong 2022 planning process. At the conclusion of the reference panel participants asked for Council to be genuine and transparent in reporting and engagement, use technology to engage the community, and be more creative and interesting in the way in which we communicate and engage.

The Community Engagement Strategy outlines how Council is going to engage individuals, community groups, Government agencies and non-Government organisations in the formation of the Wollongong 2022, Community Strategic Plan. The strategy was endorsed by Council on Tuesday, 24 May and outlines the various stakeholders and forms of communication that Council will utilise in engaging the community throughout the Wollongong 2022 process. The complete Community Engagement Strategy is accessible on Council's website (www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au).

This working paper provides a brief snapshot of the process so far. It provides details on the engagement strategies implemented and some of the key emerging themes as a result of community input. This work will form the basis of a more formal Wollongong 2022, Community Engagement Report to Council and the community in June 2012.

The Community Engagement Strategy in action

Draw Write Snap Share

Wollongong 2022 was launched in June 2011 with the Draw Write Snap Share promotion to encourage residents to share what they love most about living in Wollongong in a creative way.

150 submissions from 108 people were received as part of the promotion. Entries were primarily photographs however participants also submitted poems, drawings, paintings and comments. The entries covered a range of themes including natural environment, family activities, built environment and history.

A quote by local resident Vi Phillips demonstrates the focus on the natural environment; *“I love finding pockets of natural beauty all over the place.”*



(Image by Rachael Baez)



(Image by Lis White)

A number of images, poems and words have been used throughout the various engagement activities to provide a visual representation of what people love about the city and why they are proud to call Wollongong home.

Photographs from the Draw Write Snap Share promotion can be viewed on Council's website (www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au).

Community Conversations

Leading on from Draw Write Snap Share a series of Community Conversations were held in various locations across the city including, Wollongong Produce Markets, the Warrawong Markets, Spring into Corrimal, Dapto Markets and the Children's Festival. These conversations provided opportunities for residents to speak with Council and share their ideas for the direction of our city. Residents were asked:

- 'What do you value most about the Wollongong Local Government Area' and
- 'What do you think are the most important issues for the Wollongong LGA at the moment?'

Community members involved in community conversations also completed an intercept survey on their values, issues, suggested improvements and future visions for the region. A survey was available on Council's website and promoted through Council's networks.

Many of the emerging themes related to our natural environment, access to our beautiful beaches, family and friends and the lifestyle.



Town Hall Talks

From September to October, three Town Hall Talks were facilitated around the key topics of the Economy, the Environment and Leadership and Engagement. The Talks were an opportunity for residents to listen to industry experts and ask questions about what Wollongong should aim to achieve for 2022.

On September 29, Professor Ed Blakely led the discussion on our economy. Author of four books Ed Blakely is Honorary Professor of Urban Policy at the US Studies Centre, having previously served for two years as Executive Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration, the "recovery czar" for New Orleans following the devastation of hurricane Katrina.

One of the world's leading scholars and practitioners of urban policy, Blakely has been Dean of the School of Urban Planning and Development at the University of Southern California and Dean of the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy, New School University in New York City. He has also held professorial appointments at the University of California Berkeley, the University of Southern California and the University of Sydney.

Professor Blakeley shared some of his thoughts about the potential for Wollongong, but strongly emphasized this is a destiny we need to determine ourselves. That said he proposed that:

- Wollongong needs an industry or event that puts the city on the world map.
- We could be the next Silicone Valley or have New South Wales' second largest airport.

He shared his view that the possibilities for Wollongong are endless.

