

Neighbourhood Forum 5

Wollongong's Heartland

*Collaborating with Council
on community aspirations,
visions, needs & concerns.*



Coniston,
Figtree,
Gwynneville,
Keiraville,
Mangerton,
Mount Keira,
Mount St Thomas,
North Wollongong,
West Wollongong,
Wollongong City.

Minutes of meeting

**WEDNESDAY 4th February 2026
In the Library Theatre**

- 1 **Welcome** 29 members present including Cllr Andrew Anthony
- 2 **Presentation** Vicki Curran was thanked for explaining the situation with the proposed development at 79 Bellevue Road, Figtree. See attachment
- 3 **Apologies** Cllrs Kit Docker and Thomas Quinn, Harold Hanson, Theresa Huxtable, Patricia O'Brien, Paul Connery
- 4 **Minutes** of meeting of 3rd December were adopted with no matters arising.
- 5 **Comments** are incorporated into these minutes.
- 6 **Caveats** noted
- 7 **Responses**
 - 7.1 **Parking replacement for CBD Bus Layover:** noted
 - 7.2 **City Centre Movement and Place Plan:**
It was noted that the Plan's Action List of 44 items includes 26 (60%) Unfunded, which is of some concern.
 - 7.3 **Pedestrian Safety, Keiraville:** noted
 - 7.4 **UoW Access Road Congestion:**
It was noted the Transport Manager advised traffic movements will be monitored by TfNSW and WCC following completion of Mt Ousley Interchange project to gauge altered traffic flow.
 - 7.5 **Grey Street Footpath:** noted
 - 7.6 **Corrimal Street Footpath:** noted

7.7 Managing Flood Risk:
Whilst Council’s response does not explicitly answer the request to make public the report on the April 2024 flood event, it does imply that the major flood report by consultants in September 2025 covers the issues. However, the Notice of Motion on Management of Flood Impacts on 29 July 2024 included that "Council request a combined meeting of all Wollongong floodplain committees early in the new term of Council to receive an update following the April 2024 flood event".
It was agreed to ask Council when will that meeting take place?

7.8 Issues awaiting responses: noted

8 Reports

8.1 Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2026–2030.
It was agreed that Council be commended on this initiative and that they give consideration on how to relieve these concerns primarily by convening one or more community consultative groups of those most able to assist.

8.2 Continental Pool
It was agreed that the Forum requests Council to:

- 1 build a program of special events in 2028 to mark the pool's centenary as a significant time in the Continental Pool's history;
- 2 consider the concerns raised by the community and to seek urgent investigation and rectification of the problems as appropriate, in good time for 2028 celebrations.

8.3 Council consultations on long term strategies for: pools, indoor sports facilities, play spaces, beach services and surf sports:
It was agreed that members be advised of the “our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au” web site which posts all events and issues calling for feedback.

8.4 Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy
It was agreed that;

- 1 NF5 members are encouraged to provide their feedback and/or respond to the survey before consultation closes on the extended date of Monday 16th February 2026 by emailing NF5 secretary by Friday 13th February and/or Council at engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au, and/or calling 42277111 to speak to the engagement team,
- 2 the executive make a submission on the Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy.

8.5 Beach Services and Surf Sport Strategy

It was agreed that:

- 1 NF5 members are encouraged to provide their feedback and/or respond to the survey as in the Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy above;
- 2 the executive make a submission on the Beach Services and Surf Sport Strategy.

8.6 Play Space Strategy

It was agreed that the Forum endorse the submission on the Play Space Strategy.

8.6 Regional Transport Plan

It was agreed that:

- 1 NF5 make a submission on the draft Regional Transport Plan;
- 2 Residents be encouraged to upload their submissions or email to: engage.sritps@transport.nsw.gov.au to TfNSW by Monday 9 Feb 2026;
- 3 the Healthy Cities Brochure from the 1990s "Sustainable Transport" be noted in our submission and sent as an attachment to the NF 5 submission.

8.7 Cats in Urban Areas

It was agreed that Council be urged to request the State Government to implement the recommendations in the report and seek the support of the NSW Local Government Association to do likewise.

8.8 MacCabe Park Land Classification

It was agreed that Council be requested to

- 1 classify the acquired land Lot 1 DP 779479 for the extension of MacCabe Park as Community Land;
- 2 bring forward and determine the long awaited Master Plan for MacCabe Park before any decisions are made which impinge on it.

8.9 Jet Ski on Lake Illawarra

It was agreed that:

- 1 Paul Scully MP, Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils be requested to support an urgent review of the terms of reference of the Lake Illawarra Group to ensure this group (or its executive if time does not permit) is appropriately consulted about any developments or proposals which will impact on the lake, its users and the lake's ecosystem;

- 2 Lake Illawarra Group and Local Councils be requested to ensure that there is community consultation before any consideration is given to extending commercial jet skiing on Lake Illawarra past its six month trial;
- 3 Lake Illawarra Group be tasked with monitoring the impact of the six month jet ski trial.

