

## **DAPTO NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM 8 - MINUTES 7.00PM WEDNESDAY 11th JUNE 2025**

**Meeting held in Scribbly Gum Room, Ribbonwood Centre also on Teams**

N.B. Link for teams participation was sent prior to meeting

### **1. Acknowledgement of Country – Ron Cooper**

We acknowledge the First Peoples who have been traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live, the Dharawal people of the Wadi Wadi Nation. We celebrate the the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Islander people who have cared for these lands.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Mal Hentschel, Cr. Ann Martin, Liz Webster, Warren Southwell

### **3. ATTENDING: 12 attendees**

**In person:** Cr. Linda Campbell, Ron Cooper, Ian Fitzgibbon, Dennis Couley, Martin Whatman, Gail Whatman, Ron Cooper, Heather Boardman, Arjha Cooper, Geoff Cooper

**On teams:** Deirdre Stuart & Stephen McGartland

### **4. MINUTES: - From 14th MAY 2025.**

Moved: Martin Whatman

Seconded: Ian Fitzgibbon

### **5. COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENTATIONS:**

### **6. COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Councillor Linda Campbell Road Works Dapto**

The next phase of work will soon begin on a major upgrade to West Dapto Road, between Shone Avenue and Yard Street. This will include upgrade of the Shone Avenue and West Dapto Road intersection, a new shared path with a pedestrian bridge, new road pavements, stormwater drainage, extensive services relocation, line marking, landscaping, signage, and road infrastructure.

Works are due to start in weeks with detailed planning currently underway to refine the construction methodology with the goal of minimising construction duration and reducing the timeframe of any necessary road closures.

Delivering this key piece of infrastructure will require a temporary full road closure, which will deliver significant advantages to the project and long-term benefits to the community. It is anticipated that this road closure will be implemented in mid-2025. Detour opportunities will be available to support residents in Wongawilli, Stream Hill and Horsley.

The full closure is expected to result in a reduction in construction timeline of up to 10 weeks and generate significant cost savings for the project, however we acknowledge that it will create additional travel time for residents. Once the full closure timing and duration is determined, which is dependent on relocation of various key services such as water mains, road users and the wider community will be notified.

This vital project is co-funded through the NSW Government's Housing Acceleration Fund which has contributed \$26 million to accelerate delivery.

### Cleveland Road

Council's long-term vision for West Dapto (West Dapto Urban Release Area which includes the suburbs of Horsley, Cleveland, Stream Hill, Kembla Grange, Wongawilli and others) continues to take shape, with major road upgrades to Fowlers Road between Fairwater Drive and Cleveland Road now underway.

These works form Stage 1 of Cleveland Road upgrade and include road-widening, new shared paths, stormwater works, street lighting and tree planting to improve access for traffic and pedestrians.

Upgrades to key access roads is an essential part of our West Dapto Access Strategy to build connected communities through efficient roads and transport infrastructure, that also provide options for public and active transport.

This aligns with the broader objectives of our West Dapto Vision outlining Council's approach to the urban release that is essential to ensuring Wollongong's housing future.

The project is co-funded by Wollongong City Council and a \$20.03 million funding contribution from the NSW Government's Housing Acceleration Fund.

### **Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study (next steps)**

The Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study investigated long-term options to manage negative impacts that have been occurring around the lake and the lake entrance channel since it was permanently opened by the Lake Illawarra Authority in 2007. The study was funded by NSW Government, Wollongong and Shellharbour City councils. What was discussed were the next steps to progress the implementation of a long-term entrance management option.

Council resolved to write to the NSW Government requesting that it resource and undertake a Strategic Business Case to deliver a long-term management solution for the Lake Illawarra entrance with participation from both Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils. The Strategic Business Case is to consider Option 4 and Option 5 or variations thereof from the Lake Illawarra Entrance Channel: Management Options Assessment report against a 'Leave as is' base case.

#### **Lease at Dapto for Stingrays**

We've been working with the Illawarra Stingrays Football Club for a number of years as they looked for a home ground for competition and training. Council agreed to support a new 21-year licence for the club on Community Land at Lakelands Oval in Dapto. The licence will provide stability and support the development of football for all ages and genders in the Illawarra region.

It will also support the Stingrays who are the regional Women's National Premier League NSW football club in the Illawarra and cater from under 10s through to Women's First Grade. They've established the Illawarra as a leader in Women's elite level football while actively promoting grass roots football for the benefit of all females.

**The Council Strategic Plan (long term), Delivery Program ( 4 year) and Operational Plan Plan** for the next year will be adopted this month following consultation which started last October with a postcard sent to every household, included drop in sessions, targeted group consultations and stalls at events, neighbourhood forums and groups and included a Lets Chat session in Dapto and visits to the Neighbourhood forum as well as on line opportunities. We are focussed on suburbs and getting the basics right which is what the community told us is important. We need to ensure our City remains financially sustainable and responsible and that requires some careful balancing.

Council manages \$7B in assets , we have a \$538.9m Capital program and \$246.5m operations and maintenance budget.