The following Tuesday, Environmental expert Dr Karl Kruszelnicki led a talk on the future of the environment in Wollongong. So far Dr Karl (as he is often referred to) has written 30 books and has degrees in Physics and Maths, Biomedical Engineering,

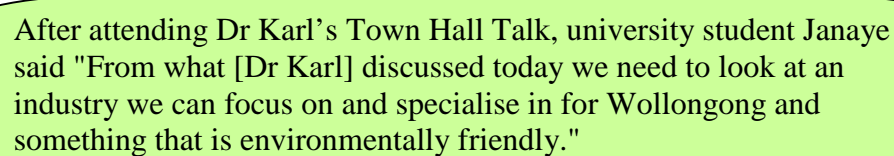
Medicine and Surgery and has worked as a physicist, tutor, film-maker, car mechanic, labourer, and as a medical doctor at the Kids' Hospital in Sydney.

In 1995 he took up the position of the Julius Sumner Miller Fellow at Sydney University, in August 2000 Dr Karl was one of first eight Australian Apple Masters to be announced (there are fewer than 100 in the entire world), in 2002, Dr Karl was honoured with the prestigious Ig Nobel prize awarded by Harvard University in the USA for his ground-breaking research into Belly Button Lint and why it is almost always blue and in September 2003, Dr Karl was bestowed with the great honour of being named 'Australian Father of the Year'.

Dr Karl received the Member of the Order of Australia Award in the 2006 Australia Day Honours list. In 2007 the Australia Sceptics Society awarded Dr Karl the Australia Sceptic of the Year Prize.

His enthusiasm for science is totally infectious and no one is better able to convey the excitement and wonder of it all than Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. He came with plenty of ideas and shared a similar theme to that of Professor Blakeley, in that it is important for Wollongong to find a niche market or industry and go for it. A passionate advocate of renewable energy he also suggested:

- That the region could adopt wind energy through the creation of a wind turbine farm.
- Perhaps a solar energy plant?
- Participants of the talk were supportive in a shift to green energy in the region and moving away from the current stigma of a pollution filled city.



After attending Dr Karl's Town Hall Talk, university student Janaye said "From what [Dr Karl] discussed today we need to look at an industry we can focus on and specialise in for Wollongong and something that is environmentally friendly."

To learn how to engage the disengaged and ensure the community exercises their voices when it comes to local government planning, engagement consultant Max Hardy and University of Wollongong Lecturer, Dr Glenn Mitchell led the Town Hall Talk discussion on governance and leadership.

Max Hardy is a consultant who specialises in community engagement, deliberative democracy and collaborative governance. Although based in the Illawarra Max's work takes him all around Australia, as well as occasionally to New Zealand, North America and the UK.

He is one of the most experienced licensed trainers in the world for International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) having delivered certificate training since 2002 to well over 1,000 participants.

Glenn Mitchell is a Senior Lecturer and the Convenor of the History Program in the School of History and Politics at the University of Wollongong. He has taught Australian History since 2001 when he completed a term as the Sub Dean in the Faculty of Arts. Before that he taught in Science and Technology Studies and Communication & Cultural Studies.

After Glenn completed his PhD on industrial pollution at Port Kembla, he was Director of Migrant Health for the NSW Department of Health, which in turn led to Glenn writing ethnic access policies for the NSW Departments of Health and Local

Government and the National Migrant Health Policy for the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Glenn has received two OCTAL Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (1995 and 2004) and has also received a teaching award from the Australian College of Educators (2006).

- Dr Mitchell suggests you familiarise yourself with the Local Government Planning Act and other local government policies.
- Max Hardy proposed a range of engagement options Wollongong could create to represent the voices and visions of our diverse community.



Surveys

During 2011 Council also undertook three vision surveys to guide the development of the Community Strategic Plan. The surveys are the IRIS Survey, WCC Intercept & Online Survey and the Children's Vision Survey. (Please refer to the attached PDF Document for results from the three surveys.)

