



BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held at 6:00 PM on

Monday 24 February 2025

Council Chambers, Level 10,
Council Administration Building, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong

(Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors will be able to attend and participate in this meeting via audio-visual link)

Order of Business

- 1 Opening Meeting
- 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians
- 3 Civic Prayer
- 4 Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting
- 6 Confirmation of Minutes of Extraordinary Ordinary Council Meeting
- 7 Conflicts of Interest
- 8 Petitions and Presentations
- 9 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Committee Meeting
- 10 Public Access Forum
- 11 Call of the Agenda
- 12 Lord Mayoral Minute
- 13 Urgent Items
- 14 Reports to Council
- 15 Reports of Committees
- 16 Items Laid on the Table
- 17 Notices of Motions(s)/Questions with Notice
- 18 Notice of Rescission Motion
- 19 Confidential Business
- 20 Conclusion of Meeting

Members

Lord Mayor –
Councillor Tania Brown (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor –
Councillor Linda Campbell
Councillor Andrew Anthony
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Kit Docker
Councillor Dan Hayes
Councillor Ann Martin
Councillor Richard Martin
Councillor Ryan Morris
Councillor Tiana Myers
Councillor Thomas Quinn
Councillor Deidre Stuart
Councillor Jess Whittaker

QUORUM – 7 MEMBERS TO BE PRESENT

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with clause 3.23 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, released by the NSW Office of Local Government, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Wollongong and Wollongong City Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Where a councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting will be suspended or terminated for the time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or at any time during which Council is voting on the matter.

Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Wollongong City Council **Code of Conduct for Councillors** in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

Staff should also be mindful of their obligations under the Wollongong City Council **Code of Conduct for Staff** when preparing reports and answering questions during meetings of Council.

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MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

at 6:00 PM

Monday 3 February 2025

Present

Lord Mayor – Councillor Tania Brown (in the Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor – Councillor Linda Campbell
Councillor Andrew Anthony
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Kit Docker
Councillor Dan Hayes
Councillor Ann Martin
Councillor Richard Martin

Councillor Ryan Morris
Councillor Tiana Myers (via audio-visual link)
Councillor Thomas Quinn
Councillor Deidre Stuart
Councillor Jess Whittaker

In Attendance

General Manager
Director Infrastructure + Works, Connectivity Assets + Liveable City
Director Planning + Environment, Future City + Neighbourhoods
Director Corporate Services, Connected + Engaged City
Chief Financial Officer
Chief Digital + Information Officer
Manager Customer + Business Integrity
Manager Sport + Recreation
Manager Commercial Operations + Property (Acting)
Manager City Strategy
Manager City Works (Acting)
Manager Project Delivery (Acting)
Manager Infrastructure Strategy + Planning
Manager Open Space + Environmental Services
Manager Community Culture + Engagement
Manager Libraries + Community Services
Land Use Planning Manager

Greg Doyle
Joanne Page
Linda Davis
Renee Campbell
Brian Jenkins
Ingrid McAlpin
Todd Hopwood
Mark Berriman
Roisin OSullivan
Chris Stewart
Greg Knight
Jeremy Morgan
Nathan McBriarty
Paul Tracey
Sue Savage
Sarah Taylor
David Green

Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, participants in the meeting can participate via audio-visual link. Those who participated via audio-visual link are indicated in the attendance section of the Minutes.

Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice a request by Cr Tiana Myers, to attend the 3 February Council Meeting by audio-visual link was approved by the General Manger.

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CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ann Martin declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - 21 Barham Place, Horsley and Item 2 - Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - Temporary Events to be included as Exempt Development on Council Managed Land, due to her employment at the Department of Planning and Environment. As she has no involvement in planning matters related to the Wollongong LGA, Councillor A Martin advised she would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the items.

PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Campbell presented a 'Happy Buddha' figure, gifted to Wollongong City Council by the Nan Tien Temple, in celebration of Lunar New Year.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2024

- 1 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 16 December 2024 (a copy having been circulated to Councillors) be taken as read and confirmed.

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

ITEM NO	TITLE	NAME OF SPEAKER
8	NOM – CR JESS WHITTAKER – ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL	CODY MUNRO MOORE – ILLAWARRA FOLK CLUB FOR RECOMMENDATION
NON-AGENDA ITEM	ENSURE COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND HEALTH GAINS FROM ELECTRIFICATION	PETER MEERS
NON-AGENDA ITEM	URBAN GREENING – THE NEED FOR BETTER PLANTING OPTIONS FOR SHADE, ANIMALS, BIODIVERSITY AND GENERAL WELLBEING	ANDREW KAINEDER

- 2 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Hayes that all speakers be thanked for their presentation and invited to table their notes.

CALL OF THE AGENDA

- 3 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that the staff recommendations for Items 3 to 7 inclusive and Item 9 be adopted as a block.

ITEM 1 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PLANNING PROPOSAL - 21 BARHAM PLACE, HORSLEY

- 4 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor A Martin seconded Councillor Hayes that -

- 1 A Planning Proposal be prepared to amend the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 for 21 Barham Place, Horsley by -
 - a Amending the controls for the upper part of the site, by rezoning the land from part R2 Low Density Residential and RE2 Private Recreation to the R2 Low Density Residential zone with a Floor Space Ratio of 0.5:1, Minimum Lot Size of 9.99 hectares.
 - b Amending the controls for the lower (floodplain) part of the site, by rezoning the land from part RE2 Private Recreation and C3 Environmental Management to the C3 Environmental Management zone with a Minimum Lot Size of 9.99 hectares.
- 2 The Planning Proposal be referred to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for Gateway determination and the preparation of an amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009.
- 3 The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be requested to authorise a minimum exhibition period of 28 days, as part of Gateway determination.
- 4 The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be advised that Council wishes to use its delegations to finalise the Planning Proposal.

ITEM 2 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PLANNING PROPOSAL - TEMPORARY EVENTS TO BE INCLUDED AS EXEMPT DEVELOPMENT ON COUNCIL MANAGED LAND

- 5 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Hayes that -

- 1 A Planning Proposal be prepared to amend the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 by including in Schedule 2 Exempt Development: Temporary events (commercial and community) on Council owned and/or managed land, including Crown Land and within the road reserve for which Council is the road authority, subject to being consistent with an adopted Plan of Management over the land where applicable.
- 2 The Planning Proposal be forwarded to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for Gateway determination and requesting authorisation for the General Manager to exercise plan making delegations in accordance with Council's resolution of 26 November 2012.
- 3 If approved, the Planning Proposal be exhibited for a minimum period of twenty-eight (28) days.
- 4 The draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 – Chapter C6 Event Management (Attachment 2) be exhibited with the Planning Proposal.

ITEM 3 - EXTENSION OF CONTRACT - ONE COUNCIL ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 3)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that Council note that the General Manager will enter an extension of the current contract with TechnologyOne Pty Ltd (TechOne) for the OneCouncil (Software as a Service).

ITEM 4 - TENDER T1000150 - ROAD RESURFACING, PATCHING AND MAINTENANCE - PRIMARY SUPPLIERS (ASPHALT RESURFACING AND ASPHALT PATCHING ONLY)

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 3)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that -

- 1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council accept the tenders of Bitupave Limited and Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd for Asphalt Patching and Resurfacing Services, under a schedule of rates and nominating Bitupave Limited as Primary Supplier and Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd as Secondary Supplier.
- 2 The contract be awarded for an initial term of 5 years, with 5 optional extensions of 1 year with a maximum term of 10 years. Any such extensions being exercised at the sole discretion of Council.
- 2 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to finalise and execute the contract and any other documentation required to give effect to this resolution.
- 3 Council grant authority for the use of the Common Seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.

ITEM 5 - TENDER T1000167 - VARIABLE AIR VOLUME (VAV) RENEWAL - ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WOLLONGONG.

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 3)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that -

- 1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council decline to accept any of the tenders received for T1000167 – Variable Air Volume (VAV) Upgrades - Administration Building.
- 2 In accordance with clause 178(3)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the reason for Council hereby resolving to enter into negotiations with one or all of the tenderers and not inviting fresh tenders is that it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved with one of those tenderers.
- 3 In accordance with Section 178(4) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the reason for Council declining to invite fresh tenders is that it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved with one of those parties who have demonstrated a capacity and ability to undertake the works.
- 4 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to undertake and finalise the negotiations, with the tenderers with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender. Council grant authority for the use of the Common seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.
- 5 Council grant authority for the use of the Common seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.

ITEM 6 - DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 3)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that the financials be received and noted.

ITEM 7 - STATEMENTS OF INVESTMENT - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 3)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that Council receive the Statements of Investment for November and December 2024.

ITEM 8 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JESS WHITTAKER - ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

MOVED by Councillor Whittaker seconded Councillor Stuart that Council –

- 1 Acknowledges the achievements of the Illawarra Folk Club and thank them for the contribution they make to the cultural fabric of the Illawarra and to the local economy.
- 2 Acknowledges the importance of affordable access to Bulli Showground for the delivery of this festival. As Council moves forward with the much-needed upgrades to infrastructure proposed in the draft Bulli Showground Masterplan, every effort is made to ensure an affordable and suitable venue continues to be available to the Illawarra Folk Festival.
- 3 Consider ways Wollongong City Council can contribute to the festival's success through grant contributions, promotion, in-kind support and site upgrades to ensure adequate power, lighting, plumbing and safe vehicle and pedestrian access.

Councillor Whittaker's MOTION on being PUT to a VOTE was LOST.

In favour

Councillors Whittaker, Anthony, Stuart and Docker.

Against

Councillors Hayes, R Martin, Quinn, D Brown, A Martin, Campbell, Myers, T Brown and Morris.

6 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion (FORESHADOWED) of Councillor Hayes seconded Councillor R Martin that Council -

- 1 Acknowledges and congratulates those involved in the Illawarra Folk Festival, and all the other organisations and individuals coordinating and supporting events held at the Bulli Showgrounds such as the craft beer festival, the markets, Woodfest, the Antique Motorbike Show, and many others
- 2 Recognises the value of the Bulli Showground in its role in providing a venue for the community for a range of events.
- 3 Continue to support a range of events of the showground and encourages all events organisers to apply for grants and other support available to them at council and beyond.
- 4 Stands with the community in its support the Bulli bypass study and acknowledges the delay this has caused to the Bulli Showground masterplan is unfortunate but necessary.
- 5 Notes that any further development of the Bulli Showground masterplan needs to factor the needs of the many current users and events organisers as well as for future event opportunities.

Variation

The variation moved by Councillor Morris (Reword "the events mentioned above" to "a range of events" at Point 2) was accepted by the mover and seconder.

ITEM 9 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR RICHARD MARTIN - TIMED PARKING ON HOSPITAL ROAD, BULLI

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer Minute Number 3)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that Council consider increasing the timed parking area on the north side of Hospital Road Bulli, from the Hospital east to the Princes Hwy Bulli and consult with the residents impacted by the change.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7:22 PM

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Wollongong held on Monday 24 February 2025.

Chairperson

ITEM A

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - REGIONAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

According to the latest NSW population projections, the Illawarra-Shoalhaven is the fastest growing region in the state, expected to reach a population of over 575,000 persons by 2041. Wollongong has just over half the region's population and close to 60% (\$15.7B) of its Gross Regional Product (GRP), with an economy that has become increasingly diversified over the last two decades.

Coupled with the forecasted growth in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven is the significant expansion occurring in the Wollondilly, Campbelltown and Camden Local Government Areas.

This underscores the need for a coordinated approach to ensure Council is well-positioned to attract and support investment, secure government support, and facilitate sustainable growth. The recently established Office of General Manager (OGM) is focussed on building the capacity of Council to manage current and future opportunities for Wollongong and the region. The OGM will provide better coordination of Council's advocacy, government relations, and stakeholder engagement activities to develop a clear and consistent voice on key issues for Wollongong and the region.

Business and community representatives have been calling for a more coordinated and transparent process for engaging with Council on matters of strategic importance. The OGM will serve as a single point of contact, streamlining how significant issues and ideas are escalated and addressed across Council. The intention is to facilitate stronger partnerships with government and other key stakeholders.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) has developed a strong culture of collaboration across our region. It is proposed Wollongong City Council work with ISJO, other neighbouring Councils and peak organisations to develop a set of regional advocacy priorities. There are a range of current and emerging initiatives that Council is engaged with that will lead and support the development of the City and region.

RECOMMENDATION

That Wollongong City Council -

- 1 Work with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation including economic development and tourism stakeholders, outer region Local Government Authorities, peak organisations and agencies to enhance regional collaboration advocacy efforts.
- 2 Work with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation, neighbouring Councils and peak organisations to develop a set of regional advocacy priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

ITEM 1 DRAFT QUARTERLY REVIEW STATEMENT DECEMBER 2024

The Quarterly Review Statement outlines progress towards the achievement of Council's Strategic Planning documents, in particular, the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025. The Statement addresses the financial and operational performance of Council and includes the Budget Review Statement.

RECOMMENDATION

The draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2024 be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2024

BACKGROUND

The Council's draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2024 outlines the operational and financial performance of Council's Strategic Planning documents – the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025.

This report also provides an overview of achievements against priority areas and demonstrates the organisation's performance through the inclusion of performance indicators.

Significant events and highlights during the quarter include:

- Culture Mix 2024 held on Saturday, 20 October with more than 16,000 patrons attending the event in celebrating our multicultural community;
- Council's public place Return and Earn Recycling initiative was recognised at the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards - Clean Communities award;
- The 'Hill 60 Dreaming' artwork by Uncle Steven Russell was unveiled in December 2024. The artwork and interpretative signage, completed in consultation with the local Aboriginal community, celebrates the heritage of Hill 60 and shares some details of their connections and stories to this important site;
- Council supported a number of events as part of NSW Small Business Month in October 2024, including the Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo held on 17 October, and
- Christmas and New Year celebrations were held across the city.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Executive Management Committee

Senior Leadership Team

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4 "We are a connected and engaged community". It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan		Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy		Service
4.1	Provide our community with equitable access to information and opportunities to inform decision-making.	Corporate Strategy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Budget Review includes relatively large adjustments to the Operating Result [pre capital] mainly related to prior year capital works in progress that cannot be capitalised (\$6.7M), a reduction in Commercial Tipping Income (\$2.3M), the introduction of funded projects (\$1.3M), an increase in legal expenses (\$0.7M) partly offset by a reduction in EPA levy associated with Commercial Tipping (\$1.3M), an increase in interest on investments (\$1.1M) and other minor variations. These adjustments do not have a net impact on the Funds Result.

While this Quarterly Budget Review Statement is the second review of the Operational Plan 2024-2025, it is part of a continuous 10 year budget review process that looks to plan for the effects of external and internal financial environmental impacts and decisions over the short and long term. This review, therefore, reflects the continued planning, changing financial environment and the initial actions to move back towards Council's financial sustainability targets.

The below table provides a summary for the proposed adjustments. A more detailed analysis is provided in the attachment to this report.

Wollongong City Council December Quarter 2024 Forecast Position	Original Budget \$M 1-Jul	Current Budget \$M 27-Sep	Proposed Budget \$M 27-Dec	Variation \$M
Operating Revenue	368.1	357.4	356.5	(1.0)
Operating Costs	(354.2)	(369.2)	(376.9)	(7.7)
Operating Result [Pre Capital]	13.9	(11.8)	(20.5)	(8.7)
Capital Grants & Contributions	27.5	30.4	31.0	0.5
Operating Result	41.3	18.7	10.5	(8.2)
Funds Available from Operations	66.3	49.7	49.2	(0.5)
Capital Works	106.0	105.9	102.8	3.1
Contributed Assets	7.0	7.0	7.0	-
Transfer to Restricted Cash	2.6	2.6	31.1	(28.5)
Borrow ings Repaid	0.7	0.7	0.7	-
Funded from:				
- Operational Funds	66.3	49.7	49.2	(0.5)
- Other Funding	49.2	91.1	75.6	(15.5)
Total Funds Surplus/(Deficit)	(0.8)	(16.8)	(16.8)	(0.0)

CONCLUSION

This draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2024 has been prepared following input and assistance from all Divisions. It is submitted for consideration and adoption by Council.



Wollongong City Council

Draft Quarterly Review Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025

October – December 2024



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Image: North Beach, Wollongong
Photo Caitlyn Phanith (Unsplash)

General Managers Message

This Quarterly Review Statement (October to December 2024) reports progress toward the five Councillor Strategic Priorities from the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025, with updates organised by the six Community Goals and Support Services from the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan.

Highlights from this quarter include:

- Culture Mix 2024 held on Saturday, 20 October with more than 16,000 patrons attending the event in celebrating our multicultural community;
- Council's public place Return and Earn Recycling initiative was recognised at the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards - Clean Communities award;
- The 'Hill 60 Dreaming' artwork by Uncle Steven Russell was unveiled in December 2024. The artwork and interpretative signage, completed in consultation with the local Aboriginal community, celebrates the heritage of Hill 60 and shares some details of their connections and stories to this important site;
- Council supported a number of events as part of NSW Small Business Month in October 2024, including the Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo held on 17 October; and
- Christmas and New Year celebrations were held across the city.

