

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 on 6th September 2023

- 1 **Presentation** None possible
- 2 **Apologies** Harold Hanson, Philip Laird, Jenny Bayly
- 3 **Minutes** of meeting of 2nd August were noted.
- 4 **Comments** have been incorporated into these minutes.
- 5 **Responses** 5.1 **noted**

 5.2 **Library Strategy:** noted

 5.3 **Clean-up after Strong Winds:** noted, but of particular importance is spillage from household waste collection bins after storm events, affecting watercourses and public land.

 It was agreed to request Council's advice on:
 i what measures it takes and proposes to provide relevant information to residents and to minimise detrimental impacts, particularly on the environment; and
 ii how it assesses when a storm is sufficiently violent to trigger a response.

 5.4 **Vegetation and Tree Management :** noted with regret.
- 6 **Reports** 6.1 **University Liaison:** noted

 6.2 **Off-shore wind energy**
 It was agreed that the NSW Government be advised of support for wind farms off the Wollongong coast provided there are extensive environmental studies and it is shown that all adverse environmental impacts can be mitigated satisfactorily.

This is because of the apparent potential benefits from long term economic, social and environmental opportunities that would build on the Illawarra's many strengths. It was noted that the proposal would deliver a significant number of jobs in the manufacturing sector with the potential for exporting generators to other areas of Australia. Of interest is that some 85% of the plant is recyclable at the end of its life.

Members are encouraged to view the proposals at <https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/bowen/media-releases/consultation-opens-offshore-wind-zone-illawarra-driving-regional-jobs-and-investment> , attend an information session from 4pm to 7pm on Tuesday 19th September at Wollongong Art Gallery, make their own submission and advise the secretary of further comments before 24th September.

Finally, for concerns about wildlife view the links:

Impact on bird life: <https://www.wur.nl/en/show-longread/wind-farm-or-nature-reserve.htm>

Impact on whales: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-life-distress/frequent-questions-offshore-wind-and-whales>

6.3 City Centre Movement and Place:

It was agreed that Council be requested to provide a copy of the draft plan to enable a more considered response to be made.

6.4 Pioneer Rest Park Improvements:

It was agreed that Council be requested to conform the widths of proposed footpath improvements and to give urgent consideration to the provision of playground equipment and seating.

6.5 Rail Freight Strategies:

It was agreed that the Forum:

- i Write to Ms Alison Byrnes MP for Cunningham to write to the Minister for Infrastructure etc commending the decision of the Australian Government to bring forward the review of the 2019-2024 National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy and to trust that the new strategy will lead, given that rail freight is generally produces one third of the emissions than road, reduced road congestion, and has lower social and environmental costs, will result in the new strategy getting more freight on rail.

- ii Write to the Hon Paul Scully MP for Wollongong to seek advice from the NSW Minister for Transport as to when the NSW 2018-2013 Freight and Port Strategy is going to be reviewed, and to what extent will public consultation will take place
- iii Write to the Hon Ryan Park MP for Keira to seek advice from the Premier of NSW as to when the NSW Government will release the report of IPART into the Review of third party access to Rail Infrastructure in NSW.

6.6 Noise from Rock Excavation

It was agreed that Council be requested arrange an urgent meeting with representatives of the Manager DA& CC, relevant staff, NF5 and affected residents re the DA on currently on exhibition until 14 Sep for a development at 4 Smith & 22 Harbour Streets, including re Consent Conditions, excavation techniques, cooperation and enforcement to avoid excessive noise from excavation of hard rock for two levels of basement parking.

6.7 Graffiti Removal

It was agreed that be commended on its initiatives to reduce graffiti and requested to publicise them more widely, in particular the free graffiti removal kit.

7 Planning

7.1 Planning noted

7.2 DA-2023/511 5 stories, 7 units, 16-18 Market Pl. W’gong
It was agreed that the submission of objection be endorsed.

7.3 DA-2023/587 Dual Occupancy 5 Greenacre Rd Wollongong
It was agreed to endorse the submission of objection to the design, but not the use.

7.4 DA-2023/587 Dual Occupancy 8 O’Briens Road Figtree
It was agreed that a submission of support be lodged.

7.5. DA-2023/646 5 units, 4 stories, 4 Smith/Harbour Sts W’gong
It was agreed that a submission of objection be lodged.

7.6 DA Determinations: noted

8 General Business

8.1 Allans Creek Catchment

Council's consultants have produced a comprehensive, and difficult to follow, study of flood prevention measures in this catchment. It appears to suggest that the best option to reduce flooding is by upgrading culverts. However, members who might be affected should check out the study on Council's web site and advise the NF secretary by Mon 25th September to enable consideration for inclusion in a submission by 9 Oct

8.2 Wilson St Wollongong Safety improvements

For many years residents of Wilson St have been requesting Council to improve safety for pedestrians, who must walk on the road to access public and private units, the CBD, St Marys school and the foreshore, by providing a footpath on one side and a speed hump at the dip. Wilson is one of the oldest streets in Wollongong, it is narrow, one way northbound for vehicles, no concrete footpath for the approx 220 metres length, and is a safety hazard day and night because pedestrians must walk on the road and avoid speeding motorists.

Recommendation

Council be requested to agree to include in Council's 2024/25 Works Program the long-overdue provision of a speed hump and a footpath on the eastern side of Wilson St Wollongong between Smith St and the many NSW housing units, for construction before December 2024 or even earlier if possible.

Date of next meeting
Wednesday 4th October 2023

Please Note:

This meeting will be face-to-face, at a location to be advised, at which the General Manager has agreed to speak on the role of Neighbourhood Forums and other issues.

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 405 households