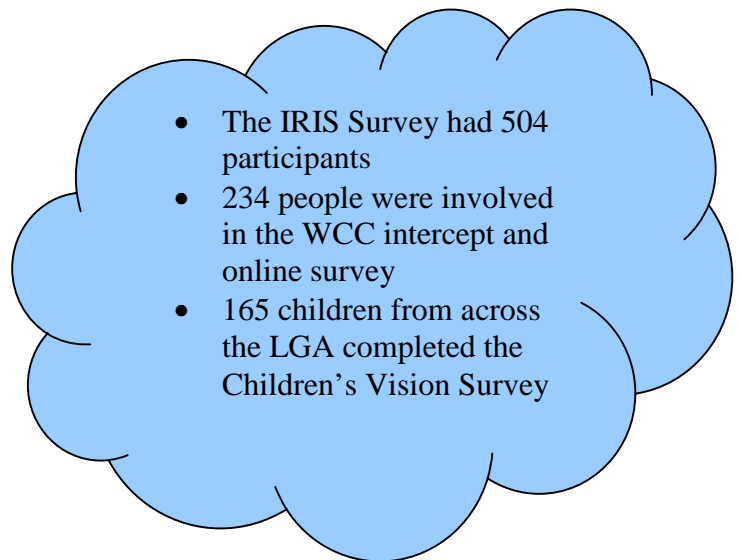
- The IRIS Survey was a telephone survey completed in June 2011 with 504 participants who were selected as a random representative sample.
- The Council Intercept and Online Survey was open to the public with Council Staff attending engagement events across the LGA to talk to residents. The survey was available for public participation on Council's website. Participants were self selected or approached by Council staff at various Community engagement activities. 234 participants completed the survey which was available to complete in September and October 2011.
- 165 children participated in Council's Children's Vision Survey in October 2011. When engaging children to share their visions for the region's future eight schools were selected from across the LGA. Preschool children were given targeted questions which were discussed as a group and provided stencils to draw their vision for Wollongong. The children also had a scribe to accompany each drawing to adequately interpret the meaning of their vision.

Across all three surveys it has become apparent that the environment, in particular the beaches and their close proximity, is what residents value most about living in Wollongong. When asked about current issues that the region is facing survey responses included revitalisation (IRIS Survey -20%), lack of employment (WCC Intercept & Online Survey- 19.7%) and crime and anti-social behaviour (Children's Vision Survey- 60%). The most popular response from all three surveys was that infrastructure and recreational activities will make Wollongong a better place to live, work and visit.

The responses to 'what would Wollongong look like in 10 years time?' have been diverse across all three surveys. The IRIS Telephone survey results showed

respondents thought that Wollongong should stay the same and retain its identity (12.7%).

Two future visions emerged from the WCC Intercept and Online Survey for Wollongong as the highest response identified better/more public transport including a fast train to Sydney (15.8%) and more improved open spaces and recreational areas (15.8%). Less crime and anti-social behaviour (35.8%) was the most common vision from the Children's Vision Survey.



COMMUNITY SUMMIT

With different experiences, backgrounds and visions over 200 community members registered for the Community Summit on the 29 and 30 October to create a draft vision for the city's future. In some ways the signature event of the Community Engagement Strategy, residents from as far north as Otford and as far south as Marshall Mount joined in a number of activities such as a World Café, brainstorming, card storming and creative visioning.

Day One focused on;

- What is a vision?
- Our diverse community.
- The voices that are not in the room with participants playing key roles in our region's future.
- Drafting a vision (8 Summit participants were then selected to join a Vision Workgroup the next day to fine tune the words and bring all the feedback together).

Day Two;

- Focused on building on goals and definitions
- Refining the draft vision
- Starting to identify key priorities

The Community Summit was successful in bringing community, stakeholders and Councillors together to share and develop a vision for our City's future. One participant said that "(The Community Summit) was a great opportunity to reach an insight into the development in our community."

Another participant said that their highlight of the weekend was “Talking with Councillors, Council employees and other passionate community minded people.”