This Delivery Program includes a \$400M investment for major projects and maintaining our existing infrastructure to help build communities in our growing suburbs, while providing employment opportunities to local contractors, suppliers and businesses.

Our plans are focused on enhancing and supporting the liveability of our community and delivering the quality services our community wants from their Council. We're

planning to deliver over 150 road upgrades across the Local Government Area and continuing to invest in footpaths, shared paths and dedicated cycleways to make it safer for kids to get to school and more enticing for people of all ages and skills to participate in active modes of transport. Focus continues on the safety of our community during natural disasters and are investing in upgrades to our stormwater services to reduce the risk of flooding. We are also continuing to advocate to the NSW and Commonwealth Governments for support towards recovery and future resilience.

While Council continues to maintain a strong financial position, we're not immune to economic pressures and extreme weather. During 2024, Wollongong experienced two declared natural disasters, bringing the total since 2019 to seven. These events caused significant damage to community assets, many Council buildings and critical infrastructure. Clean-up and repair work will continue to materially impact Council's financials moving forward. Council has strong relationships with other levels of government and will continue to work closely and tactically to advocate for our community with securing support and funding towards recovery and future resilience. The current challenging financial environment requires significant ongoing focus and attention, and we are committed to using our community's resources responsibly.

We continue to focus on improving our customer service to best serve our community and are committed to be the best possible local government authority we can be in to make Wollongong a great place to live, work and play.

I would like to thank all staff and the community for their contributions to the achievements identified in this Quarterly Review Statement. This Review will inform the Annual Report due in November 2025.

Greg Doyle
General Manager



About this Report

The Quarterly Review reports on Council's progress and outcomes against services and actions from the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. It presents Council's financials and budget and provides the community with the original and revised annual budgets with explanations if any significant adjustments have occurred.

It is important to present regular updates to the community to provide communication on the progress of Council's Plans, including achievements, delays or changes. While Council works to deliver all Services as planned, there can be changes required due to a number of factors that may impact on Council's Services and their delivery. The Quarterly Review Report provides a regular opportunity to provide updates to our community.

This Quarterly Progress Review reports outcomes against Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025 for the December quarter.

Council's Services form the foundation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Council's Services are presented under their best fit goal. Council's internal Services form an additional group called Support Services to demonstrate that these Services support the delivery of all goals.

Council reviews services as part of a continuous improvement approach based on community feedback with the aim of creating efficiencies and improving service delivery to the community.

Wollongong City Council regularly tracks and monitors the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and reports to the

community on progress through this Quarterly Report as well as on an annual basis. Council also tracks progress towards the Community Strategic Plan through the State of our City Report. All reports will be available on Council's website – [Progress Reports | City of Wollongong](#).



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Localised
Suburbs and
Places

Sustainable
Wollongong

Active
Transport and
Connectivity

Business and
Investment

West Dapto

Strategic Priorities

Our Councillors have made a commitment to support our organisation and community in making Wollongong a better place to live, work, visit and play. To focus Council's attention to achieve this, Councillors have agreed to five Strategic Priorities. These are outlined in the Delivery Program 2022-2026. A summary of progress made in the December 2024 Quarter has been outlined below:

Localised
Suburbs and
Places

A calendar of events to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disability was delivered in partnership with Shellharbour City Council.

As part of the *Safer Cities: Her Way* project, festoon lights were installed in Port Kembla town centre.

A range of youth development opportunities were delivered in Bellambi, Bundaleer Estate, Warrawong and Horsley.

Twenty-four successful applicants from Connecting Neighbours Round 11 progressed delivery of their events and projects in suburban locations. These include gardening activities, community barbecues and a street library.

The 'Hill 60 Dreaming' artwork by Uncle Steven Russell was installed at Hill 60, Port Kembla which is incorporated into the pavement and tells the story of the community and Five Islands. New signage was also installed featuring a QR code that links to stories shared by Aboriginal Traditional Owners, custodians, and knowledge holders.

Sustainable
Wollongong

Implementation of the Climate Change Mitigation Plan continues, including collaboration with Endeavour Energy to deliver community batteries and completing an Expression of Interest for supporting the roll out of Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure. The *Net Zero Heroes* campaign was launched for Global Climate Change Week, which showcases everyday people taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save money and live more sustainably.

Implementation of the Climate Adaptation Plan and Urban Heat Strategy progressed. A youth engagement event on disaster preparedness was held and information on Council's website on heat management was updated. Social media posts in December 2024 provided information to the community about Council facilities available to help members of our community stay cool.

The Council's Development Control Plan chapter related to Ecological Sustainable Development progressed and, at its Council meeting in December 2024, the draft chapter was endorsed for public exhibition in early 2025. The draft chapter aims to encourage new development to transition to a low waste and emissions lifestyle.

Implementation of the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program continued with the delivery of the community engagement on the Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Sustainable Wollongong

Stage 2 development of the Open Coast Coastal Management Program continued with coastal hazard studies, Aboriginal value study and the Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforest mapping projects.

A submission was made to the NSW Government's action paper *NSW Plastics: The Way Forward*. The submission encourages further actions to manage the environmental issues from polystyrene waffle pods used in construction sites.

Four editions of the Sustainable Wollongong e-newsletter were distributed to approximately 2,700 subscribers.

Active Transport and Connectivity

Council is developing a Cycling Network Plan and Program, which is delivering on multiple actions of the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030. Work is progressing and the final draft is expected to be finalised during the March 2025 quarter.

The plan will include a 10 year forward plan for the programming of new cycleways and will highlight the key strategic network to lobby and support grant funding applications. Routes identified through our Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 Map will be investigated through this study, with standard design details for aspects of cycling infrastructure, supplementary cost estimates for future options assessment and the types of facilities with consideration of the existing road environment.

The approach for the Lake Illawarra shared path and remaining Grand Pacific Walk will be consolidated into the Cycling Network Plan.

At the completion of the Cycling Network Plan, the Footpath Network Plan will commence to complement all active transport networks, along with the Safer Routes to School planning to identify key priorities and close missing links.

Council staff are engaging on the NSW Strategic Cycling Corridors network projects. Council provided comments and recommendations on the current proposal, bringing these into alignment with Cycling Network Plan. The Strategic Cycleway Corridors Illawarra-Shoalhaven Overview has been released, with three connections identified. Detailed design is required to inform a future business case for funding the implementation of these corridors.

Business and Investment

Council supported a number of events as part of NSW Small Business Month in October 2024, with the NSW Small Business Commissioner hosting a Small Business Expo for local businesses. The Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo, including a Procurement Networking Event was held on 16 October at Inside Industry and the Expo was held on 17 October 2024 at the Wollongong Town Hall.

Council hosted its annual *Doing Business with Council* event, providing information for local business interested in doing business with Council. Over 300 people registered for the event, which involved a series of presentations from across Council.

Council's mid-term review of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029 is underway including first stages of engagement with the reference group, Chief Executive Officers, local stakeholders, and relevant Council staff.

Invest Wollongong sponsored the third Clean Energy Showcase on 21 November. Several NSW Government delegates participated in this showcase, highlighting the Illawarra region's leadership in the clean energy transition, including over \$750M worth of major clean energy projects due to be completed by the end of 2024.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Business and Investment

The *Invest Wollongong* 'always on' digital marketing campaign continued this quarter, achieving 3,000 followers on LinkedIn.

The #MadeInWollongong Business Leader Series launched a new initiative dedicated to promoting local businesses that are putting Wollongong on the map. The new series will see one business leader profiled each month and promoted to a national audience.

West Dapto

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal published its final report on its review of the draft West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2024.

On 25 November 2024, Council adopted post exhibition amendments to Chapter D16 of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 to implement the West Dapto Centres Master Plan package for Marshall Mount Town and Fowlers Village centres. The adopted Development Control Plan changes came into force on 4 December 2024.

Three major Concept Development Applications remain under assessment in stage 5 of the release area (Marshall Mount). The concept Development Applications have been submitted by applicants in lieu of Neighbourhood Plans and is a process facilitated through the provisions of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Council has continued to work toward delivering infrastructure projects at West Dapto including projects supported by Commonwealth and NSW grant funding (including Darkes District Sports Facility, West Dapto Road urban upgrade and the Cleveland Road urban upgrade). Discussions continued with infrastructure delivery authorities including, but not limited to Sydney Water, Transport for NSW, and Department of Education to ensure a coordinated approach to infrastructure planning and delivery aligned with development progress at West Dapto.






Reporting against the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024 - 2025

This Quarterly Review reports on progress of activities and actions within Council's Services. Council's Services are presented under their best fit goal. Council's internal Services form an additional group called Support Services to demonstrate that these Services support the delivery of all goals.





Summary of Progress by Goal Status of Actions for December 2024 Quarter

Status		Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Support Services	Overall %
On-Track		100%	100%	89%	100%	85%	86%	86%	92%
Action is progressing as planned		(24/24)	(8/8)	(8/9)	(22/22)	(24/28)	(6/7)	(12/14)	(104/112)
Complete		0%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%	7%	2%
Action or project achieved as planned		(0/24)	(0/8)	(1/9)	(0/22)	(0/28)	(0/7)	(1/14)	(2/112)
Deferred		0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	7%	2%
A decision has been made to reschedule the timing of the project or actions		(0/24)	(0/8)	(0/9)	(0/22)	(1/28)	(0/7)	(1/14)	(2/112)
Not scheduled to commence		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	1%
The action was not due to commence during the reporting quarter		(0/24)	(0/8)	(0/9)	(0/22)	(0/28)	(1/7)	(0/14)	(1/112)
Delayed		0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%	0%	3%
Unforeseen event has changed the timing of a project or action		(0/24)	(0/8)	(0/9)	(0/22)	(3/28)	(0/7)	(0/14)	(3/112)

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

December Quarter Highlights



Red Room Poetry Poem Forest competition winners of the Wollongong Community Greening Local Prize (K-12yr) runner up Ada and winner Alice.



Council's Green Team and Soilco hosted a tour of the Soilco facility where FOGO is processed into compost and then spread on our sportsfields, Tiny Forests and gardens.



A new polystyrene recycling unit at Whytes Gully and has resulted in significant diversion of this material to landfill.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Development Assessment

Responsibility Manager Development Assessment and Certification

About this Service

The service undertakes assessment and determination of planning matters to facilitate balanced planning outcomes to serve the current and future community. This includes development applications, construction certificates, complying development, building and subdivision certificates, pre-lodgement advice, managing panels, Fire Safety Statements and upgrades, building compliance inspections, audits on completed buildings, providing expert evidence in Land and Environment Court Appeals, and advice to Council and stakeholders in all aspects of the development assessment process.

Quarterly Progress Update

A diverse range of development applications continued to be assessed and pre-lodgement advice provided for a variety of stakeholders. Council also continues to provide a service as a Principal Certifying Authority for buildings and subdivisions as an alternative option to the private sector.



Council worked with the Design Review Panel to achieve design excellence through providing advice on five matters during the quarter.

Work with the Wollongong Local Planning Panel saw the Panel consider and determine 17 matters.

The Southern Regional Planning Panel were briefed on two matters and determined three applications.



Process improvement continued to be a focus with ongoing investment in resolving issues with the NSW Government Planning Portal integration and the review of publicly available information relating to development application processes. The implementation of the Service Optimisation Program is progressing in accordance with the timeline.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Progress the outcomes resulting from the review of customer experience around access to information related to Development Assessment	On-Track 	Implementation of outcomes remain on track. Website content has been enhanced to explain what services and information the Duty Development Officers can provide to prospective applicants. A minimum of two call back responses over two days is now provided to minimise the need for customers having to again phone Council for planning and development advice. A link to the Duty Development Officer online request form has been provided to improve the customer experience. Improvements have been made to 'acknowledgement of submission' letters to better reflect information about the Development Application process.
Administer Design Review Panel in relation to key sites or significant development	On-Track 	Work continues with the Design Review Panel to achieve design excellence in the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel provided advice on five matters.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Development Assessment Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Administer the Wollongong Local Planning Panel	On-Track 	The Wollongong Local Planning Panel determined 17 matters.
In conjunction with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment administer the Southern Regional Planning Panel	On-Track 	The Southern Regional Planning Panel determined three matters and was briefed on two applications.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Emergency Management

Responsibility Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning

About this Service



The service provides support in the planning and preparation for significant emergencies that may impact the safety and security of residents and visitors to the city.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council continues to deliver its core emergency management legislative requirements in supporting the Local Rescue Committee and Local Emergency Management Committee.

Council's Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) has provided support to both the NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Services during high and extreme fire danger rated days, and severe storm weather, placing the Illawarra Emergency Operations Centre on standby in support of the State Emergency Service during severe storm activity during November. Council staff also participated in a region wide exercise testing capabilities in response to a tsunami.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Partner with the State Emergency Service to upgrade Wollongong Unit facilities at Montague Street	On-Track 	Council has partnered with the State Emergency Service (SES) to deliver minor upgrade works to the Wollongong SES Unit located at Montague Street, with works to be funded by the NSW SES. Scoping for this project continues in collaboration with the NSW SES.
Continue to advocate for funding from the State and Federal Government to Support disaster recovery and future resilience	On-Track 	Council is chairing the Illawarra and Southern Highlands Regional Recovery Committee, established following the 6 April 2024 flood event, which was subsequently declared a natural disaster. Through this forum, Council continues to advocate for a range of policy and funding changes to support both community resilience and recovery. Council has prepared claims to the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements relating to the 6 April 2024 event; seeking to recover costs associated with both cleanup activities and repairs to damaged Council infrastructure. The claims have been submitted to both NSW Public Works Advisory and Transport for NSW for assessment.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services

Responsibility *Manager City Strategy*

About this Service

This service involves Council working with the community in relation to local climate change mitigation, adaptation, monitoring and reporting, coastal and estuary management, biodiversity planning, contaminated lands controls, development assessment for environmental impacts, environmental education, volunteer management and partnerships, waste minimisation and environmental advocacy.

Quarterly Progress Update

In the lead up to summer, Asset Protection Zone maintenance works have included planning for 16 pile burns to be undertaken in conjunction with the NSW RFS, essential maintenance carried out on Council controlled fire trails to ensure access and green waste drop off events.

The Urban Greening Program continues to diversify tree canopy throughout the Local Government Area, with 2,869 trees planted across all natural area revegetation projects.


Council hosted the Red Room Poetry National Awards at Holborn Park, Berkeley which included planting 400 native plants and trees. The celebration was for the finalists and saw the Red Room partnership equate to over 5,700 poems submitted with Council planting a tree for each submission.

Warrawong High school students joined the natural areas team for a day in the life of Council and planted 350 native plants at Corrimal dunes. The Botanic Garden Nursery produced a total of 15,634 new plants and distributed a total of 17,228 plants.

There were 798 Greenplan customers who purchased a total 7,617 plants. All plants are locally sourced natives for use within the Wollongong Local Government Area.

New Tiny Forests were installed in Fairy Meadow and Berkeley in partnership with local schools. The NSW Environmental Protection Authority have highlighted the success of Council's Tiny Forests and use of Food Organics Garden Organics soils in current media campaigns, and Shellharbour Road Entrance has 100 new street trees on the Southern entrance to the City.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver commitments made under the Global Government of Mayors including the implementation of Council's Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2030	On-Track 	<p>Delivery of Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2030 'Empowering Communities' actions included the Launch of the Net Zero Heroes campaign and Climate Action website update. An Expression of Interest process identified five suitable Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Point Operators to potentially provide public EV charging infrastructure for the region.</p> <p>Other initiatives included continued support for the Endeavour Energy Community Battery Program; the submission of the annual GCoM Community Emissions reporting for feedback and investigation; development toward Community Renewables program with the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Joint Organisation of Councils; and a review of Development Control Plan Chapter A2 - Ecologically Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Other 'leading by example' actions include continued transition of Council's passenger fleet to zero emissions vehicles; a review of Council's light heavy vehicle fleet commenced and investigations into a solar program to identify Council facilities that can potentially accommodate solar panels.</p>

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Implement priority actions of the certified Coastal Management Program for Lake Illawarra	On-Track 	Final reports for the Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study were prepared and a range of communication materials were released for public consultation. Community members engaged with the material through Councils' website, in person and online drop-in sessions that were well attended. Council received a large number of responses, and these will be considered and reported to Council during the March 2025 quarter.
Carry out sustainability and environmental education programs	On-Track 	<p>Council issued four Sustainable Wollongong Newsletters to 3,000 subscribers and joined community members in the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project. Updates to Council's Sustainability web pages continue to educate and encourage sustainable practices.</p> <p>Natural Areas, Botanic Garden, and Stormwater staff hosted three 'Private Creek Care Days,' providing landowners with advice on creek line management. The Green Team ran 11 promotional events, including at Bunnings, to support Asbestos Awareness Week.</p> <p>During National Recycling Week, daily pop-ups at shopping centres helped educate the community on waste disposal and bin contamination. In November 2024, Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) facility tours were held, and new signage was installed at Whytes Gully Community Recycling Station.</p> <p>Council won two Keep Australia Beautiful awards for its summer cleansing program in parks and the FOGO Heroes campaign. Education programs at Wollongong Botanic Garden continued, including a pilot youth-focused mental health initiative in partnership with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.</p> <p><i>The Rise and Shine</i> spring clean-up saw 37 community-led events remove nine tonnes of waste from public spaces. Council also launched the <i>Net Zero Heroes</i> video campaign.</p>
Prepare the Coastal Management Program for the Wollongong Open Coast	On-Track 	Three specialist consultants are working on studies to inform the future Coastal Management Program (CMP): these are Coastal Hazards Study, Identification and Vulnerability Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values and Assets Study and a Coastal Wetland and Littoral Rainforest Mapping project. As part of the coastal hazards studies, geotechnical and geophysical investigations have been undertaken to determine bedrock depth behind some beaches to assess potential beach erosion and recession extents. The outputs of these projects will help Council to develop management actions for the final CMP, in collaboration with stakeholders and community.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Land Use Planning

Responsibility *Manager City Strategy*

About this Service

Land Use Planning manages the plans, policies and certificates that help our community understand the role and function of land within Wollongong. The team undertakes detailed studies to make long-term plans for how we can live, work and play sustainably, protecting what we value and ensuring development contributes to great places for our community.