8.10 Diggies Café:

It was agreed that the executive reply after Council's response to NF5 email 22 Jan is received, seek clarification on the notice 4 Feb re a proposed licence for a pop-up kiosk north of the surf club until access to the cafe and kiosk can resume, and make a submission by the extended closing date of 5 March

8.11 Council Community Satisfaction Survey:

It was noted that:

- 1 Council is congratulated on continuing its commitment to invest in the CSS on a 2-yearly basis over past 30+ years, which continues to provide statistically reliable measures of community perceptions and trends of Council's performance;
- 2 there are many positives in the 2025 report including the highest satisfaction ratings for Facilities are consistently the Botanic Garden (88%), whereas Crown Street Mall is lowest at (40%);
- 3 many Engineering and Town Planning services have high importance but low satisfaction, similar to previous surveys, and provide urgent opportunities for improvements;
- 4 unfortunately, community perceptions of Council's overall performance continue to decline with satisfaction now down to just 50%.

8.12 Homes NSW Gwynneville Proposal Update

It was agreed that NF5 make further representations to Homes NSW, the NSW Minister for the Illawarra and to Council requesting community representatives be actively involved in identifying the necessary infrastructure requirements and developing a plan to assist in consideration of a Voluntary Planning Agreement;

8.13 WIN Stadium Upgrade:

It was agreed that the Forum:

- 1 welcomes the announcement by the Premier Chris Minns, Sports Minister Steve Kamper and Minister Paul Scully of the proposed upgrade and initial funding;
- 2 looks forward to the necessary major funding commitments and detailed plans as to how access is to be provided to patrons of events.

- 9 Planning**
- 9.1 Noted
- 9.2 **DA-2025/875 Dual Occupancy, 7 Parsons St West W’gong**
It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.
- 9.3 **DA-2025/871 6 & 7 stories, 36 units 1-9 Wilson St W’gong**
It was agreed that a submission of objection be lodged by 9th February.
- 9.4 **DA-2025/896 Second dwelling 10 Keira Mine Rd Keiraville**
It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.
- 9.5 **DA-2025/931 Dual Occ 12 Berkeley Rd Gwynneville**
It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.
- 9.6 **DA-2025/472 – Two dual Occs 79 Bellevue Road Figtree**
It was agreed that:
- 1 a submission of objection be lodged (see attachment);
 - 2 given the difficulties associated with community consultation in this case, a report come forward reviewing Council’s policies and practice when determining development applications
- 9.7 **DA-2026/13 Dual Occ 31 Catherine St Gwynneville**
It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.
- 9.8 **DA Determinations** Noted

10 General Business

- 10.1 **Mount Ousley Interchange Upcoming weekend work**
It was noted that TfNSW advises that during October and November, the project sought and gained community agreement to work up to four weekends within a six-month period to significantly reduce the overall construction impacts of this work to the community.

Mount Ousley Road will be closed between Gaynor Avenue and the M1 Princes Motorway from **6am Saturday 14 February to 4am Monday 16 February 2026**, weather permitting. Motorists will be detoured via Princes Highway, Memorial Drive and University Avenue, and should allow up to five minutes additional travel time.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact on: 1800 792 918, or MountOusleyInterchange@fultonhogan.com.au



10.2 Code of Meeting Practice

It was noted that on 15 Dec 2025 Council adopted a Code of Meeting Practice including prohibition of confidential closed pre-briefings of councillors (of which there were about 31 briefings and with 127 items in 14 months from Oct 2024 to Dec 2025 since the new council started). The headings of items was posted on Council’s website, but no agendas or minutes.

The OLG Model Code included that “pre-meeting briefing sessions are inconsistent with the principles of transparency, accountability and public participation and have the potential to undermine confidence in the proper and lawful-decision making processes of the Council.”

However, Council management has added a new clause headed Workshops, Strategic Forums & Councillor Development Sessions that re not open to the public. This seems to seek bypassing the Minister’s consistently stated concerns since late 2024.

It was agreed the executive make relevant representations.

11 Snippets

Noted

Next Meeting

6.00pm Wednesday 4th March 2026
Library Theatre

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 466 households

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4th February 2026

General Manager
Wollongong City Council

DA-2025/477 two dual occs 79 Bellevue Rd, Figtree

I refer to my letter of 29th July 2025 objecting to this proposal. The amended proposal only addresses the access arrangements (and that not satisfactorily) so the Forum continues to object on the grounds that:

- 1 it does not comply with rear setback requirements;
- 2 it does not comply with minimum depth of lot requirements;
- 3 access arrangements could be hazardous despite amendments;
- 4 it is in a location remote from centres thereby generating unnecessary car trips with the environmental, economic, social and climate change consequences.

Moreover, since then a number of other issues have emerged:

- 1 it would seem that, in fact, this is a proposal for multi dwelling housing, not dual occupancies and should be described and assessed as such;
- 2 the existing building is to be demolished without an adequate assessment of the risks associated with asbestos known to be in the building, nor mitigating measures;
- 3 information is inadequate of how existing and adjoining trees are to be protected;
- 4 the building is of Heritage value but no assessment has been made;
- 5 there are overlooking, overshadowing solar access deficiencies;
- 6 waste collection bins are inappropriately located;
- 7 documentation of many amended documents have not been made publicly available, specifically; demolition close to boundary, existing easements and infrastructure, and, because of two amendments without details of the original, such information as is available is fragmented and difficult to assess as a whole.

Finally, the Forum objects to the lack of time for response, given the lack information, multiple amendments to details of the proposal and overwhelming community objection.

Yours Faithfully,
David Winterbottom
Secretary