Some of the information collected at the Summit

Interviews

On day one residents attending the Summit were invited to work with a partner and complete an interview template. This activity was both an ice breaker and a way of understanding what the various members of the community and agencies believed the future vision for Wollongong Local Government Area should be. The templates had three questions:

1. What can we be best at?
 - a) Culture =39
 - b) Environment = 28
 - c) Social = 24

2. What makes our City unique?
 - a) Natural beauty = 90
 - b) Social = 65
 - c) Culture =23

3. When was a time you saw Wollongong at its best?
 - a) Events = 46
 - b) Culture = 18
 - c) Community Activism = 18



Mind maps

Participants of the summit were asked to come up with the four major challenges that Wollongong faces in their table groups. After documenting these participants were then asked to list 8 opportunities that could help address the stated challenge. After the summit the data from the mind mapping exercise was collated under headings with eleven prominent themes. These themes are listed below.

- 1) Employment
- 2) Environment (climate change, sustainability, natural environment)
- 3) Population Growth
- 4) Communication and Engagement
- 5) Community (social inclusion)
- 6) Tourism
- 7) Transport
- 8) Economy (GFC/Financial stability)
- 9) Technology
- 10) Industry
- 11) Globalisation

The themes that were most prominent throughout the mind mapping exercise have been collated and placed under the draft seven goals and also grouped under the four headings of the quadruple bottom line for the Community Strategic Plan. A visual representation of some of the opportunities and objectives that summit participants suggested may be viewed below.



Exploring and creating our goals-

Summit participants engaged in discussions and were asked to consider key elements of a vision and how we can get there. Participants worked to list the numerous elements of a vision on coloured paper in a world café format. Council staff then placed the coloured sheets of paper on three sticky walls, which participants worked together to theme the words under sub-headings. Once the sub-headings had been decided the facilitator worked with the entire Summit to create goals that these elements would sit under.



Seven goals were created by the Summit to represent the element of the vision. The draft goals which were developed by the Community Summit to represent where we want to be in 10 years time can be viewed below.

- 1) We are a creative city
- 2) We value and protect our environment
- 3) We are a healthy city
- 4) We are innovative and sustainable
- 5) We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport
- 6) We are educated and employed
- 7) We are engaged and empowered

Creating a vision for our City-

During the final session on Day One at the Community Summit, one of the facilitators, Stuart Waters from Twyford's Consulting, asked Summit participants to self-nominate to be part of a vision workgroup to be held the following day. With an overwhelming response the 8 member (5 females and 3 males) Vision workgroup were selected based on how they each represent the diverse population in Wollongong. Three Wollongong City Council Councillors and one Council Officer were also in attendance for the visioning workgroup.

"We're working towards very specific outcomes in terms of the works and services that Council provides." – WCC General Manager, David Farmer said on Day One of the Summit.

Working separately from the large group in the Town Hall, the Visioning Workgroup firstly introduced themselves and discussed their reasons for joining the small group. The group then reviewed the vision statements as well as key themes that were used to form the community goals from Day One of the Community Summit. Participants reviewed the statements and words that stood out to them and started to prioritise prominent words and themes to incorporate into the draft vision statement.

The workgroup was split into two smaller groups to write a draft vision statement which implemented the key words and themes. When the groups reconvened the two draft visions were presented to each other for a vote for the preferred draft vision statement. Once decided the Vision Workgroup joined the rest of the Summit and presented the draft vision statement to the community members in the Town Hall. The draft vision statement reads:



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

The draft vision statement has been on public exhibition for community comment at various Council engagement events including Viva La Gong and Festival of Flight. Participants of the two refining workshops held in December were also asked to comment on the draft vision statement.

Community Summit participant Lyndal Kennedy said "It has been interesting and there has been quite a diverse opinion that's been expressed- not all of it I've agreed with but interesting and probably a good starting point."