Quarterly Progress Update

A range of strategic planning matters progressed during the quarter. The Planning Proposal for Cleveland Road phase 2 was finalised, which has the potential to create 3,000 new residential lots. The Planning Proposal for large R2 zoned land in the Illawarra Escarpment foothills was finalised, which amended zoning and planning controls to ensure future development is appropriate to the constraints of the sites including bushfire, topography and sensitive ecology. The draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy was exhibited, which seeks to identify opportunities for additional tourist accommodation facilities in our city and inform a review of current planning controls.

Council resolved to prepare a Planning Proposal to rezone land at Gwynneville which would increase housing potential in the precinct from 125 existing dwellings to 1,250 new dwellings, including 50% social and affordable housing.

A resolution to exhibit amendments to Wollongong Development Control Plan Chapter A1 - Introduction which confirms Council's commitment to consider Ecologically Sustainable Development principles as part of our development assessment process also occurred.




Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review the Local Strategic Planning Statement	On-Track 	A Councillor workshop was held on the review of the Local Strategic Planning Statement. The revised draft Local Strategic Planning Statement will be developed in parallel with the new Community Strategic Plan to ensure appropriate alignment. The revised draft Local Strategic Planning Statement is scheduled to be reported to Council in April 2025 for resolution to place the Statement on public exhibition.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT



Land Use Planning Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Continue the review of the West Dapto Land Release Area by developing a Local Infrastructure and Development Strategy	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>On 11 November 2024, the New South Wales Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) published revised draft assessment findings from its review of Council's draft West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2024. The revised report confirmed that IPART's assessment was based on Council's post-exhibition draft Contributions Plan. IPART accepted further feedback until 22 November 2024.</p> <p>Council staff welcomed the revised draft report and generally supported its findings. Funding for the Western Ring Road remains an ongoing issue that Council will continue to raise with the New South Wales Government.</p> <p>IPART released its final report on 16 December 2024, confirming that Council's proposed Contributions Plan includes essential and reasonable infrastructure and costs. It also acknowledged that community consultation had taken place. The report supports removing the Western Ring Road from the Plan if Council secures alternative funding. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will now consider IPART's recommendations before providing direction to Council. Council has written to the Minister seeking confirmation of the State's funding commitment to the Western Ring Road.</p> <p>Once direction from the Minister is received, Council will consider adopting the final Contributions Plan. The revised Plan will inform the development of the West Dapto Development and Infrastructure Delivery Strategy, which staff will progress during the March and June 2025 quarters.</p>
Undertake studies to inform the periodic review of the West Dapto Development Contribution Plan	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>All informing studies required to inform the draft West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2024 have been completed. The West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment completed in 2023 has been the primary informing study for the current Contributions Plan review. Council staff will undertake the West Dapto Water Management Master Plan project during 2025-2026 to inform the next review of the Contributions Plan.</p>
Progress the City Centre Planning Strategy	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>The newly elected Council was briefed on the proposed Phase 1 implementation package for the City Centre Planning Review. A report to Council regarding progress of the Phase 1 implementation package is scheduled for 2025.</p>

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Land Use Planning Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Develop and install the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place Interpretive Strategy and Indigenous Art Project	On-Track 	<p>The Sandon Point Interpretation Strategy has been completed and four interpretive signs have been erected.</p> <p>The delivery of other aspects of the project will be considered following consultation with stakeholders associated with the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place.</p>
Finalise the development of the Housing Strategy and commence implementation on initial priorities	On-Track 	<p>A Planning Proposal that rezoned and amended planning controls for large Residential zoned lots in the Illawarra Escarpment was finalised, which will ensure future development of the sites is appropriate having regard to constraints such as bushfire, topography and sensitive ecology.</p> <p>The Cleveland Road Planning Proposal to increase land for urban development was completed, which has the potential to create 3,000 new residential lots.</p> <p>A Planning Proposal to tidy up zoning along transport corridors was completed along with the commencement of a Planning Proposal to increase housing development in Gwynneville from 125 existing dwellings to 1,250 dwellings, including the provision of 50% social and affordable housing.</p> <p>A Planning Proposal to tidy up zone boundaries at Forest Reach, Horsley commenced, and the draft Cleveland Road East Neighbourhood Plan was exhibited, which provides the more detailed planning for 1,120 lots.</p>

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Natural Area Management

Responsibility Manager Open Space and Environmental Services

About this Service


Manage Council's natural areas restoration works program, carry out weed and pest management and coordinate volunteer programs in natural areas. Management and restoration of natural areas under Council care and control and conservation of endangered ecological communities and threatened species. These activities are funded through a combination of Council's own operating funds, external grants, partnerships with other organisations and the support of community volunteers.

Quarterly Progress Update

Natural area restoration works continue throughout bushland reserves. The end of year volunteer recognition event was held at the Fraternity Club to recognise volunteers across all the environmental volunteer programs.

Eucalyptus workshops conducted were well attended and received. Council is currently investigating funding opportunities with the NSW Government to support conservation and education in lowland grassy woodlands in the region. Deer culling resumed this quarter after an extended procurement process by the NSW Government.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement annual bushfire hazard reduction works program for Asset Protection Zones on Council managed lands	On-Track 	The maintenance of 23 Asset Protection Zones (APZ's) funded through NSW Rural Fire Service are scheduled for completion by April 2025. Pile burning is planned over 16 APZ's in collaboration with Fire and Rescue NSW. Maintenance of Upper Cordeaux Road was completed, including trail surface maintenance and vegetation works. Surface repairs were completed on the Mount Brown and Mary Davis fire trails and quotes have been sought for repair/maintenance of Windang's fire trail. An additional gate was installed along Mary Davis trail to restrict access.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Regulatory Compliance

Responsibility Manager Regulation and Enforcement

About this Service

This service involves environment and development compliance, animal control and parking in accordance with statutory requirements and Council Policy. Providing education programs and information to raise community awareness also forms part of this service.

Quarterly Progress Update


Council received and actioned a high volume of compliance requests across parking, animal control, and illegal dumping, including 384 abandoned vehicles, 30 hoarding or squalor cases, 41 footpath obstructions, 38 overgrown properties, 633 parking incidents, 95 aggressive dogs, 87 barking dog complaints, 142 stray animals, and 149 reports of illegal dumping.

A total of 180 customer service requests relating to development and environmental compliance were addressed, with investigations continuing into potential breaches of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and the Protection of the Environment Operations Act.

Building site compliance remained a focus, with 90 inspections targeting erosion control, waste management, hours of operation, and noise and dust levels. Fines, clean-up notices, and warnings were issued, and Council worked with Private Certifiers to mitigate environmental risks. Educational initiatives included free industry training, a presentation at the Master Builders Association Industry Night, and new education materials.



Council's Animal Care and Impounding Service provided care for 75 cats and 68 dogs, successfully rehoming 77 animals and placing 28 into foster care. Staff promoted pet adoption and responsible ownership at community events, including carols in MacCabe Park. A '12 Pets of Christmas' social media campaign on Wollongong Pet Connection highlighted pets available for adoption.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Carry out a proactive surveillance and inspection program of known dumping hot-spots and implement education and awareness raising programs aimed at reducing illegally dumped waste	On-Track 	Investigations of illegal dumping were conducted, with 156 completed during the quarter. Three verbal and four written clean up directions were issued and five cautions/warnings provided. Four Penalty Infringement Notices were issued for a total of \$17,000.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Regulatory Compliance Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Develop and implement an education and awareness raising program regarding swimming pool barriers	On-Track 	Fifty customer requests relating to swimming pool safety matters were responded to. Council staff conducted compliance and safety inspections and completed 38 Compliance Certificate Applications under the Swimming Pools Safety Act 1991. Education materials and messaging to the community were prepared that included the development of flyers to be distributed with Council's rates notice in the March 2025 quarter to maximise reach.
Maintain a proactive compliance program for companion animals in public places, including beaches, foreshore areas and parks.	On-Track 	One-hundred and forty-two patrols of beach and foreshore locations were conducted to monitor dog and owner behaviour. Twenty-two penalty notices were issued and 20 verbal warnings were given. Forty-eight educational discussions were undertaken.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Stormwater Services

Responsibility Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning



About this Service

This service strategically plans for a coordinated approach to floodplain risk management and stormwater management including protection of waterways, beaches, lakes, lagoons and creeks. This service manages and maintains 835 kilometres of drainage and associated infrastructure assets across the city that aim to be safe, efficient, effective and sustainable.

Quarterly Progress Update

Planning and designing critical stormwater and flood mitigation projects continued. Ongoing efforts include completing the handover of three significant stormwater project designs to delivery teams, including the High Street, Helensburgh Pit Modification and Kerb and Gutter project, Beveles Avenue, Unanderra bank stabilisation project and Memorial Drive, Bellambi Debris Control Structure. The Memorial Drive project is a particularly important initiative due to its scale and critical role in enhancing flood resilience. This debris control structure is key infrastructure aimed at safeguarding the community from stormwater blockages and associated risks.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and implement the Floodplain Risk Management Plans	On-Track 	During the quarter, several key milestones were reached for ongoing Floodplain Risk Management Plans. The Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Plan has been completed and will be presented to the Northern Floodplain Risk Management Committee for endorsement before seeking Council approval. The draft Brooks Creek Floodplain Risk Management Plan is also complete and will be presented to the Southern Floodplain Risk Management Committee for endorsement before progressing to community consultation. Data collection for the Lake Illawarra Floodplain Risk Management Plan has commenced. This project is being delivered in partnership with Shellharbour City Council.
Plan and deliver stormwater maintenance, renewal and upgrade works	On-Track 	Stormwater renewal projects are progressing and on track, including five pipe relining projects under construction. Engineering designs have been progressed for 34 reconstruction projects. These include works added to the program due to the April 2024 natural disaster. Six reconstruction projects are currently under construction. Scheduled maintenance program works include pit and pipe cleaning and repairs. Approximately 40% of the annual works program was designed and handed over to delivery teams at the beginning of the quarter with the aim to handover the majority of remaining works in the March 2025 quarter to complete by June 2025.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management

Responsibility Manager Open Space and Environmental Services

About this Service

Deliver high quality, value for money, customer focused municipal waste services to the Wollongong community in the form of waste facilities and collection services.

The service includes community education programs, waste collection and recycling, operation of the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park, public domain waste collection and facilities cleaning.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council's public place *Return and Earn* recycling initiative was recognised at the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards - Clean Communities award.

Construction of the new landfill cell at the waste facility is well advanced and on track to be completed before December 2025.

The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 includes a key implementation action around soft plastics recycling, commencing with a soft plastic recycling service trial over the Christmas – New Year 2024.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Educate and continue to deliver waste diversion programs aligned with problematic waste streams	On-Track 	Waste education programs have been delivered focusing on the diversion of waste from landfill, by using Food Organics Garden Organics and changing behaviours. New bin stickers were created to reinforce diversion. Pop ups for National Recycling Week, a Soilco open day tour, and promotion of three green waste drop off events as well as three cardboard, recycling and soft plastics drop off events were held. A polystyrene recycling unit was commissioned at the Community Recycling Centre at Whytes Gully that has already resulted in significant diversion of this material to landfill
Continue to develop and implement the landfill gas management system at Whytes Gully	On-Track 	The landfill gas management system has avoided 7,335 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO ₂ e) of emissions for the period July 2024 to October 2024.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) — December 2023	Result – December 2024
Development Assessment			
Outstanding DAs < 90 days ¹	200	180	220
Outstanding DAs >90 days ¹	50	120	45
Average net determination days ¹	50	39	42
¹ Result as at 31 December 2024.			
Environmental Services			
Participation Rate in education programs	Increase	1,386	866 ²
Participation Rate in environmental programs	At least 85,000 per annum	13,372 (Accumulative Year to Date)	9,392 (Accumulative Year to Date)
Tonnes of waste collected from clean- up activities	Decrease	3.47	9.00 ³
Net zero emissions from Council operations by 2030	Zero by 2030	Not applicable (annual)	Not applicable (annual)
² Lower than comparative due to a new program being implemented at the Discovery Centre, Botanic Gardens.			
³ Higher than comparative due to increase in activities.			
Natural Area Management			
Number of volunteers worked at Bushcare, Dunecare and FIReady sites	Increase	216	167 ⁴
Ratio of trees planted versus trees removed	2:1	Not applicable (annual)	Not applicable (annual)
⁴ A review has been completed to improve the accuracy of reported volunteers. Result as at 31 December 2024.			
Waste Services			
Waste diverted from landfill %	Increase	54	55 ⁵
Number of waste education workshops and events	Increase	29	18 ⁶
Participation rate in waste education workshops and events	Increase	1,542	1,856 ⁶

⁵ Result as at 31 December 2024.

⁶ Quarterly result for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.



GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) — December 2023	Result – December 2024
Waste removed from our creek and waterway Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices and trash racks	Decrease	Not applicable (annual)	Not applicable (annual)
Recycling contamination in public waste bins	Decrease	Not applicable (annual)	Not applicable (annual)

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the Annual Report where available.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

December Quarter Highlights



Santa's arrival was celebrated at Wollongong Crown Street Mall.



City of Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown with Green Gravity CEO Mark Swinnerton launch the #MadeinWollongong series, a new initiative highlighting local business leaders who are putting Wollongong on the global map.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

City Centre Management

Responsibility Manager Community Culture and Engagement

About this Service

From Wollongong Station to the foreshore, City Centre Management supports the revitalisation of the City Centre through the coordination and delivery of a range of strategies in collaboration with various stakeholders. The service also ensures the smooth operation of the City Centre, particularly Crown Street Mall which is funded by the Special Mall Levy.

Quarterly Progress Update



Marketing and activation focused on the Christmas festive season highlighting the Wollongong CBD as a vibrant and fun-filled destination for families and visitors and promoting local business offerings. The 'Celebrate the Season' Christmas message was incorporated into the 'Australiana' themed Christmas Tree and other decorations, as well as the free program of children's activities.

The precinct-based approach to gaining an understanding of the different business environments within Wollongong CBD continued to deliver insights into local business conditions.

To support the local live music sector, Council progressed the delivery of the 'Live and Local' strategic initiative in partnership with the Live Music Office. The *Live@Lunch* music performance program continued in the Crown Street Mall.