Some expenditure items include :

\$88m to renew and upgrade streets in our suburbs

\$88m to construct new buildings and renew existing facilities

\$48m for footpaths, shared paths and cycleways

\$25m stormwater and estuary management and flood mitigation

\$15m repairs and refurbishment for swimming pools

\$8m upgrades to sports field lighting

\$4m on new and upgrades to playgrounds

Some of highlights of the 426 projects in the Infrastructure Delivery Program include: Southern Suburbs Library and Community Centre

West Dapto Road Yard St to Shone Ave

Cleveland Rd Upgrade

Port Kembla Community Centre Stage 2

Darkes Town Centre Sporting and Community Hub stage 1 and 2

Bong Bong Rd & Station St Traffic signals

Ribbonwood HVAC upgrade

Reed Park Amenities upgrade

Wongawilli Hall refurbishment

**Bus Layover relocation.** As part of Council's focus on improving access opportunities and parking in our city's foreshore areas, a new lease will be granted to Transport for NSW for the relocation of the bus layover site from Marine Drive. Some of the most important parklands and open space in the city is probably not best used for buses to be parked. There are other layovers near other stations and in other parts of the city but this is the largest. This project has been many years in the making and will see the establishment of a new bus layover in the Council-owned carpark at Atchison and Auburn streets close to Wollongong Train Station.

### **Land Reclassification**

Council has identified about 254 land parcels that it owns that need to be reclassified. The vast majority are going from a residential classification to a community or environmental category but there are some that proposed to go from community to operational which can allow them to be sold or used for other purposes.

**In ward 3 my rough calculations show that almost 4 times the amount of land is proposed to be zoned to community or environmental as that land which will be proposed to go to operational.** This process requires a public hearing and consultation process and we have asked for a 60 day consultation period. The entire report with a full list of all land is available here [Agenda of Ordinary Meeting of Council - Monday, 26 May 2025](#).

The following list is taken from that report and is land that is proposed to be reclassified from Community to Operational.

Reclassify the following Council owned from Community land to Operational land, through a Planning Proposal as required by section 30 of the Local Government Act 1993, as detailed in Attachment 4:

*i Lot 16 DP 206479 Willow Grove Park, Corrimal*

*ii Lot 11 DP 707453 Public Reserve Wonson Avenue, Coniston*

*iii Lot 139 DP 740156 Rickard Road Reserve, Cordeaux Heights iv Lot 65 DP 806321 Public Reserve Halyard Street, Berkeley*

*v Lot 66 DP 806321 Public Reserve Pennant Crescent, Berkeley vi Lot 18 DP 233592 [Lot 18 Brown Avenue, Dapto](#)*

*vii Lot 239 DP 203414 Scott Road Park Laver Road, Dapto*

*viii Lot 2021 DP 850609 Public Reserve Honeyeater Close, Farmborough Heights*

*ix Part Lot 416 DP 1439 Illawarra Street Park, Illawarra Street corner Cowper Street, Port Kembla x Lots 11, 12 and 14 Sec 4 DP 8703 part of former NES Hall site Keira Street, Port Kembla*

*xi Part of Lot 403 DP 1128781 [1A Denison Street, Wollongong](#)*

The is only the first step in a long process and I encourage you to look at the full report to see the balance that we have worked hard to achieve

## **7. CONVENORS REPORT: Convenor Ron Cooper reported:**

A. Rob Cummings notified that information regarding “M1 on off ramps” to be released Thursday 12.6.25

B. In parliament Anna Watson continues to raise the need for new schools for West Dapto.

C. Council request for Photo choice - Quick Poll closed Monday 9th June

D. West Dapto Rd

# see correspondence from Deirdre Stuart 4.6.2025

# concern expressed that we need that more regularly updated communication with residents.

# Corner West Dapto Rd Wongawilli Rd Shone Ave

# Bus Stop Dapto CBD (outside Aldi) - Jo Paige notified she has organised ordering of a temporary shelter. Advised installation of shelter planned for first half of 2025-2026 financial year.

**Action arising** Requests for info from Nathan McBriarty

(i) Wongawilli Hall Refurbishment- see correspondence for details of refurbishment

(ii) Ask Nathan about Cleveland Rd and why change in staging

E. Woodcote Developments

F. Caring for Waterways

G. Addition of Sheaffes Rd to standing issues

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## **H. Notice of next month Election of Officers 9.7.2025. Ron Cooper propose that election be at August meeting**

Seconded Ian Fitzgibbon

Proposed that election of officers be for 2 year period.

Ron Cooper notified that he will not be standing for convenors position but will support newly elected persons.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Nathan McBriarty, Manager Infrastructure Strategy & Planning -  
Signage in Dapto Community Input. 28th May 2025
2. Stephen McGartland - Kristy Rowlands re NF8 request - Fire Drills -  
Beaton Park 16-23 May
3. Sile Crowe- Nathan McBriarty- Wongawilli Hall - 23rd May 2025
4. Cr. Deirdre Stuart- West Dapto Rd - Reduction in Closure duration  
4th June 2025
5. Romeo Cecchele - Severe flooding Bong Bong Road 10th June 2025

**MEETING CLOSE: 8.50pm**

**NEXT MEETING.**

**7.00PM WEDNESDAY 9th JULY 2025**