Voices not in the room-

Children's presentation-

The visions collected from the Children's Vision Survey were presented by two students from Mt St Thomas Public School who presented the concerns and visions of children from the Southern part of the LGA. The Northern part of the LGA was represented by two students from Towradgi Public School. (Please see attached PDF Document for Children's Vision Survey results). The children did a fabulous job bringing together the information collected from across the city. The two schools involved were provided with all the data and asked to review the information and present it in a way that best captured the key themes and voices of children.



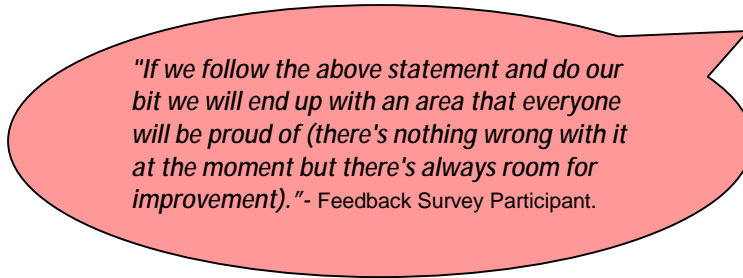
Young people's presentation-

To create a vision that represented our diverse community it is acknowledged that like children, young people need to be engaged in different ways in order to share their visions for our City's future. Council staff talked to an array of young people from across the LGA in order to capture our young people's voices and present them to the participants at the Community Summit. Young people from the University, TAFE, High Schools, the Wollongong Youth Centre, attendees of Spring into Corrimal and the Town Hall Talks were asked what they love about Wollongong and where they see Wollongong in ten years time. Participants from the Draw Write Snap Share promotion who were under 30 had their creative works on display within the 20 minute presentation. Consistent with previous engagement activities, the natural environment and entertainment were prominent themes that came out of the conversations.



Feedback on the vision

Council has continued to discuss the draft goals and draft vision statement at various engagement events with the community. Residents have been asked to complete a feedback survey and to date 113 submissions have been made. Council has also held additional conversations with young people, community members at the Viva La Gong Festival and at the Festival of Flight in Stanwell Park.



In addition, significant effort has continued to ensure different sections of the community, not well represented at the Summit, had opportunity to get involved and provide feedback on the Vision and the goals so far.

Council staff attended the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre Library on Monday 5 December to discuss the draft vision statement and the seven draft goals with community members at the Dapto Library. Staff consulted 20 community members about the feedback process for the Community Strategic Plan and 14 residents participated in the survey, providing feedback for Council.

Staff also attended Warrawong Library and talked to local residents about the seven draft goals, the draft vision statement and the Community Strategic Plan. 14 people were approached by staff from which 12 completed the feedback survey. In addition, some of the other activities taking place include engagement through the Dapto, Unanderra, Berkeley, Warrawong, Cringila and Port Kembla Youth Projects.

There has also been work undertaken to ensure the voices of our Aboriginal community have been included in the Wollongong 2022 consultation process and broad invitations to mainstream events have been complemented by targeted and small group opportunities.

Meetings have been held with Council's Aboriginal Reference Group as part of the "community conversations" to inform the community on the process in the build up to the Wollongong 2022 Community Summit. Following the summit targeted engagement has occurred, including two sessions with members of the Illawarra Community Based Working Group (CBWG) and Council's Aboriginal Reference Group. Comments have been received on the draft goals and vision statement however with small numbers at the CBWG session ongoing opportunities for involvement need to continue. A number of Council's other specialist Reference groups have also been engaged in conversation about the vision and priorities.

REFINING WORKSHOP

Attendance-

The two refining workshops were held on Monday 21 November and Wednesday 23 November with representatives from the Community Summit participants, agencies stakeholders, Councillors, some of Council's Senior Managers, Neighbourhood Forums Convenors, representatives from Councils various specialist Reference Groups and peak bodies participated in the two workshops with a focus on goals, definition, objectives and strategies.