Place activation projects in the Arts Precinct, Lower Crown Street, and Western Crown Street, Wollongong continued to progress. These projects focus on improving the visitor experience and increasing both the safety and vibrancy of these areas.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver increased City Centre marketing and activation initiatives to support the local and regional economy	On-Track 	Activations focused on the theme of Christmas. Crown Street Mall, Wollongong hosted a variety of festive events including Santa's Arrival, Christmas markets, the Bikers Toy Run and a range of performances by community and school groups including Christmas carols. Children's activations included street performances, and a circus playground featured in the lead-up to Christmas. Free, interactive, and family-friendly activities enhanced the festive visitor experience while driving foot traffic to support local retail and hospitality businesses. These activations were a key component of the Christmas marketing campaign, 'Celebrate the Season'.
Implement a range of activation initiatives across the City Centre Precincts	On-Track 	The first stage of the Lower Crown Street placemaking project has been implemented with the installation of large colourful planter boxes and plantings within outdoor dining areas. The existing trail of illuminated wayfinding sculptures along Western Crown Street have been refreshed with new colourful exterior panels and brighter interior lighting. Two additional wayfinding sculptures will be added to increase pedestrian legibility. The refurbishment designs are completed and the installation is scheduled for delivery this financial year.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

City Centre Management Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Deliver an integrated marketing campaign that reflects the 'city experience'	On-Track 	<p>An integrated marketing campaign highlighted the 'city experience' during the festive period. The Christmas marketing campaign, 'Celebrate the Season,' included an 'Australiana' theme and showcased the Wollongong CBD as a vibrant and festive destination. The campaign utilised multiple marketing channels. Digital efforts included social media, website content, and Google AdWords. Radio advertising expanded the campaign's reach.</p> <p>Festive site dressings in Crown Street Mall, Wollongong, created a welcoming atmosphere that highlighted the Christmas spirit. Business windows decorated with Christmas bauble decals contributed an additional layer of festivity.</p>
Develop and implement City Centre Wayfinding	On-Track 	<p>Designs for the creative wayfinding project in Ethel Hayton Walkway, Wollongong progressed. The project scope includes artistic wayfinding signage to more clearly identify the Walkway as a pedestrian connector between the key precincts of Lower Crown Street and the Arts Precinct. Supplementing this will be a canopy of fairy lights, spotlights in the garden beds and refurbishment of the community gallery lightboxes. The final design is due to be delivered by June 2025.</p>

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Economic Development

Responsibility *Director Planning and Environment*

About this Service

This service promotes sustainable economic development across the Wollongong Local Government Area working with business and industry to attract business, support educational and employment opportunities, to retain young people, local talent and create employment pathways for the unemployed. The service contributes to a number of economic development programs and initiatives in partnership with business, government, the University of Wollongong and a range of business and industry stakeholders.

Quarterly Progress Update

This quarter saw 35 business/investor enquires ranging from business support and information to facilitating larger projects through Invest Wollongong.

Council continued to deliver its monthly business e-newsletter, with a consistent open rate of approximately 40% or 12,000 opens.

Council has continued to collaborate with Service NSW Business Bureau's Business Connect program to deliver 'Business Health Checks' for local businesses in Thirroul and Wollongong.



Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029	On-Track 	<p>Council supported a number of events as part of NSW Small Business Month in October 2024, with the NSW Small Business Commissioner hosting a Small Business Expo for local businesses. The Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo, including a Procurement Networking Event was held on 16 October at Inside Industry and the Expo was held on 17 October at the Wollongong Town Hall.</p> <p>Council hosted its annual 'Doing Business with Council' event, providing information for local business interested in doing business with Council. Over 300 people registered for the event, which involved a series of presentations from across Council.</p> <p>Engagement for the mid-term review of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029 commenced, including two Reference Group meetings and an internal staff workshop.</p> <p>The second Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Roundtable for 2024 was held, bringing together local CEOs to discuss the Wollongong economy and other issues.</p>

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Economic Development Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

<p>In partnership with NSW Government and the University of Wollongong, deliver the Invest Wollongong program</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p><i>Invest Wollongong</i> hosted its annual stakeholder event on 19 November 2024, bringing local industry groups and commercial agents together to receive an update on <i>Invest Wollongong</i>'s recent activities. The new <i>Invest Wollongong</i> Advocate Program was launched at the event.</p> <p><i>Invest Wollongong</i> partnered with the NSW Government to host the Port Kembla Clean Energy Showcase Number 3 on 21 November 2024. Several Senior Commonwealth and NSW Government delegates participated in the showcase, highlighting the Illawarra region's leadership in the clean energy transition, including over \$750M worth of major clean energy projects due to be completed by the end of 2024.</p> <p><i>Invest Wollongong</i> sponsored the annual i3net Industry Showcase on 7-8 November 2024, with 200 people attending to hear firsthand the regions advanced manufacturing capabilities.</p> <p>The <i>Invest Wollongong</i> 'all ways on' digital marketing campaign continued this quarter, achieving 3,000 followers on LinkedIn.</p> <p>The #MadeInWollongong Business Leader Series was also launched. This new initiative is dedicated to promoting local businesses that are putting Wollongong on the map. The new series will see one business leader profiled each month and promoted to a national audience.</p>
<p>Report against the five pillars of the Destination Wollongong Funding Agreement 2021-2026 including: Marketing, Major Events, Business Visitor Economy, Tourism Infrastructure and Product Development and Cycling</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Destination Wollongong secured five major events this quarter, including the Yours & Owls 10th Birthday, New South Wales Touch Country Championships, Down Under Championships, Australian Supercross Championship Triple Crown, and Surfing Australia Junior Surf Titles.</p> <p>The Dental Association of New South Wales hosted its state convention at Novotel Wollongong, attracting 250 members, while the University of Wollongong held a medical conference.</p> <p>In total, seven major events and two business events were secured, with two more major events and two business events pending.</p> <p>Marketing efforts focused on social media collaborations with CrossFit, the Australian Supercross Championship, and Junior Surfing Titles athletes.</p> <p>The Wollongong Visitor Guide launched on 4 December 2024, and three familiarisation groups toured Grand Pacific Drive, including North Asian travel agents, Chinese media, and G'day Australia UK-Europe travel agents.</p> <p>The Wollongong Bike Friendly Business program was a finalist in the UCI Bike City Awards.</p>

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Tourist Parks

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service


Wollongong City Tourist Parks provide beachside accommodation for visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang. The three Tourist Parks compete in a commercial environment and operate accordingly to ensure they remain commercially viable and provide an acceptable return to Council.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council implemented an 'on selling' process for holiday vans which stay permanently on site. Holiday van owners have not been able to transfer their occupation agreements (on selling) to a new owner since 2008 when Council placed a moratorium on their sale to ensure compliance with a NSW Crown Lands directive to reduce holiday van numbers to less than 50%.

Since COVID-19, holiday van numbers in the park have decreased. The introduction of the ability to transfer agreements have been welcomed by our holiday van owners, with fourteen applications received in the first month. The ability to sell process ensures that the holiday van is fully compliant, and all fees paid before approval is given.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Commercially manage Council's three tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang to optimise service delivery and contribute to Council's financial sustainability	On-Track 	The quarter commenced with the busy October long weekend, with 2,033 nights stayed across the three parks in three days. Occupancy rates of cabins in October were equivalent to the same period last year at 74%.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – December 2023	Result – December 2024
City Centre Management			
Number of People Movements Within Crown Street Mall	500,000 (per quarter)	Not Applicable [#]	599,964 [*]
[#] Data unavailable due to system outage.			
[*] Estimated using those Mall entry points where technology is available to count. Quarterly result for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.			
Economic Development			
Business Enquiries Facilitated	Increase	20	34 ¹
¹ Quarterly result for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.			
Tourist Parks			
Tourist Park occupancy rate of cabins	Greater than 60%	72.52%	74.1% ²
Tourist parks occupancy rate of powered sites	Greater than 50%	55.97%	57.7% ²

² Result as at 31 December 2024.

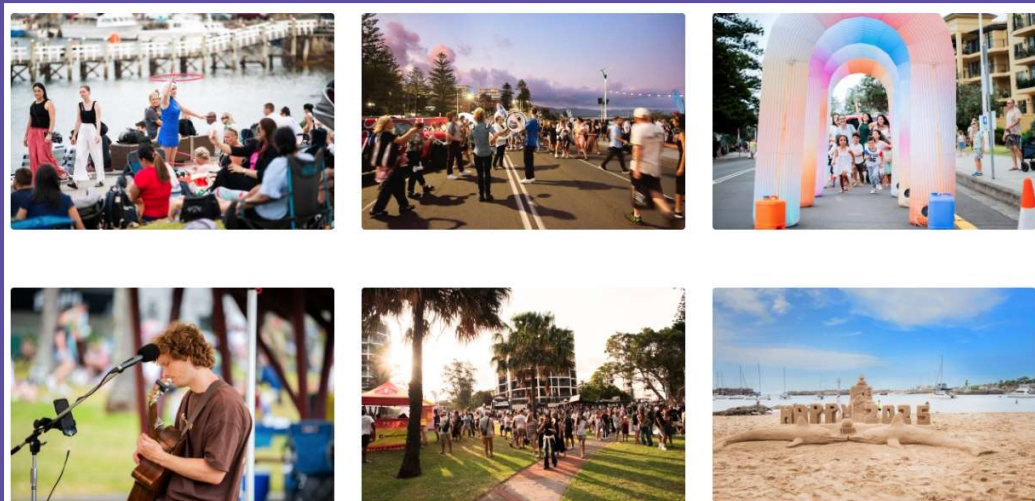
Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the Annual Report where available.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

December Quarter Highlights



Culture Mix 2024 held on 20 October brought people together to celebrate our diverse cultural communities.



New Years Eve was celebrated at the Wollongong Foreshore with an estimated 24,000 people attending the free community event.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Cultural Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Provide direction for the creative sector, support and grow creative industries and support community participation in creative life and celebrate our unique places and spaces.

Quarterly Progress Update

Implementation of the 10-year cultural plan, *Creative Wollongong 2024–2033*, commenced this quarter.



Cultural events included the installation of the *Hill 60 Dreaming* terrazzo artwork in Port Kembla, sharing local Aboriginal stories. Festivals such as the second *Culture Mix* drew over 16,000 attendees, while the free *Open Street Festival* in Port Kembla brought thousands together for live music and family-friendly activities.

Renowned author Shain Shapiro led a panel on live music and urban planning, and *Live @ Lunch* provided performance opportunities for local musicians.

The arts were showcased at the *Creative Wollongong Studios Open Day*, with six artists in residence, while 18 artists were selected for *Sculpture in the Garden 2025*, including six competing for the inaugural ephemeral prize.

An internal 24-hour working group was formed to support a vibrant and sustainable night-time economy across the Local Government Area.



Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver community cultural development festival	On-Track 	<p>Culture Mix 2024 was delivered on Saturday, 20 October, with more than 16,000 patrons attending the highly acclaimed event in the Wollongong CBD.</p> <p>Post event reviews and reporting have been conducted and work towards acquitting the Multicultural NSW's grant for the event is underway.</p> <p>Opportunities to fund the event in 2025 have been investigated.</p> <p>A grant application for \$100,000 in funding has been made to Create NSW under the 'Cultural Access-Priority Area Projects'.</p> <p>The new round of funding for 'Multicultural NSW – Stronger Together Local Council Major Festival Grants' was announced in late November 2024. A funding application for this grant is currently being developed.</p>
Develop a new Cultural Plan	Complete 	The new Cultural Plan, <i>Creative Wollongong 2024-2033</i> , was endorsed by Council in July 2024.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Cultural Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Implement priorities from Framing our Future: Wollongong Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2020-2025	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Wollongong Art Gallery presented several high-quality exhibitions, including <i>Dreams Nursed in Darkness</i>, curated by Claire Taylor and Elizabeth Day, and <i>A Road Less Travelled</i> by local artist and curator John Kuczwal. The Gallery also unveiled <i>Shape Shifters</i>, a major retrospective of Australian collage curated by Angie Cass, alongside two exhibitions drawn from the Gallery's collection, <i>Radiant</i> and <i>In Essence</i>. Additional exhibitions included showcases by the Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong, Ruth Barbato, and the Da Vinci Studio's Annual Art Award. Each exhibition featured at least one public program, such as talks or performances.</p> <p>Fifty works were acquired into the permanent collection, including a 1989 Mandy Martin painting of Port Kembla Steelworks, purchased by the Friends of Wollongong Art Gallery.</p> <p>Education programs engaged 648 participants, with highlights including a student landscape photography competition attracting 356 entries and a partnership with the Ngaramura Project for <i>Dreams Nursed in Darkness</i> workshops. Public programs drew 920 visitors to talks, screenings, performances, and concerts.</p> <p>The Gallery's website received 22,800 page views, with 7% of traffic from social media. Facebook and Instagram posts reached 88,500 and 14,200 accounts, respectively, with a <i>Here + Now</i> curator callout becoming the top-performing post, reaching 7,000 accounts and generating 415 interactions</p>
Implement the 'Animating Wollongong: Public Art Strategy 2022-2032'	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Local artists were offered exhibition opportunities through the Curio Gallery in Crown Street Mall, Wollongong.</p> <p>Uncle Steven Russell's terrazzo artwork <i>Hill 60 Dreaming</i> was laid as part of the Hill 60 interpretative art project. Eighteen artists were selected through an open Expression of Interest process for the 2025 Sculpture In The Garden Wollongong exhibition, including six in the new ephemeral category.</p> <p>Public art maintenance, cleaning, maintenance and major repairs were conducted at Bald Hill, Wollongong, Bellambi and Port Kembla.</p>

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Engagement, Communication and Events

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

The service is responsible for internal and external communications including media, community engagement, delivery of major community events, management of Sister City Relations, coordination of Council's Financial Assistance Policy and the provision of graphic design, digital content, print and signage needs for the organisation.

Quarterly Progress Update


Community engagement for the Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan review used a range of approaches to reach all parts of the community. Engagement included attendance at local events, reply-paid postcards, feedback cards, surveys (online and hard copy), and targeted workshops for harder-to-reach groups, supported by an integrated communications campaign across Council channels.

Proactive communications and marketing efforts promoted the *Net Zero Heroes* climate mitigation campaign, *Culture Mix* advertising and promotion, and the *Swim into Summer* water safety campaign. Communications plans were also developed for Avian Flu, the Helensburgh Community Rooms opening, and a 2025 Libraries membership campaign.

The Visual Strategy team delivered 309 graphic design projects, 126 print jobs, 122 signage jobs, and five audio-visual projects. Highlights included printing the Local Government Area-wide community newsletter, developing the visual approach for the Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan and *Sculpture in the Garden 2025*, and delivering *Darkes Road Sports* signage in Dapto.

Events delivered this quarter included *Culture Mix*, which brought over 16,000 people to Wollongong's central business district, the *Port Kembla Streets Festival* in partnership with the New South Wales Government and Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce, *Carols in MacCabe Park*, and New Year's Eve celebrations. Planning for *Seniors Festival 2025* is well underway.



Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Host six major events reflecting priority sectors and contribute to the acquisition and management of signature events	On-Track 	Destination Wollongong supported five major events including: Down Under Championships, Australian Supercross Championship Triple Crown, Surfing Australia Junior Surf Titles, Yours & Owls 10th Birthday Party and the NSW Touch Football Country Championships.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Engagement, Communication and Events Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Deliver civic activities which recognise and celebrate the city's people	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Two civic events celebrated Wollongong's sister city relationship with Kawasaki, Japan. The <i>Junior Art and Culture Prize</i> online exchange on 15 October brought together a Kawasaki delegation, the Lord Mayor, and students to celebrate prize winners and share conversations. In early November, Council welcomed a delegation of elected representatives from Kawasaki to the city.</p> <p><i>Open Streets Port Kembla</i> was held on 5 October 2024, bringing over 5,000 people to the area with support from Open Streets grant funding through Transport for New South Wales.</p> <p>The <i>City of Wollongong Giving Tree Appeal</i> partnered with Anglicare and St Vincent de Paul Society to collect gifts for local families in need. The <i>Bikers Toy Run</i>, now in its 35th year, rolled into the city centre on 7 December, with over 90 riders donating to the appeal and more than 200 spectators enjoying the event.</p> <p><i>Carols in MacCabe Park</i> took place on 12 December in partnership with Wollongong Conservatorium of Music.</p> <p>New Year's Eve 2024 was held at the Wollongong foreshore, with activations in Osborne Park and Lang Park featuring food and carnival rides. The event was supported by platinum partner ForHealth and sponsors Cram Foundation, i98, and Illawarra Mercury.</p>
Deliver a diverse range of community engagement opportunities to receive feedback and guide Council's services	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>The community was invited to provide input on several projects, including the Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, Helensburgh Library and Community Centre, Helensburgh Men's Shed, CCTV Evaluation, Cleveland Road, Community Safety Survey, Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study, Permit Plug Play, and Wilson Street, Wollongong Shared Zone.</p> <p>Plans and policies placed on public exhibition included the Draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy, Privacy Management Plan Review, Planning Proposal Request – Stockland Forest Reach Estate Huntley, Draft Neighbourhood Plan – Cleveland Road East Precinct, Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 (Chapter A1: Introduction), and Councillors Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy.</p> <p>Targeted engagement with local Aboriginal communities was undertaken for Hill 60, Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, and the Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study.</p>

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Engagement, Communication and Events Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Develop and deliver an organisational Brand Strategy	On-Track 	The Council brand strategy progressed with developing and implementing a refreshed look, feel and tone for community engagement communications and promotions. The 2024-2025 swim season campaign was launched which aims to promote safety and accessibility in public and private swimming places and Wollongong's 35+ places to swim. An integrated advertising and communications approach including radio, cinema, print and digital advertising as well as updated web and social media content will be implemented over the summer months.
Review Council's Community Engagement Strategy	On-Track 	Council's Community Engagement Strategy Council Policy has been reviewed in accordance with the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting framework best practice approach. The Policy was adopted by Council on 16 December 2024.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – December 2023	Result – December 2024
Cultural Services			
Wollongong Art Gallery Partnership Projects Engaging With First Nations And Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities	2 per annum	14	8 ¹
Subsidised Artist Studio Space - Opportunities Accessed	6 per annum	6	6 ²
Wollongong City Gallery visitation	Increase	10,635	10,430
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall Visitation	Increase	37,179	29,218
¹ Quarterly result for the period 1 October – 31 December 2024. ² Six Lower Town Hall Studios were occupied as at 31 December 2024.			
Engagement, Communications and Events			
Followers, Reach and Engagement Across Council's Social Media Channels	Increase	74,006	79,400 ³
³ Result as at 31 December 2024.			

