

ITEM A

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - OPENING OF KARRARA BRIDGE ON 28 APRIL 2020 - FAIRWATER DRIVE TO FOWLERS ROAD LINK PROJECT

The Karrara Bridge and Fairwater Drive to Fowlers Road link project is a vital piece of infrastructure that will support the growing West Dapto community. The bridge and road link will open on 28 April 2020.

The opening of this new connection into West Dapto represents a significant milestone for our City and in particular the community of West Dapto. It is one of the largest infrastructure projects ever undertaken by Wollongong City Council and is also one of the largest road infrastructure projects to be delivered by any Council in NSW. The project has now been completed on time and under budget.

The bridge and road connection had been identified as a crucial piece of growth infrastructure and discussed by all levels of governments for decades. However, securing the funding to make this project happen was a much more recent achievement of this Council.

The project was funded by:

- \$10 million from the Australian Government
- \$22.5 million from the NSW Government – Infrastructure NSW's Restart NSW Illawarra Infrastructure Fund
- \$600,000 Design Grant from NSW Government – Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- \$3.229 million interest subsidy through the NSW Government – Office of Local Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme
- Approximately \$37.9M provided by Wollongong City Council, largely through development contributions. Noting that total project costs are still being finalised.

West Dapto remains one of the largest and most complex urban land releases in NSW. The opening of the Karrara Bridge and Fairwater Drive to Fowlers Road link will significantly improve access for our residents and in particular those who live and work in West Dapto.

The project commenced in mid-2017 and included a four-lane road, shared path, two bridges, flood mitigation construction, public art, a significant landscape package, the deviation of Marshall Street under the main bridge and road widening at Princes Highway and Fowlers Road

This new link road will provide flood reliable access, reduce congestion and improve connection to the wider road network around West Dapto. The connection also supports pedestrians and cyclists through the shared path and footpath network connections, public art and significant landscaping works.

## RECOMMENDATION

I therefore recommend that Wollongong City Council:

- 1 Declares the Karrara Bridge will open to traffic on 28 April 2020, marking the completion of the Fairwater Drive to Fowlers Road link project at West Dapto.
- 2 Note that the Fairwater Drive to Fowlers Road link is one of the largest infrastructure projects to be delivered by Wollongong City Council.
- 3 Note that in addition to funds from Wollongong City Council, financial assistance for the project was also provided by the Australian Government (\$10 million) and the NSW Government (\$23.1 million) through proceeds from the lease of Port Kembla Port land and facilities.
- 4 Write to the Australian Government and the NSW Government thanking them for providing funding to support the delivery of the Karrara Bridge and Fairwater Drive to Fowlers Road link project.
- 5 Acknowledges the above outcomes were the efforts of many parties including the principal contractors Abergeldie, the Council team and the local community who had to endure inconvenience during the delivery of the project.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.