Revisiting and refining the Draft Community Goals

With inclement weather affecting attendance, 40 participants on Day 1 explored the seven draft goals that came out of the Community Summit and documented feedback as to what the goals mean and how well they aligned with the Wollongong 2022 vision.

Participants of the refining workshop were presented with the original draft goals created at the Community Summit. On Day 1 of the refining workshops participants had the option of making comments and suggestions on each goal using post-it notes and red stickers.

Diverse opinions were shared and debated with a particular discussion held on Goal 7 'We are an engaged and empowered community'. It was suggested that this be rolled into Connectivity. Other key areas of discussion were around Educated and Employed and Transport as stand alone items. In addition, greater clarity was requested for Innovative and Sustainable. Similarly it was recognised and acknowledged that Creativity crosses all of the other goals as well. As a result of this feedback and commentary the draft goals were quickly revised and brought back to Day 2 for further discussion.



On Day 2 around 50 participants again focused on refining the set of goals, building out objectives and beginning a conversation around strategies.

The revised goals (version 2) became:

Goal 1: Wollongong is a Creative City

Goal 2: We value and protect our environment

Goal 3: We are a healthy Community in a Liveable City

Goal 4: We are a connected and inclusive community

Goal 5: We are educated and employed

Goal 6: We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Goal 7: We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport

Goal Objectives and strategies-

On day one of the refining workshops participants began developing the objectives that would sit under each goal. Using a world café format the participants rotated to three different goals and worked with different table groups to develop objectives that would help to support and achieve the goal. The recommended objectives from day one were typed into a document and given back to participants on day two to review and make additional objectives. The workshop group were also asked to think about strategies that would sit under the objectives and how they could contribute.

Following this the participants worked in table groups to hypothetically allocate money to resources to demonstrate the priorities of objectives and goals. First the group was asked to allocate a maximum of \$100 across the objectives within each goal.

Each person was then asked to decide how they would allocate \$100 across the seven goals in order of priority. The averages of the goal resource allocation may be seen below.

Community Goals	Average Value of \$s allocated
Goal 6 – We have an Innovative and Sustainable Economy	21
Goal 5 – We are Educated and Employed	20
Goal 3 – We are a Healthy Community in a Liveable City	18
Goal 2 – We Value & Protect Our Environment	16
Goal 7 – We have Sustainable, Affordable and Accessible Transport	17
Goal 1 – Wollongong is a Creative City	14
Goal 4 – We are a Connected and Inclusive Community	13

While this was one of a number of activities at the Refining Workshop to encourage discussion around priorities and resources, it is the start of a conversation to build on in the New Year around what's achievable and what do we need to achieve.

Following the 'refining workshops', Council's Aboriginal Reference Group was engaged to provide comment on the refined goals. Strong feedback on the need to acknowledge our cultural diversity within the vision was provided, as well as the need to recognise key issues for Aboriginal people in our goals and objectives. As such discussions around closing the gap in health, education, employment (including creative industries) and inclusion indicators took place and more work will be required in this area to ensure the plan reflects this feedback.

Vision Workgroup- feedback workshop

The vision workgroup met for a second time on Thursday, 8 December to review the feedback given to Council regarding the draft vision statement. Six of the original eight members of the vision workgroup came together along with two of the original three Councillors. The vision workgroup examined the survey data and comments received by Council from the Community Summit, Viva La Gong, Festival of Flight, young people, the web, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre and Warrawong Library. Feedback from consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Group, Community based working Group, the Multicultural Access Group and Council's Internal IPR Planning Workgroup was included. Participants were also given the survey results from the three surveys Council conducted in the lead up to the Community Summit.