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the Annual Report where available.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

December Quarter Highlights



The Aboriginal Business Expo was held at Wollongong Town Hall as part of Indigenous Business Month.



The Refugee Challenge was held in partnership with Corrimal High School and Multicultural Communities Council of the Illawarra (MCCI) and attended by over 200 students.



Library loans topped the 1 million mark for the first time this decade, with 1,002,330 books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs and magazines borrowed from the Local Government Area's seven libraries over the course of the year .

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Aged and Disability Services

Responsibility *Manager Library and Community Services*

About this Service

Build the capacity of older people and people with disability to participate fully in community life. Enhance access to services for frail, older people and people with disability and their carers to enable them to continue to live independently in the community.



Quarterly Progress Update

Marketing and promotional activity continues for Community Support Services. The social support brochure was updated and published along with our volunteer handbook, a new fleet vehicle manual and updated volunteer induction materials.

Social support and Community Transport services continue to be delivered.

Community support services have Commonwealth Government funding arrangements until 30 June 2025.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Support the delivery of programs providing social connection for frail aged people and their carers	On-Track 	Regular social groups and outings continue to foster community connection, including intergenerational activities that strengthen ties between younger and older people. Windang Social Group visited Lindsay Park Public School, Figtree, where Years 3-6 students hosted a morning tea to show appreciation for our amazing older people. The Community Services summer newsletter was distributed to promote upcoming events, including a <i>save the date</i> for the <i>NSW Seniors Festival</i> in March 2025, themed <i>Time to Shine!</i> The International Volunteer Day: Wollongong City Council Volunteer Annual Recognition Event on 5 December 2024 honoured volunteers' contributions, with the Lord Mayor presenting milestone certificates for 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service.
Deliver the Community Transport Services Program across the Wollongong and Shellharbour Local Government Areas	On-Track 	During the quarter, the annual Expression of Interest opened to eligible community groups and service providers for the hire of subsidised community transport buses. Transport Service welcomed new casual bus drivers to assist in service delivery to the community. The Community Transport Aboriginal Outreach Officer partnered with Wollongong Police on a new initiative providing transport for at risk community members, helping them access activities designed to reduce repeat offending.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Aged and Disability Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Investigate options for alternative service delivery models for Community Transport, in response to Commonwealth and NSW Government policy

On-Track



On 25 November 2024, the Aged Care Bill passed Parliament to become the new Aged Care Act from 1 July 2025. The new Act introduces a rights-based framework for the delivery of aged care which focuses on people accessing funded aged care services, and their rights in relation to care. The implementation of a new rights based Aged Care Act will be a significant change for the aged care sector.

Council is reviewing the impact of any changes in the industry environment to inform how services are delivered into the future.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Community programs deliver support to people living in Wollongong Local Government Area. These services deliver community programs, building community capacity and wellbeing related to target groups and communities, including placemaking, community safety and community and cultural planning.

Quarterly Progress Update

A range of community development activities and programs focused on diversity, access, inclusion, capacity building, and community safety.



Social impact and crime prevention through environmental design advice was provided for development, pre-lodgement, and event applications.

In December 2024, Council hosted a roundtable with homelessness service providers to discuss sector challenges.

Two events marked *Indigenous Business Month*: a procurement networking event at *Inside Industry* and the *Aboriginal Business Expo* at Wollongong Town Hall.

Extensive community engagement was undertaken for the *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035* Community Strategic Plan review. Various methods, including reply-paid postcards, feedback cards, surveys, and targeted workshops, ensured diverse input from all parts of the community.




Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Child Safe Implementation Plan	On-Track 	Council continues to participate in the Local Government Child Safe Network. A project is underway to review and improve the way we capture and store photos of children and young people.
Review and deliver the Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023	On-Track 	Multiple activities were held including workshops on weaving, painting, oral history, boomerang art, poetry, rap, caring for Country, and tree planting. National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Family Fun Day outreach in Bellambi, Koonawarra, and Warrawong engaged nearly 1,000 community members. <i>Culture Mix</i> celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, while Council staff supported tree plantings at the University of Wollongong's Bellambi Festival. As part of Indigenous Business Month, an Aboriginal Procurement Networking Event was held at Inside Industry, and the Aboriginal Business Expo was successfully delivered at Wollongong Town Hall.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Deliver a range of community development activities and programs that focus on diversity, access, inclusion, and capacity building	On-Track 	<p>The Refugee Challenge was held in partnership with Corrimal High School and Multicultural Communities Council of the Illawarra (MCCI). Community members from refugee background shared their lived experience with students during the tours.</p> <p>The Lord Mayor's School Starters Picnic was held in partnership with Big Fat Smile.</p> <p><i>Living Books</i> was delivered at Smiths Hill High School and an end of year celebration and workshop was held with volunteer books.</p> <p>Stalls were held by various Council teams at community led National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week events.</p>
Deliver the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020 2025	On-Track 	<p>A community session on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan was held in December 2024. This was an opportunity to engage with people with disability and their carers on achievements against the plan, future plans and the best ways to engage on the new Plan due in July 2026.</p> <p><i>Culture Mix</i> featured a range of access provisions to support people with disability to participate.</p> <p>Guide Dogs NSW provided two sessions of industry training for Council Officers.</p> <p>A calendar of events to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disability was delivered in partnership with Shellharbour City Council.</p> <p>An Audio Described Tour and Workshops for the Radiant exhibition at Wollongong Art Gallery were provided for people who are blind and have low vision.</p>
In partnership with South32 develop a plan that reflects the values and aspirations of the Mt Kembla and Kembla Heights stakeholders.	On-Track 	<p>Feedback from the community on the draft Vision, Guiding Principles and proposed actions has been considered and the Kembla Vision: A Plan for the Future has now been drafted.</p>

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Deliver the Community Safety Action Plan 2021 2025	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Council assisted the <i>Reclaim the Night</i> march held in October and hosted the Domestic Violence Speed networking event in December 2024, in partnership with the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence.</p> <p><i>Safer Cities: Her Way</i> festoon lighting extension was completed and signage designed for Port Kembla and MacCabe Park, Wollongong. Dapto Square, Dapto, Wentworth Street, Port Kembla and MacCabe Park, Wollongong continue to be activated with the popularity of the interventions.</p> <p>Community Safety Survey engagement commenced to over the summer period including high school sessions and community pop-up events.</p>
Initiate opportunities and projects to support the community	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Twenty-four (24) successful applicants from Connecting Neighbours Round 11 progressed delivery of their events and projects. These include gardening activities, community barbecues and a street library.</p> <p>A new Wollongong Youth Forum was elected. The twelve Forum members will explore project ideas and meet with key decision makers, stakeholders and potential partners to develop and deliver initiatives to improve outcomes for their communities.</p> <p>In partnership with the Illawarra Indigenous Business Network, an Aboriginal Business Expo was held in Indigenous Business Month, showcasing a wide array of Aboriginal owned businesses.</p> <p>A range of events and activities were supported as part of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence including the <i>Reclaim the Night</i> march, Women's Creative Expressions Competition and a Rose Vigil in MacCabe Park, Wollongong.</p> <p>A Disaster Resilience Expo was held for young people. Information stalls and activities were provided by NSW State Emergency Services, Rural Fire Service and Red Cross.</p>

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Corporate Strategy

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

Corporate Strategy responds to the community's needs from engagement, prepares, monitor and reports on Council's progress to our community, coordinates research and performance measurement and carries out strategic and business improvement projects.

Quarterly Progress Update

The State of Our City Report, which outlines progress on the delivery of the Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan 2032 was endorsed by Council on 25 November 2024 and informs the development of the next Community Strategic Plan. At this meeting, Council also endorsed the 2023-2024 Annual Report (including annual audited financial statements) and adopted the September 2024 Quarterly Review Statement.

A comprehensive Councillor induction program was prepared and delivered focusing on the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and financial management fundamentals.



A review of Council's strategies and plans was completed to inform the preparation of the new four-year Delivery Program and Operational Plans.

Work progressed during the quarter on the whole of organisation review of performance measurement.

Service Optimisation on the customer service journey continued, with a focus on rates and stormwater customer interfaces.


Project Management training continues to be rolled out to increase organisational capacity and capability in this area. During the December quarter, three sessions were delivered to 52 participants.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate Council's Service Optimisation Program	On-Track 	The Service Optimisation Program continues to progress. The current focus is on the rates and stormwater services customer interface. Internal data analysis has progressed, and internal stakeholder sessions have been scheduled. Actions from the first service optimisation on the Development Assessment customer interface (undertaken last financial year) continue to be implemented.
Coordinate the preparation and review of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan	On-Track 	A cross organisational review of the status of all Supporting Documents was completed to inform the development of the draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026. Drafting of the Delivery Program and Operational plan will continue concurrently with the development of the Community Strategic Plan. Recent community engagement completed as part of phase 1 for the Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan 2035 will also inform the development of the next Delivery Program. This action remains on track and is scheduled to be adopted by Council on 30 June 2025 in accordance with legislative requirements.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Corporate Strategy Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Facilitate the review of the Community Strategic Plan	On-Track 	Phase 1 of community engagement concluded on the 18 November, with a significant amount of feedback received from the community. This information will shape the development of the next Community Strategic Plan, Our Wollongong Our Future 2035.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Integrated Customer Service

Responsibility Manager Customer and Business Integrity



About this Service

Provision of a professional and efficient customer service experiences with Council through a variety of methods.

Quarterly Progress Update

Work continues to identify improvements to the way in which Customer Service is delivered via Council's Customer Service Centre. Improvements to the customer service request system continue to be identified and actioned including the way in which some requests are structured and triaged. The new telephone system continues to be refined to enable efficient service, with discussions commencing on further enhancements. Processes to enable First Contact Resolution continue to be identified and are supported by improvements to the internal knowledge base as the key support resource.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and enhance Council's customer service and engagement channels with a focus on inclusion and participation	On-Track 	Work continues to increase accessibility into Council's customer facing processes. During the quarter, a range of customer service improvements were identified including: the revision of identified customer request forms, communications relating to Council's Online Services portal, and the development of customer facing quick reference guides on how to use the Online Services system. A review of the After-Hours service progressed, and existing telephone messaging is being reviewed.
Review the customer service journey across targeted, high priority operations as part of the Service Optimisation Program and identify opportunities for improvement	On-Track 	The Service Optimisation Program project for customer service has commenced and is being delivered against the project plan. Work continues with business units to create processes leading to First Contact Resolution through expanding the information available to Customer Service to reduce frequency of transferred calls or requests to other business units.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries

Responsibility *Manager Library and Community Services*

About this Service

Wollongong City Libraries delivers information, learning outcomes and access to resources for residents and visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area. The service is delivered from seven libraries and 10 street libraries, across the city, and through the Home Library Service, and a range of online services.



Quarterly Progress Update

Wollongong City Libraries continue to see strong community interactions with the service. Physical borrowing is tracking towards the 240,000 quarterly average, while digital loans exceed 30,000 per month. In 2024, total lending surpassed one million physical loans, the highest since 2019, alongside 350,000 digital loans, reflecting five to ten percent annual growth. Customer reservations for library items are set to exceed 50,000 for the quarter, continuing the recent ten to twenty percent annual increase.

In October and November, 38,777 new items were added to the collection, including 53 Local Studies materials. The integration of BorrowBox, which features eBooks and eAudio, into the library catalogue has improved accessibility. New membership trends remain strong, with more than 500 people joining each month. During the same period, 377 programs were delivered, attracting 8,177 attendees, alongside 16 outreach events across the Local Government Area.



Digital engagement remains high, with an average of 28,464 website visits and 27,367 interactions across the library's Facebook and Instagram channels. By the end of November, 111 customer satisfaction surveys had been completed, with 88 percent satisfaction recorded in October

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Comic Gong Festival	On-Track 	Planning for the 2025 Comic Gong event continues with the last meeting held to discuss the 2025 venue. On the 14 November 2024, the Coordinator Community Connection and Learning, presented at a webinar for the Australian Library and Information Association Graphic Novels Group, showcasing the Comic Gong festival and how it has evolved over the years.
Implement the Wollongong Learning City Project based on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization framework and principles	On-Track 	Content from the September 2024 internal workshop is being incorporated into the draft <i>Learning City Strategy</i> , which is currently being refined. Internal stakeholders will confirm agreed actions in January 2025. Once finalised, external consultation will begin, alongside efforts to develop the cross-sector Learning Network.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Deliver tailored library programs to facilitate access and participation of people with disability	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>The <i>Culture Mix Festival</i> in October 2024 included two sessions for people with disability, with 45 participants attending a Ukrainian doll-making workshop for the blind and low vision community, and 38 joining a Ukrainian snack and bead session for the deaf community.</p> <p>In early December, three Christmas craft sessions were held, including two for the blind and low vision community and one for people with disabilities. The <i>Knit Stitch Yarn</i> group continues weekly at Wollongong Library, welcoming regular attendees from a local disability care home and their support carers.</p> <p>To support young people, therapy dog Ollie and owner Judy visited the Library in October to assist Higher School Certificate students and promote mental well-being.</p>
Deliver library programs that recognise, reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of our community	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p><i>Tech Savvy</i> sessions were held at Coomaditchie, Warrawong and the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation for First Nations Elders, alongside Arabic and Chinese sessions. The <i>Get Online Week</i> program engaged 22 seniors in four sessions on healthy ageing in the digital space.</p> <p>A mental health awareness event for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community was delivered in partnership with Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Multicultural Health Service and Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra, with 45 participants. Four Persian polymer clay sessions were held for 57 participants, including one for Aboriginal Elders at the Illawarra Aboriginal Centre.</p> <p><i>Culture Mix</i> activities at the library attracted 1,247 participants across 17 events, including Ukrainian dumpling workshops, Aboriginal weaving, Korean-Pop and Bollywood dancing, Indian food stalls, and Korean puppet workshops. A <i>Drag Bingo</i> session at Dapto Library on 15 November 2024 welcomed 86 attendees, including members of the Queer community and people with disabilities and their carers.</p> <p>In December, Aboriginal Elders and youth took part in gingerbread house sessions at the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation and Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation. Programs delivered in partnership with Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra supported people from refugee backgrounds, including high school tutoring, Homework Club, and <i>Let's Chat</i> sessions.</p>

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Property Services

Responsibility Manager Commercial Operations and Property

About this Service

This service manages over 450 leases and licenses on behalf of Council and includes the management, development, maintenance and disposal of Council owned property in order to meet Council's statutory requirements and contribute to the expansion of Council's revenue base. Leases and licenses also ensure the effective management and coordination of community and business use of Council's public spaces, buildings and facilities.


Quarterly Progress Update

An audit of all Council's city centre metered carpark waiting list was completed, with letters of offer issued for available spaces. New expressions of interest are on hold until the waitlist is reduced.

Leasing tenders were conducted for Bulli Beach Café, Bulli Beach Tourist Park Café/Kiosk, and Corrimal Tourist Park Kiosk. A recommendation for Bulli Beach Café was presented at the 16 December 2024 Council meeting. The Corrimal Beach Café tender is under assessment, with the lease to begin in early 2025. The Bulli Beach Tourist Park Café/Kiosk tender was reissued, closing before Christmas, with a recommendation report scheduled for the 24 February 2025 Council meeting.

Negotiations continue for the acquisition of seven Cleveland Road properties to support road widening for the West Dapto Urban Release Project. A detailed review of Council's surplus land is also underway, focusing on potential disposals.

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Identify and implement business improvement initiatives to enhance commercial returns on Council's property portfolio	On-Track 	<p>Mobile Food Vending was successfully rolled out following a trial, with a dedicated Council webpage created to support vendor participation.</p> <p>Managing rental arrears remains a priority, with debts cleared or tenants entering payment plans. Car parking licence waitlists continue to be reviewed, contributing to higher occupancy rates.</p> <p>Preparation is underway for upcoming tenders and quotations for Council's commercial premises to minimise vacancy periods, with four high-profile properties nearing finalisation.</p> <p>Council continues to manage expired and holdover leases, ensuring market valuations are obtained and new agreements reflect market rent. This approach maximises revenue while maintaining best practices and legislative compliance.</p>

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Youth Services

Responsibility Manager Community Culture and Engagement

About this Service

Youth Services provides a program of recreation, cultural and education activities to meet the needs of young people aged 12-24 at Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Wollongong Local Government Area.

Council funds the Neighbourhood Youth Work Program (NYWP) in three areas (Port Kembla, Berkeley and Dapto and surrounds) to support the needs of young people in the community.

Quarterly Progress Update



A program of recreation, cultural, and educational activities continued for young people aged 12–24 at Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Local Government Area.

Council staff visited local high schools to provide information on Youth Services programs and activities.

The Disaster Resilience Expo was held at Wollongong Youth Centre, featuring information stalls and activities with the State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service, and Red Cross.

Elections for the Youth Forum were held in partnership with the Foundation for Young Australians as part of a pilot program. Young people aged 12–17 from across the Local Government Area participated in an election process overseen by the Australian Electoral Commission, resulting in twelve members being elected.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, inclusion, skill development, sector development and support.	On-Track 	A range of youth development opportunities were delivered including <i>Barista Express</i> , <i>Colourful Connections</i> , Bellambi Connect, Study Sessions, <i>Thrills N Skills</i> , Momentum, Dungeons Dragons, Crafts + Chat, Bundaleer Connect, <i>Teenz Connect</i> , Dapto Connect, music, art, work readiness and wellbeing workshops. The Wollongong Youth Forum has regularly. Eighteen (18) nominations for new Forum members were received, an election was held, and 12 young people will form the new Youth Forum for 2025.
Provide opportunities for young people to develop skills, experience and exposure in creative industries	On-Track 	The new <i>Through Our Lens</i> exhibition was installed. This exhibition explores the dark and light of mental health and displays powerful images and quotes. <i>Crafts + Chat</i> was delivered weekly with the opportunity to try new art mediums supported by Wollongong Youth Services Artist in Residence. The Youth Power Hour podcast made by young people, for young people continues to be streamed and accessed on Spotify this quarter. <i>Team Ignite</i> provided a platform for young people to inform live music, production activities and events at Wollongong Youth Centre. This quarter included Music for the Mind, Acoustic Sessions and Jamble Bells.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – December 2023	Result – December 2024
Aged and Disability Services			
Number of people over 65 using Community Transport	Increase	1,162	2,778 [#]
Number of hours of social support provided to people aged over 65	Maintain	6,113	7,175 [#]
Integrated Customer Service			
Answer customer enquiries at the first point of contact	Increase	New measure	74% ¹
Percent of customer requests responded to within 10 days	90%	New measure	82% ²
Correspondence met to target	90%	84%	92%
Libraries			
Library visitations	Increase	103,194 [*]	108,807 [#]
Library - membership	Increase	80,043	83,285 ³
Library – loans (physical and digital)	Increase	343,870	324,493 [#]
Number of Library learning programs	Increase	642	530 [#]
Participation rate in Library learning programs	Increase	12,419	12,118 [#]
Property Services			
Occupancy rates of commercial buildings	90%	96% ⁴	98% ³

¹ Customer Service Centre only and represents phone and 'in person' interactions.

² Currently under review.

^{*} December 2023 comparative result has been corrected.

³ Result as at 31 December 2024.

[#] Quarterly result for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – December 2023	Result – December 2024
Youth Services			
Wollongong Youth Services - participation of young people in programs and projects	At least 24,000 per annum	13,507 (Accumulative Year to Date)	14,892 (Accumulative Year to Date)

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the Annual Report where available.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

December Quarter Highlights



The new Inspirational Women rose specially created and planted at the Botanic Garden. Dorothy 'Dot' Hennessy OAM, Lord Mayor of Wollongong Councillor Tania Brown, Wollongong Botanic Garden curator and the Honourable Linda Hurley.



Demolition commenced at the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library site.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Aquatic Services

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council operates 17 patrolled beaches, two heated swimming pools at Dapto and Corrimal, six free public swimming pools located at Helensburgh, Thirroul, Western Suburbs (Unanderra), Continental Baths Wollongong, Port Kembla and Berkeley. We have nine ocean rock pools situated at Coalcliff, Wombarra, Coledale, Austinmer, Bulli, Woonona, Bellambi, Towradgi and Wollongong Gentleman's pool. Aquatic Services also provides ocean and pool lifeguard services and surf education programs.

Quarterly Progress Update




This quarter saw pool and beach attendance increase, likely influenced by the *Australian Junior Surfing Titles* at Woonona Beach and above-average spring temperatures.

Council is exploring alternative attendance tracking methods to improve data accuracy for both pools and beaches.

Extended service hours began in November, transitioning to peak hours in December to align with the New South Wales school holidays.

Work also commenced on the *Splash into Summer* marketing campaign, designed to promote attendance and reinforce safety messaging at pools and beaches.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Work with the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club to explore storage options	On-Track 	Work continues with the North Wollongong Surf Club on finding a suitable solution to enable boat storage off-site. A number of sites have been assessed during the quarter and further investigations are continuing.
Plan, design and undertake renewal works at Council's Community, Commercial Pools and Ocean Rock Pools in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Program	On-Track 	<p>Concept designs and estimates are being reviewed for the Helensburgh Pool upgrade. Council has received grant funding support under the NSW Government Multi Sport Community Facility Fund for this project.</p> <p>The existing pool heating system at Dapto Pool had reached end of life, and the replacement project was finalised during the quarter.</p>
Progress concept plans, investigations, and detailed designs for a Community Recreation & Aquatic Centre at Cleveland to service the Southern Suburbs	On-Track 	<p>Further deliberation is required on several strategic considerations before finalising concept planning.</p> <p>This financial year, Council will continue implementing and reviewing the Beaton Park Regional Precinct Master Plan and updating the Future of Our Pools Strategy to ensure planned investment and service delivery meet community needs.</p> <p>Once adopted, these documents will guide the progression and finalisation of concept plans to ensure alignment with Council's strategy.</p>

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*




About this Service

The Botanic Garden and Nursery service involves managing and promoting the conservation, education, recreation and aesthetic values of the main 30-hectare site in Keiraville, including the maintenance of the Gleniffer Brae grounds and the three natural area annexes of Mt Keira, Puckey's Estate and Korrungulla Wetland. Environmental education programs and interpretation are conducted at the Discovery Centre.

Quarterly Progress Update

During the quarter, the Botanic Garden welcomed 75,600 visitors. Forty Friends of the Botanic Garden contributed a total of 1,096 hours of service. The Nursery produced 15,634 new plants and distributed a 17,228 plants. Greenplan customers purchased a total 7,617 plants, which are locally sourced natives. Annex inspections and scheduled maintenance works are on track.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver priority actions from the Urban Greening Program	On-Track 	2,869 trees were planted across all natural area revegetation projects. Council hosted the Red Room Poetry National Awards at Holborn Park, Berkeley which included planting 400 native plants and trees. The celebration was for the finalists and saw the Red Room partnership equate to over 5,700 poems submitted with Council planting a tree for each submission. Warrawong High school students joined the natural areas team for a day in the life of Council and planted 350 native plants at Corrimal dunes. New Tiny Forests were installed in Fairy Meadow and Berkeley in partnership with local schools. The NSW Environmental Protection Authority highlighted the success of Council's Tiny Forests and use of Food Organics Garden Organics soils in current media campaigns. One hundred new street trees were planted along Windang Road, Windang, the Southern entrance to the city.
Enhance Botanic Garden visitor experience with programs, interpretation, education, events and priority actions from the Masterplan	On-Track 	Educational outreach included programs at National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week events at Koonawarra with approximately 100 people attending. Other Botanic Garden events included Friends led guided walks, buggy tours and <i>Budding Bookworms</i> .
Implement priority actions from the Botanic Garden Masterplan	On-Track 	Design work for the Kawasaki Bridge restoration and path renewal continued during the quarter. Enhancements to the Botanic Garden Living Collection included the planting of a rose named 'Inspirational Women' commissioned by Rotary Life Member Dot Hennessey, with a planting ceremony event attended by Rotary volunteers, former Governor General of Australia The Honourable David Hurley AC CVO DSC (Retd), The Honourable Linda Hurley and Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Manage the Mt Keira Summit Park in accordance with the Plan of Management

On-Track



A storm event in October 2024 caused significant tree damage in the Mount Keira Summit Park. All damaged trees have now been pruned and removed. Regular servicing of the facilities to support tourism and visitation continued at the site.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Community Facilities

Responsibility *Manager Library and Community Services*

About this Service

This service manages and operates 56 Council-owned community facilities across the Wollongong Local Government Area. This includes Neighbourhood Centres, Senior Citizens Centres, Childcare Centres, Libraries, Community Centres and Community Halls.

Quarterly Progress Update

Community facility participation and hire continue to grow, with six new regular hirers and a new Halls for Hire brochure launched.

Major community events hosted this quarter showcased the diversity of facility use, including those by St Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Illawarra Kerala Society, and Illawarra Malayalee Association. Five fee waivers were also processed.


Following the announcement of the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library site, community engagement included 345 individual discussions and 313 online interactions. The functional scope brief was handed over to Council's design team.

Demolition has begun at the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library site. District facility upgrades included new projectors, induction videos, and refurbishment planning for Dapto, Corimal, and Thirroul community centres.

Works at the Helensburgh Community Rooms were completed ahead of the 1 January 2025 opening, with Council approving fees and charges after public exhibition. Bookings for the new year commenced.




Ten site visits to licensed community facilities were conducted, with seven Work Applications approved and performance reports issued to all licensees.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Plan for a new Community Centre and Library at Warrawong to serve Wollongong's southern suburbs	Delayed 	Council continued to seek State and Federal government funding contributions for the construction of the new Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library and delivery of town centre improvements in the precinct. To ensure the project is shovel ready, progress continued on the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library with demolition commencing with the contractor on-site and the King Street Shop awning removal. Electrical design has also commenced for the relocation of the electrical box on King Street. All redundant water services will be decommissioned and capped during demolition.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Community Facilities Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Plan for a new Community Centre and Library to meet the needs of the community in Helensburgh and surrounding suburbs	On-Track 	<p>Work is progressing on the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library following the site announcement in September 2024.</p> <p>Community engagement was completed, with sessions on 9, 17, and 26 October attracting 345 attendees, while 313 online enquiries were received. Children also contributed by creating artwork inspired by Helensburgh and the local area.</p> <p>The functional brief is being finalised, with input sought from the State Library.</p> <p>Works on the Helensburgh Community Rooms are complete, and bookings have begun ahead of the 1 January 2025 opening.</p>
Progress planning and construction of Wongawilli Hall extension and refurbishment	On-Track 	<p>Work continues on the refurbishment of the Wongawilli Community Hall with the Scope of work being reviewed.</p>
Develop and deploy 'Places for People' Forward Directions Plan 2022-2036 (Implementation Plan)	On-Track 	<p>During the quarter, the development application for Otford Community Hall was under assessment, the draft specification for Dapto Ribbonwood Centre lift replacement was prepared, and demolition began for the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library.</p> <p>Engagement on the Helensburgh Community Centre and Library site selection and scope of works was completed.</p> <p>At Thirroul District Community Centre and Library, wall removal and café repurposing were completed, with a project nomination submitted for car park footpath improvements.</p> <p>A successful grant was secured for Darkes Town Centre Sports and Community Hub Stage 2 works. A feasibility study for Bong Bong Community Centre and Library will commence this financial year, while the Yallah Marshall Mount Community Centre study is now complete. A project nomination is being developed for Wollongong Library to deliver minor upgrades that enhance amenity and modernise the facility.</p>

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Leisure Centres

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*


About this Service

This service involves the provision of commercially operated recreation centres at Beaton Park Wollongong and Lakeside Leisure Kanahooka.

Quarterly Progress Update

A total of 10,658 visits occurred across the leisure centres during the quarter. **The** Learn to Swim program continued to increase leading into the warmer months, with occupancy currently sitting at 91%.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the renewal and relocation of Beaton Park Tennis Courts in accordance with the Beaton Park Masterplan	On-Track 	The renewal of Beaton Park Tennis Complex is continuing construction, with works currently being finalised for Stage 1. Stage 2 works including the temporary car park and amenities are scheduled to commence in early 2025.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service

This service provides memorial, burial and funeral service facilities at six sites across the Local Government Area. These include Wollongong Memorial Gardens, Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, Wollongong Cemetery, Bulli Cemetery, Scarborough Cemetery and Helensburgh Cemetery. The service also maintains three non-operational sites of historical and cultural significance. These include Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery, Settler's Cemetery and Waterfall General Cemetery.

Quarterly Progress Update

The Cemetery Interment Scheme was fully implemented in October 2024, introducing new customer contracts and maintenance standards. Mandated by the NSW Government, the scheme enhances transparency and consumer confidence in cemetery operations.

Council staff contributed to the review of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013, advocating for streamlined processes to verify interment right holders and improve outdated contact procedures.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage Council's commercial businesses to optimise service delivery at Wollongong Memorial Gardens and cemeteries	On-Track 	<p>A design has been finalised for tender to provide ash interments at Wollongong Memorial Gardens.</p> <p>Sales at Scarborough Cemetery continue to be strong with over 50% of sites sold in the newly opened garden.</p> <p>New beams were installed at Wollongong Lawn Cemetery in several sections to ensure the long-term needs of our community are catered for. Funding opportunities for the Aboriginal Section are being explored and when completed, will be one of the first of its kind in NSW.</p>

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields

Responsibility *Manager Property and Recreation*

About this Service





This service operates 493 parks, 65 sports fields, 220 playing fields, 7 outdoor fitness stations, 9 turf wickets and 154 playgrounds across the Wollongong Local Government Area and includes Russell Vale Golf Course. Provision of passive access to community parks and playgrounds, and affordable and equitable access to sports fields and facilities. Twenty two sports fields are licensed by volunteer or semi-professional sporting clubs.

Quarterly Progress Update

There was a total of 306 bookings for parks and 1,228 bookings for sports fields during the quarter. A number of sporting clubs have requested letters of consent to apply for funding to support infrastructure improvements across our sports fields.






Work is currently taking place on the transition of our remote sportsfield lighting system.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Progress the development of the Lang Park Masterplan	On-Track 	Internal stakeholder consultation has been completed, and procurement is currently being finalised to engage a consultant to undertake community consultation and a draft concept plan.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Thomas Gibson Park, Thirroul	On-Track 	Design has been completed and procurement is underway to start construction in 2025.
Preparation of the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan	On-Track 	Investigations are ongoing into the planning constraints and cultural significance of the Bellambi foreshore. Council continues to engage with key stakeholders and landowners including Homes NSW, Heritage NSW, Sydney Water, and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Corporation to coordinate future planning for this precinct. Design options are being assessed for the refurbishment of the jetty and boat ramp, alongside a review of funding opportunities to support these upgrades. Council recently coordinated a short-term response to protect an exposed midden along the foreshore. Planning for long-term protection measures has begun in consultation with stakeholders to ensure preservation.
Finalise the Bulli Showground Masterplan	Deferred 	Community consultation and a draft Master Plan were completed in 2023–2024. In 2024, Transport for NSW began investigating the Memorial Drive extension to bypass Bulli Town Centre, including identifying a feasible location and footprint for the bypass. As the Showground is within the investigation area, finalising the Master Plan will depend on the outcomes of this planning work.



GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Implement the Landscape Masterplan recommendations for Hill 60 Reserve, Port Kembla	On-Track 	Works are being finalised with stage 1A of the Landscape Master Plan with works taking place within the car parking area. This area includes the formalisation of car parking, pedestrian pathways and viewing area and associated landscaping as well as public art.
Collaborate with Destination Wollongong and the Australian Baseball League to establish Wollongong as a home base location for a National Baseball League team	On-Track 	Council staff are reviewing the site analysis for two sportsfields against infrastructure requirements required to establish and host a National Baseball League Team.
Progress the planning and development of a Wollongong City Centre Skate Park	Delayed 	Construction has been delayed whilst Council works with a consultant to finalise a city centre skate park in MacCabe Park, Wollongong. Once completed, a concept plan will be developed to support community discussions on the proposed skate park. Commencement of construction is currently delayed.
Deliver funded sportsfield irrigation and drainage infrastructure projects	On-Track 	Drainage works are being finalised at King George Oval, Port Kembla supported by funded from the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund. Works are currently underway at Lakelands Oval, Dapto for the installation of drainage. The tender has closed for drainage works to be undertaken at St James Park football fields, Kembla Grange, will begin in 2025.
Progress the planning and development of a Northern Suburbs Skate Park	On-Track 	Council has engaged a consultant to support the identification of a suitable site for a skate park in the Northern Suburbs. This report is being finalised with further consultation to occur with the community following the development of a concept plan.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Figtree Oval, Figtree	Delayed 	Further condition assessments and an alternative design outcome was investigated. Council is currently preparing procurement documentation for the design and construction of the renewal of the amenities at Figtree Oval, Figtree.
Install funded sportsfield lighting at priority locations in accordance with the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027	On-Track 	Site investigations and procurement documentation are underway for the design and construction of sportsfield lighting at Towradgi Park, Towradgi. It is envisaged this project will enter procurement in early 2025.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Deliver complementary infrastructure to support increased visitation and activation resulting from the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Network	On-Track 	Council is continuing to meet with NSW National Parks and Wildlife on the progression of formalised mountain bike trails within the escarpment. Planning works are continuing to support the Kembla Heights complementary infrastructure to be delivered by Council as part of the formalised trails.
Support the Illawarra Stingrays Football Club with establishing a home ground location at Lakelands Oval, Dapto by delivering funded drainage upgrades, finalising a long-term licence and supporting the Club with carrying out their grant funded works	On-Track 	<p>Council is continuing to work with the Illawarra Stingrays and Dapto Phoenix Football Clubs to enable works to progress at Lakelands Oval, Dapto and a long-term licence agreement.</p> <p>Works have commenced on the drainage for the sportsfield to support the future works being undertaken by the club.</p> <p>In addition, a valuation has been undertaken to inform the future proposed licence agreement between Council and the Illawarra Stingrays.</p>

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Public Health and Safety

Responsibility *Manager Regulation and Enforcement*

About this Service

This service conducts and manages the registration, inspections and monitoring of premises regulated under the Food Act and Public Health Act with the aim of ensuring compliance. Development of the environmental and public health and safety policies, community education programs and customer information.