The session was again facilitated by Stuart Waters from Twyford's consulting who asked the group what they liked about the draft vision and asked the group to split into 3 smaller groups to review the feedback provided. In the smaller groups participants discussed what stood out for them from the feedback and then highlighted this to the larger group. Each aspect was vigorously discussed and all views were heard and understood. The visioning workgroup wanted to ensure that the vision statement covered the community feedback provided to the workgroup and the consensus was that the original statement represented both the feedback provided and the region. The vision workgroup decided that the draft vision statement that is currently on exhibition will remain as below:

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

Members of the Vision workgroup felt strongly that the diversity of our community, our appreciation of different cultures and beliefs were inherent to a creative and connected community.

Where to from here

The approach to the development of Wollongong 2022 has been a progressive and evolving one. Many of the themes in terms of values, issues and what's important have been consistent throughout the engagement process. The love of our coast and beaches, the unique relationship between the escarpment and the coast, the friendly atmosphere, proximity to larger places and connections to family and friends are just some of the themes raised. In addition, feedback on Wollongong's potential and some of the issues we face were raised throughout the process and have been captured in the data to take forward to the draft Community Strategic Plan.

As a result of further consultation the draft goals have been refined again and a draft version developed and included as version 3.

Council will be drafting the Community Strategic Plan based on this feedback in January, and will be facilitating further engagement from late February through March. There will be a point where Council goes back to the community to discuss Wollongong 2022 and its financial implications. Are the objectives achievable? How much is the community willing to pay to achieve these objectives? Are there other sources of revenue? What are the priorities? While this will continue to be a high level conversation it forms the basis for more detailed discussion in late 2012.

Thank you for your contributions so far. We look forward to working with again in the New Year and hearing your thoughts about the Draft Wollongong 2022, Community Strategic Plan. Happy holidays.

Draft Community Vision, Goals and Target 2022 V3

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

GOAL 1. WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Wollongong will be a creative, vibrant city where our rich cultural heritage is shared, celebrated and our Aboriginal community recognised and valued. We will have thriving creative industries that reflect the diversity of our community; nationally and internationally recognised events and festivals and an environment that embraces new ideas and welcomes new people.

In 2022, our public spaces are activated, exciting and attractive at all times of the day. All our communities are working together in partnership to strengthen our community connections and celebrate the diversity of our vibrant city.

GOAL 2. WE VALUE & PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

As a community we will value our heritage and protect our natural environment. We will enhance our wildlife corridors and the city’s unique natural beauty, manage our resources effectively and attract visitors to play and stay with minimal impact on the environment.

In 2022, our beautiful city is well maintained and cared for, and the built form complements the city’s qualities and assets.

GOAL 3. WE ARE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Our community is safe, healthy and happy. The city provides diverse and accessible recreational and lifestyle activities to foster community wellbeing for people all ages and abilities.

In 2022, our people thrive with a sense of self and a connection to place. We enjoy the relaxed pace, the opportunities for being with family and friends, helping our neighbours and meeting new people.

GOAL 4. WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

We will be a connected community, engaged in our neighbourhoods and other social networks. We have opportunities to participate in civil society and are empowered to have our say.

We respect and acknowledge the wisdom of age, the vitality and enthusiasm of our youth and the diversity of our community. We have embraced new technology to ensure all residents have equitable access to information, services and their networks.

GOAL 5. WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

We will be global leaders in innovative and sustainable research, development and new industries. We become renowned for leading the way with green technology and jobs.

Wollongong is established as the Regional Centre, creating hubs of activity with a thriving local economy. The city is able to support the establishment of new industries, enterprises and business to attract and retain people to live and work.

In 2022, Wollongong is a student friendly city and our residents are educated and employed. We have access to employment and education through our diverse industry base and world-class learning institutions. We encourage informal and formal life long learning.

GOAL 6. WE HAVE SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

We will have access to an integrated transport network from north to south and east to west. We prefer to walk, cycle or take the bus or train. We have safe, accessible and interconnected pathways to encourage pedestrian traffic.

The local government area continues to be linked to the broader region and the city of Sydney via efficient, safe and affordable linkages.

For more information contact:

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Please note: Council staff will return to work on Tuesday 3 January 2012.