Quarterly Progress Update

Compliance inspections were carried out across hairdressers, cooling towers, beauty salons, sex industry premises, and skin penetration businesses, with 33 inspections completed and customer service requests addressed.

Staff assessed and approved 72 on-site wastewater systems and responded to nine customer service requests regarding wastewater management.

The school zone parking compliance and education program included proactive patrols at primary schools, with over 240 patrols conducted, 280 educational conversations held with parents and caregivers, and 66 fines issued for parking offences.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Inspect all medium and high-risk retail food premises annually	On-Track 	The food safety program continued as part of the Food Safety Partnership with the NSW Food Authority. Staff delivered a proactive food surveillance program and completed over 480 inspections of fixed, temporary and mobile food business to assess compliance with the Food Act 2003 and food safety standards. During the quarter, ten Improvement Notices were issued and one Prohibition Order for observed non-compliances. A total of 47 requests relating to food businesses were actioned.
Maintain inspection programs for public swimming pools, places of shared accommodation and mortuaries	On-Track 	Planning for annual inspections for places of shared accommodation, mortuaries and public swimming pools continued. These inspection programs are scheduled for the second half of each financial year with the first half of the year being a focus on food premises inspections. During the quarter, staff scheduled inspections for future months and responded to customer service requests.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – December 2023	Result – December 2024
Aquatic Services			
Visitation to Council commercial heated pools (Corrimal and Dapto)	At least 180,000 per annum	62,333 ¹ Accumulative Year to Date	126,251 (Accumulative Year to Date)
¹ Comparative impacted due to Dapto Pool heating system outages.			
Botanic Garden and Annexes			
Visitation to Wollongong Botanic Garden	At least 400,000 per annum	128,496 Accumulative Year to Date	175,758 (Accumulative Year to Date)
Community Facilities			
Hours of use of Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Increase	11,060	7,741 ²
Visitation to Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities visitation (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Increase	94,006	54,015 ²
Hours of use of community hall/ centres	Increase	3,458	1,280 ²
Visitation to community halls/centres	Increase	9,139	7,218 ³

² December 2024 quarterly result (1 October – 31 December 2024) impacted by the closure of Warrawong Community Centre. Comparative data also includes a number of facilities under Council management that are now operated by licensees, which are not included in this result.

³ Quarterly result for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis Performance measures that are tracked every two years will be reported in the Annual Report where available.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

December Quarter Highlights



City of Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown and Council staff at footpath works on Reserve Street, Wollongong.



New footpath works at Union Street, Coniston.



Road reconstruction work at Gahans Lane, Woonona.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services

Responsibility Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning

About this Service

This service provides the delivery, management and advocacy of transport infrastructure. The service aims to provide a transport network that is safe, efficient, equitable, effective and sustainable. The service supports the community through creating the provision of transport access for residential, business, recreation, leisure and tourism activities.

This Service also includes provision of road safety, traffic and integrated transport planning support and advice. Road Safety Education Programs and promotion is a critical activity implemented across all aspects of our transport services.

Quarterly Progress Update

The Safer Routes to School Working Group continued onsite audits, collaboration with school principals and parent groups, and preparation of Safer Routes to School Reports.


Proactive grant applications were submitted for infrastructure projects, with multiple funding opportunities open this quarter, including the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program, Get NSW Active 2025–2026, Black Spot Program 2025–2026, and Active Transport Fund.

Three Wollongong Traffic Committee meetings were held, reviewing 31 items, while 22 locations were referred to NSW Police for monitoring under the *Dob in a Hoon* program. Process efficiencies were introduced in consultation with stakeholders, applicants, and the Local Traffic Committee.

Staff managed over 70 requests from customers, Councillors and Members of Parliament. Consultation with Transport for NSW continues to access traffic data, including tube counts and intersection counts, to support planning and modelling.



More than 200 National Heavy Vehicle Regulator consent requests were processed.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Collaborate with the New South Wales Government to fund and deliver the Safe Routes to School Program	On-Track 	<p>The Safer Routes to School working group has completed 10 reports, with 10 draft reports under school review and 23 investigations underway, including recent progress at Wollongong Public School, Stanwell Park Public School, and Warrawong High School and Public School.</p> <p>Council's Safer Routes to School webpage has been updated with completed reports and ongoing investigations available for public viewing. A promotional video featuring Corrimal East Public School was released on social media to highlight the collaborative work.</p> <p>In May 2024, the Transport Team submitted grant applications to Transport for NSW's Safer Roads Program. Council has secured funding for traffic calming measures along The Avenue, Mount Saint Thomas, and is awaiting outcomes for ten other projects.</p>




GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Implement actions from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Council is finalising a Cycling Network Plan and Program to support the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030, with the final draft expected by January 2025.</p> <p>The plan will outline a 10-year schedule for new cycleways, identifying key strategic routes to support grant funding applications. It will also include infrastructure design details, cost estimates, and facility types suited to the existing road environment.</p> <p>Staff continue to scope projects within the Infrastructure Delivery Program, engaging the community and progressing grant-funded works, including the Grand Pacific Walk at Austinmer and a shared pathway along Murray Road, East Corrimal.</p>
Develop and implement the Integrated Transport Strategy	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>The draft Integrated Transport Strategy was exhibited for comment during April-May 2024. Council staff have reviewed this initial feedback and are continuing to gather additional feedback from businesses, the Property Council and targeted engagement with young members of our community not represented in the initial exhibition period.</p> <p>The newly elected Council will be briefed on the feedback received from the community and proposed changes to the strategy during the March 2025 quarter.</p>

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Work with key agencies and partners to progress the Illawarra Regional Transport Plan	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Of the 71 initiatives in the Illawarra Regional Transport Plan, 46 benefit the Wollongong Local Government Area. Key Transport for NSW projects progressed this quarter, including the Mount Ousley Interchange, M1 south-facing ramps in Dapto, and Bulli Bypass.</p> <p>Transport for NSW has begun redeveloping the plan ahead of schedule, now referred to as the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan. Public engagement is underway, with targeted sessions informing a draft for exhibition in 2025. Council will prepare a formal submission, continuing advocacy for improved public transport planning and investment throughout the Local Government Area.</p> <p>Council is collaborating with Transport for NSW on the M1 Dapto South Facing Ramps project, contributing data and input into Strategic Merit Testing. As a key stakeholder in the Mount Ousley Interchange project, Council provided detailed design feedback and submitted concerns about pedestrian access, crossing facilities, and roundabout removal. Transport for NSW Active Transport team is now reviewing options for a pedestrian bridge and a safer road environment along Dumfries Avenue, Mount Ousley.</p>
Develop road safety programs, education and promotion of sustainable multi-modal transport options	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>The <i>Wollongong E-scooter Trial</i> commenced on 29 September 2023, with over 32,800 trips covering 60,000 km as of 31 December 2024. The trial is continuously monitored, with new designated parking zones added to improve compliance. Council is also assessing potential locations for expansion.</p> <p>Between July 2024 and December 2024, Council secured grant funding for seven road safety projects and partial funding for the <i>Road Safety Officer</i> role. This quarter, initiatives included a learner driver workshop with Shoalhaven Council, a Breakfast Torque event for motorcycle riders with Sutherland and Georges River Councils, and the continuation of the School Banner Fence Program.</p> <p>Council is also developing an e-bike education campaign, featuring local signage to outline road rules and promote rider awareness for a safer shared environment.</p>
Review the management of road signage as part of the Service Optimisation Program	<p>Not Scheduled to commence</p> 	<p>The Road Signage Service Optimisation project is due to commence during the March 2025 quarter.</p>

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Develop and deploy a pilot program to slow vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian safety at key crossing locations throughout the city

On-Track



Council is working through a set of standardised shovel ready designs, approvals and guidelines that can be utilised to rapidly install traffic calming into key locations to support slower speed environments and pedestrian safety. The draft Guidelines are currently being developed along with an assessment matrix that can be applied to a request list and the templates for approvals and designs. The speed cushions along Murray Road, East Corrimal were used as a pilot for this new process and provided valuable insight.



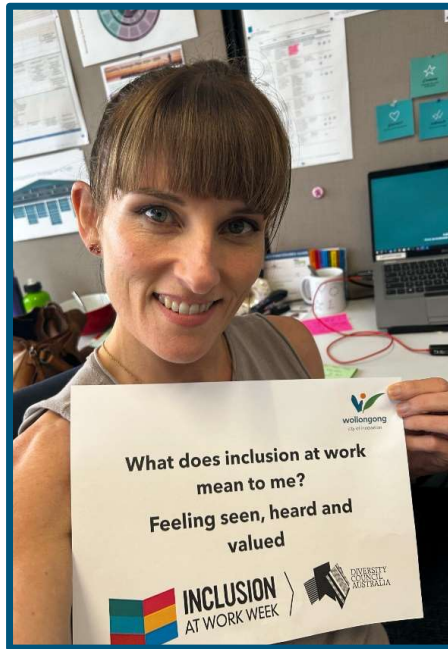
GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Measuring Success

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures in Goal 6 are tracked every two years via the Community Survey and will be reported in the Annual Report.

SUPPORT SERVICES

December Quarter Highlights



Council staff participated in Inclusion at Work Week from 18-22 November 2024.



On 14 October, 12 Councillors and the Lord Mayor of Wollongong Councillor Tania Brown (pictured left) took the Oath/Affirmation of Office at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council. Councillor Linda Campbell (pictured right) was elected Deputy Lord Mayor.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services

Responsibility *Senior Manager People and Culture*



About this Service

Council's Employee Services provides support, advice and information to staff, including staff attraction and retention, health and wellbeing initiatives, and ongoing learning and development. This service fosters a safe and equitable work environment where people are skilled, valued and supported.

Quarterly Progress Update



A collaborative People and Culture Business Plan has been developed for Employee Services to further support service delivery of key Human Resources functions. The Plan includes: Workforce Management Strategy outcomes; Talent and Capability Strategy; Reward and Recognition Strategy; Diversity and Inclusion Framework; Preventative Health Strategy; Our Safety program; Payroll integration and process improvement; and Employment Relations Strategy.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and implement the Workforce Strategy 2022-2026	On-Track 	Progress was made on divisional workforce plans with continued support to leaders to implement these. Leaders have participated in training to understand and engage with the Workforce Planning Tool along with supporting guides and tools. Work is underway to develop the 2025–2039 Workforce Management Strategy informed by divisional workforce planning data. The strategy focuses on building a workforce that is prepared, equipped, and empowered to deliver on the Council's purpose of creating an extraordinary Wollongong.
Enhance Council's Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Programs	On-Track 	Council continued delivering key initiatives under the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan. The Parks Summer Program successfully recruited 12 candidates, with targeted outreach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and female participants. Staff participated in Inclusion at Work Week (18–22 November), sharing their perspectives on inclusion and engaging in activities that foster belonging. New Workplace Adjustments Guidelines were developed to enhance employee experiences, focusing on accessibility and inclusive language. Planning also began for a Leaders Connect Workshop, scheduled for early 2025, to showcase inclusion initiatives from Inclusion at Work Week and International Day for People with Disability, alongside the implementation of the new guidelines.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Implement Safety and Wellbeing Programs	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Council progressed the Work Health and Safety Management system through the development of an implementation project plan to continue until 2026. It involves education at all levels across Council on procedures and divisional implementation.</p> <p>New operational procedures are being finalised including a noise management program, ergonomics and psychosocial hazard procedures.</p> <p>Wellbeing initiatives were completed across Council including <i>Biketober</i>, the <i>Man Walk</i> to promote mental health as well as various manual handling and psychological safety projects.</p>
Refresh Council's Attraction and Retention Strategies	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Council continued to enhance key processes and services to support attraction and retention strategies. This quarter, improvements included refining the pre-employment process for candidates and hiring managers, expanding assessment tools in recruitment, and updating the education strategy to better support participants.</p> <p>On 8 November, Council applied for additional learning pathway opportunities under the NSW Government's Fresh Start initiative, reinforcing its commitment to targeted and purposeful training for careers in local government.</p>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Financial Services

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council is a large and diverse organisation that provides services from the funding it receives from its community through rates, grants, fees, and charges. Financial sustainability, conservation of Council's capital and operational efficiency are aims of this service. This is achieved through financial strategy, policy, budgets and controls; while ensuring Council meets its taxation obligations, investment return, and internal and external reporting that provides transparency about decision-making. A key focus of the service to maintain a high level of customer service to its internal and external stakeholders.

Quarterly Progress Update


The audit of the Annual Financial Statements was completed, and the Statements were adopted by Council and presented to the community.

The September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review of the annual and 10-year budgets was completed. Financial and investment reports continued to be provided monthly to Council and the community.

Over 65,000 rates instalment notices were issued in accordance with the Revenue Policy and second quarter instalment receipts in line with forecasts. Emergency Services Funding classification of land data supplied to Revenue NSW in line with State Legislation.

Payment of Council's accounts have continued to be paid, exceeding targets for payment within agreed terms.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review the rating structure to align to legislative changes	Deferred 	Regulations and Guidelines are not yet available, although were anticipated in December 2023. It is understood that Industrial and Commercial categorisation options will be considered in a 2024-2025 update to legislation, changes to introduce an Environmental Category has been deferred. Consideration will need to be made when the legislative change is released to understand the impacts of this decision and future direction for Council.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Governance and Administration

Responsibility Manager Customer and Business Integrity



About this Service

The Governance and Administration Service includes policy, internal audit, legal, insurance and claims management, procurement, risk management, Council meeting functions and corporate governance. The service also captures the Office of the General Manager and Executive Group, support for Councillors and the Professional Conduct Coordinator.

Quarterly Progress Update

Ongoing support continued to be provided to the organisation with the governance, Councillor support and risk management functions. Support was provided for Council meetings and one Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting this quarter. In addition, an updated Privacy Management Plan was adopted and a new Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy was placed on public exhibition. A detailed and intensive induction program was designed and is being delivered for the newly elected Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Internal Audit Program	On-Track 	The 2024-2025 Internal Audit Plan is underway. Two internal audits were complete during the quarter and another two are underway. We are on track for completion of the plan by 30 June 2025. The 2024-2025 internal audit plan was endorsed by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee on the 5 June 2024.
Facilitate the Local Government Elections in September 2024 and onboarding of the new Council	On-Track 	The Local Government election was held on 14 September 2024, with polls declared on 2 October 2024. Newly elected Councillors are now undertaking a comprehensive induction and development program.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Management and Technology

Responsibility *Chief Digital and Information Officer*

About this Service

This service delivers digitally enabled, information driven and secure services that empower our customer community.

Quarterly Progress Update





Council continued to make progress against the Cyber Security Strategy and the Operational Security Strategic Plan.

Staff continue to work with Council business units reviewing existing system functionality to determine where efficiencies can be made.

Council are moving into the final phase of the Cloud migration with the decommissioning of legacy applications. Extensive efforts are being made to ensure no historic data is lost. Work is currently commencing to move unstructured data from the corporate drives into the Cloud.

New Project Life Cycle Management software went live on 9 December 2024.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Cyber Security Strategy	On-Track 	Implementation of the Cyber Security Strategy is progressing to schedule.
Finalise the Information Technology Cloud Transformation Program	On-Track 	The data on the corporate drives is being migrated into the Cloud.
Implement the CCTV Strategy	Complete 	This project is now completed.
Pilot and expand the use of robust SMART technologies across Council	On-Track 	SMART technology initiatives progressed including continuation of the Intelligent Defect Management trial, improved reporting for CCTV people counting solutions, continuation of the moisture sensors sportsfields monitoring trial and data validation of memorial gardens interments.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Infrastructure Strategy and Support

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service




This service includes the strategic management and technical planning of Council and community infrastructure that supports all Council Services.

Quarterly Progress Update

Work has commenced on Council's draft Infrastructure Delivery Program (2025–2026 to 2028-2029).

This quarter, Council applied for more than \$16M in external funding to support key projects. During this period, Council also secured a \$5M grant from the NSW Government for Darkes Sporting and Community Hub (Stage 2) in the West Dapto Urban Release Area.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and regularly review Asset Management Plans to ensure appropriate investment in Council's asset base	On-Track 	A comprehensive review has been completed and an Asset Management Plan covering all assets has been drafted. The Asset Management Plan considers future demands, challenges and risks that influence decisions regarding investment over the lifecycle of assets. The Asset Management Plan includes over 180,000 assets across transport, stormwater and floodplain, open space and recreation, buildings, plant and equipment, library collections, information management and technology and artwork. The exhibition and adoption of the Asset Management Plan will be coordinated with the review of Council's Resourcing Strategy, during the March and June 2025 quarters.
Seek external funding to support core services that Council provides in the Infrastructure Delivery Program	On-Track 	During the quarter, over \$16M of funding has been applied for to support the delivery of projects across the city, including the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library, Towradgi Park Sportsfield Lighting and Shared User Paths at Port Kembla and Russell Vale. During this period, Council was notified it had been awarded \$5M in grant funding from the NSW Government for construction of Stage 2 of the Darkes District Sporting and Community Hub and \$280,000 for Local Area Traffic Management at The Avenue, Mount Saint Thomas.
Progressively implement the Asset Management Improvement Program	On-Track 	A revised Asset Management Improvement Program has been documented in Council's draft Asset Management Plan. It is planned to be adopted as part of the new Resourcing Strategy currently being developed and due for Council adoption in June 2025. Several key actions items within this improvement program are currently underway, including adjustment of useful lives for stormwater assets, commencement of a condition assessment for swimming pool assets across the Local Government Area and the commencement of a project to revalue all open space and swimming pool assets.

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – December 2023	Result – December 2024
Financial Services			
Available funds.	3.5% to 5.5% Operational Revenue (Pre-Capital)	\$29.8M or 9.8%	\$29.2M or 8.2% ¹
Operating result (pre capital income), including depreciation	Small Operational Surplus (average over 3 years)	-\$18.3M	-\$28.0M ²
Information Management and Technology			
Formal Government Information Public Access (GIPA) Applications Processed Within 20 Days	100%	100%	100% ¹

¹ Result as at 31 December 2024.

² Year to date result as at 31 December 2024 (1 July to 31 December 2024).

Performance measures from the Delivery Program are reported in the Quarterly Review where data is available on a quarterly or annual basis. Performance measures in Support Services that are not available quarterly, will be reported in the Annual Report.



Image: Coledale Beach

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

October 2024 – December 2024

Introduction

This Quarterly Review is the second review of the Operational Plan 2024-2025.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement provides financial information and updates to the Council and the community on income and expenditure in comparison with the approved annual budget. It outlines the Original Budget and year to date spend, as well as proposed variations to the budget and future year forecasts that have been identified in the Quarter.

Changes to Council's income and expenditure occur throughout the financial year due to both external and internal factors. This report provides the mechanism to communicate such changes to Councillors and the community in a transparent manner. The Quarterly Budget Review Statement is composed of the following budget review components.

- 1 Income and Expenses and Capital Budget Commentary
- 2 Combined Income and Expenses Statement
- 3 Summary of Variations – Operational and Capital
- 4 Budget Review Cash and Investments Position
- 5 Budget Review Key Performance Indicators
- 6 Contracts and Other Expenses, and
- 7 Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer

Appendix 1 – Supporting Documents Report

Appendix 2 – Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

Income and Expense Statement

This Budget Review Statement includes proposed estimates of income and expenditure for 2024-2025 financial year. The Income and Expenses Statement can be found in Table 1.

Commentary: Council commenced 2024-2025 with a budgeted surplus Operating Result [pre-capital]. At the September Quarterly Review, a change to the long term position was created by increases to the budgeted depreciation caused by year end indexation of infrastructure assets (\$11.6M). The current budget was further impacted by timing issues caused by the removal of the 2024-2025 Financial Assistance Grant income which was paid early in 2023-2024 (\$18.5M). These adjustments were partly offset by improvements to Interest on Investments (\$2.4M).

The proposed movements in this review will result in a further negative adjustment of \$8.7M resulting in a budgeted Operating Result [pre capital] deficit of \$20.5M for 2024-2025. The proposed adjustments include the introduction of budget for prior year capital works in progress that do not meet the requirements for capitalisation (\$6.7M), reduction in revenue associated with Commercial Tipping (\$2.3M), introduction of funded projects (\$1.3M) and an increase in legal expenses (\$0.8M), partly offset by a reduction to the EPA levy associated with commercial tipping (\$1.3M), and an increase in the interest on investments (\$1.1M).

The proposed adjustments maintain a Funds Result deficit of \$16.8M as the adjustments have been offset with adjustments to funding and the prior year capital works in progress is a non-cash transaction as these expenses were recognised through the capital program in prior year meaning there is no impact on the Funds Result.

A table of variations is included in the report below.

Supporting Documents

Council's Supporting Documents (strategy and plan development) are prioritised in the development of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. They, therefore, have an important role in planning for the community. Refer to Appendix 1 for the detailed report showing proposed variations to these projects.

Capital Budget Statement

The Capital Budget Statement provides the Original and proposed Capital Budgets. Additional Project Capital Budget Reports and variations by asset classes are provided in Appendix 2.

Commentary: During this Quarter, the capital budget expenditure projections are proposed to be decreased by \$3.06M with an equivalent reduction in the funding applied to the program.

Table 1

Wollongong City Council December Quarter 2024 Income and Expense Statement					
	2024/25 Original Budget \$'000	2024/25 Adopted Budget \$'000	Proposed vs Current Variance \$'000	2024/25 Proposed Budget \$'000	2024/25 Actual YTD \$'000
Income From Continuing Operations					
Rates and Annual Charges	247,048	247,535	0	247,535	122,181
User Charges and Fees	39,990	39,938	(2,415)	37,523	19,175
Interest and Investment Revenues	6,197	8,597	1,109	9,707	5,400
Other Revenues	6,074	6,721	235	6,956	4,008
Rental Income	7,028	7,027	(2)	7,025	3,473
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	33,212	19,100	110	19,210	8,662
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	27,454	30,445	510	30,955	15,707
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets	28,516	28,516	0	28,516	(1,549)
Total Income from Continuing Operations	395,519	387,880	(453)	387,427	177,057
Expenses From Continuing Operations					
Employee Costs	164,095	164,726	974	165,700	82,734
Borrowing Costs	557	1,055	0	1,055	526
Materials & Services	102,189	103,118	8,465	111,583	52,383
Other Expenses	24,257	25,804	(1,300)	24,504	13,901
Depreciation, Amortisation + Impairment	87,113	98,773	(524)	98,249	48,533
Labour Internal Charges	(21,690)	(21,964)	111	(21,853)	(7,894)
Non-Labour Internal Charges	(2,323)	(2,323)	22	(2,301)	(801)
Total Expenses From Continuing Operations	354,198	369,190	7,747	376,937	189,382
Operating Result	41,322	18,690	(8,201)	10,489	(12,325)
Operating Result [pre capital]	13,868	(11,756)	(8,711)	(20,466)	(28,032)
Funding Statement					
Net Operating Result for the Year	41,322	18,690	(8,201)	10,489	(12,325)
Add back :					
- Non-cash Operating Transactions	106,241	118,863	(21,891)	96,972	64,728
- Restricted cash used for operations	14,601	16,977	1,794	18,771	8,409
- Income transferred to Restricted Cash	(79,972)	(88,942)	28,162	(60,780)	(29,148)
Leases Repaid	(132)	(132)	(365)	(496)	(254)
Payment of Leave Entitlements	(15,763)	(15,763)	0	(15,763)	(9,165)
Funds Available from Operations	66,297	49,694	(501)	49,193	22,245
Loans Repaid	(656)	(656)	0	(656)	(657)
Operational Funds Available for Capital Budget	65,642	49,038	(501)	48,537	21,588
Capital Budget Statement					
Assets Acquired	(105,995)	(105,855)	3,064	(102,791)	(47,298)
Contributed Assets	(7,014)	(7,014)	0	(7,014)	0
Transfers to Restricted Cash	(2,607)	(2,607)	(28,516)	(31,123)	(1,047)
Funded From :-					
- Operational Funds	65,642	49,038	(501)	48,537	21,588
- Sale of Assets	3,550	3,550	28,516	32,066	1,107
- Internally Restricted Cash	13,920	13,997	9	14,006	4,808
- Borrowings	0	0	0	0	0
- Capital Grants	15,875	16,494	(1,217)	15,276	5,790
- Developer Contributions (Section 94)	5,135	4,678	(1,157)	3,521	1,662
- Other Externally Restricted Cash	1,547	1,931	700	2,631	411
- Other Capital Contributions	9,161	8,990	(904)	8,086	666
TOTAL FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(788)	(16,799)	(7)	(16,805)	(12,313)

Summary of Variations

Budget variations being recommended include the following material items:

Variations	Net by Type \$000's
User Fees and Charges Recurrent decrease to Commercial Tipping Income (\$2.3M) to reflect the loss of a significant customer to another facility. Decrease in fees and charges (\$115K) related to Dapto Pool & Corrimal Pool for the current financial year to reflect the trial of a voucher program.	(2,415)
Interest and Investment Revenues Increased interest and investment revenues based on performance of the investment portfolio throughout the financial year.	1,109
Other Revenues & Rental Income The increase in other revenues budget relates to an increase in Legal Revenue (\$130K), contribution for work to support the Emergency Services Fund data analysis for NSW Treasury (\$90K) and other minor variations.	233
Grants & Contributions (Operating) The increase in operating grants and contributions mainly relates to Planning for Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights and other minor variations.	110
Employee Costs The increase in employee costs relates to reallocation of budgets between employee costs and materials, services and other expenses (\$472K), resourcing to support the Fire Compliance of Council Assets (\$254K), increased resourcing in the Rates area to support the Emergency Services Fund review (\$90K), Chief Information Security Officer position shared with the ISJO Councils (\$80K) and other minor variations.	(974)
Materials, Services & Other Expenses The increase in materials, services & other expenses is associated with prior year works in progress that cannot be capitalised (\$6,660), introduction of funded projects (\$1,375K), legal expenses (\$800K p.a. for 2 years), purchase of replacement FOGO bags (\$260K), and reallocation of project expenses from capital to operating (\$240K). This is partially offset by a decrease in materials, services & other expenses associated with the EPA Levy for Commercial Tipping (\$1,300K), the reallocation of budget between employee costs and materials, services & other expenses (\$472K), accounting treatment of lease expenses for Warrawong Library (\$311K), rephasing of project budgets to future years (\$125K) and other minor variations.	(7,165)
Depreciation An adjustment to depreciation has been made based on the forecasts associated with the most recent asset data.	524
Internal Charges The adjustment to the internal charges budget is associated with the allocation of internal marketing, printing and engagement costs associated with Flood Risk Management Studies and other minor variations.	(133)
Operating Result [pre capital] Variation	(8,711)

Variations	Net by Type \$000's
Grants & Contributions (Capital) The increase in capital grants & contributions mainly relates to More Trains More Service (\$470K), Get Active NSW (\$240K) and other minor variations.	510
Non-cash operating transactions Non-cash operating transactions include changes to the treatment of land sales for more accurate reporting (\$28.5M), the increase to prior year works in progress expensed (\$6,660K), depreciation (\$524K), employee entitlement distributions (\$489K), and other minor variations.	(21,891)
Restricted Cash used for operations The increase in restricted cash used for operations mainly relates to the introduction of funded projects (\$859K), Stormwater Management Service charge funding (\$543K), rephasing of Supporting Documents projects (\$400K) and other minor variations.	1,794
Income transferred to Restricted Cash This adjustment mainly relates to changes to the treatment of land sales for more accurate reporting (\$28.5M), the above budget variations for capital grants & contributions (\$510K) and operating grants & contributions (\$100K), reduction in the amount transferred to the Domestic Waste restricted asset for increase in expenditure related to FOGO bags (\$249K) and other minor variations.	28,162
Leases Repaid This adjustment is to recognise the appropriate accounting treatment of the Warrawong Library lease.	(365)
Funds Available from Operations	(501)
Capital Program The decrease in the Capital Program is associated with the rephasing of projects and reallocation of projects from capital to operating as detailed in Appendix 2.	3,064
Capital Funding Adjustments to funding on existing projects as detailed in Appendix 2.	(2,570)
Funds Result	(7)

Cash and Investments Position

The Budget Review Cash and Investments Position (Table 2) shows the Original and proposed estimates for cash and investment positions, Available Cash and Available Funds.

Cash and Investment holdings forecasts have increased by \$1.9M compared to the Original Budget mainly associated with Grants & Contributions anticipated to be held in restriction, therefore, the Available Funds forecast has remained at \$15.9M.

The following table shows the movements in the projections of available funds for the 2024-2025 financial year as a result of the proposed changes through the September Quarterly Review.

Table 2

Wollongong City Council 27 December 2024 Cash, Investments and Available Funds				
	Original Budget 2024/25	Current Budget 2024/25	Proposed Budget 2024/25	Actuals YTD December 2024
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
Total Cash and Investments	186.1	200.7	202.6	190.5
Less Restrictions:				
External	80.0	93.7	94.2	96.5
Internal	86.6	90.4	90.9	67.6
CivicRisk Investment				3.1
Total Restrictions	166.6	184.0	185.2	167.2
Available Cash	19.5	16.7	17.4	23.3
Adjusted for :				
Payables	(29.3)	(30.7)	(31.4)	(38.5)
Receivables	28.6	28.0	28.0	35.7
Other	(2.4)	1.9	1.9	8.7
Net Payables & Receivables	(3.1)	(0.8)	(1.5)	5.9
Available Funds	16.4	15.9	15.9	29.2

All investments held at 27 September 2024 were invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. Bank reconciliations have been completed as at 27 December 2024. Year to date cash and investments are reconciled with funds invested and cash at bank.

Table 3

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL		
Cash Flows and Investments		
as at 27 December 2024		
	YTD Actual 2024/25 \$ '000	Actual 2023/24 \$ '000
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Receipts		
Rates & Annual Charges	137,397	232,873
User Charges & Fees	20,088	42,526
Interest & Interest Received	4,251	8,575
Grants & Contributions	31,068	68,654
Bonds, deposits and retention amounts received	147	886
Other	16,443	29,432
Payments		
Employee Benefits & On-costs	(75,236)	(142,434)
Materials & Contracts	(58,389)	(138,853)
Borrowing Costs	(25)	(127)
Bonds, deposits and retention amounts refunded	-	(1,352)
Other	(19,174)	1,578
Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities	56,569	101,758
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Receipts		
Sale of Investments	16,794	37,813
Sale of Investment Property		
Sale of Real Estate Assets		
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	1,107	848
Payments:		
Purchase of Investments	(26,000)	(38,090)
Purchase of Investment Property	-	
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	(46,448)	(98,797)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities	(54,546)	(98,226)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Payments:		
Repayment of Borrowings & Advances	(657)	(2,572)
Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities	(233)	(431)
Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities	(890)	(3,003)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,133	529
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	44,900	44,371
plus: Investments on hand - end of year	144,482	134,574
Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date	190,515	179,474

Table 4

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL Cash Flows and Investments as at 27 December 2024		
	YTD Actual 2024/25 \$ '000	Actual 2023/24 \$ '000
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date	190,515	179,474
<u>Attributable to:</u>		
External Restrictions (refer below)	96,523	86,881
Internal Restrictions (refer below)	67,624	68,674
Unrestricted	26,368	23,919
	190,515	179,474
External Restrictions		
Developer Contributions	64,957	55,949
RMS Contributions	1,165	422
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	10,507	11,730
Special Rates Levy Wollongong Mall	1,009	962
Special Rates Levy Wollongong City Centre	94	94
Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme	-	-
Unexpended Loans	949	924
Domestic Waste Management	6,172	5,321
Private Subsidies	7,171	6,943
Housing Affordability	3,083	3,029
Stormwater Management Service Charge	1,416	1,507
Total External Restrictions	96,523	86,881
Internal Restrictions		
Property Investment Fund	5,510	5,396
Strategic Projects	32,059	32,991
Sports Priority Program	814	524
Car Parking Strategy	1,359	1,223
MacCabe Park Development	2,114	2,040
Darcy Wentworth Park	18	18
Garbage Disposal Facility	9,332	10,854
West Dapto Development	15,698	14,927
Natural Areas	173	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	547	528
Total Internal Restrictions	67,624	68,674

Key Performance Indicators

The long term forecasts presented below are indicative of our existing budgeted position. Council has a continuous budget process that revises the long term forecasts in line with quarterly changes and resets assumptions and indices annually or where new information leads to an immediate requirement to change the indices.

The projected long term indicators are primarily based on the revised assumptions and indices as at December 2025 applied to the existing Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Plan and Resource Strategy and the Long Term Financial Plan.

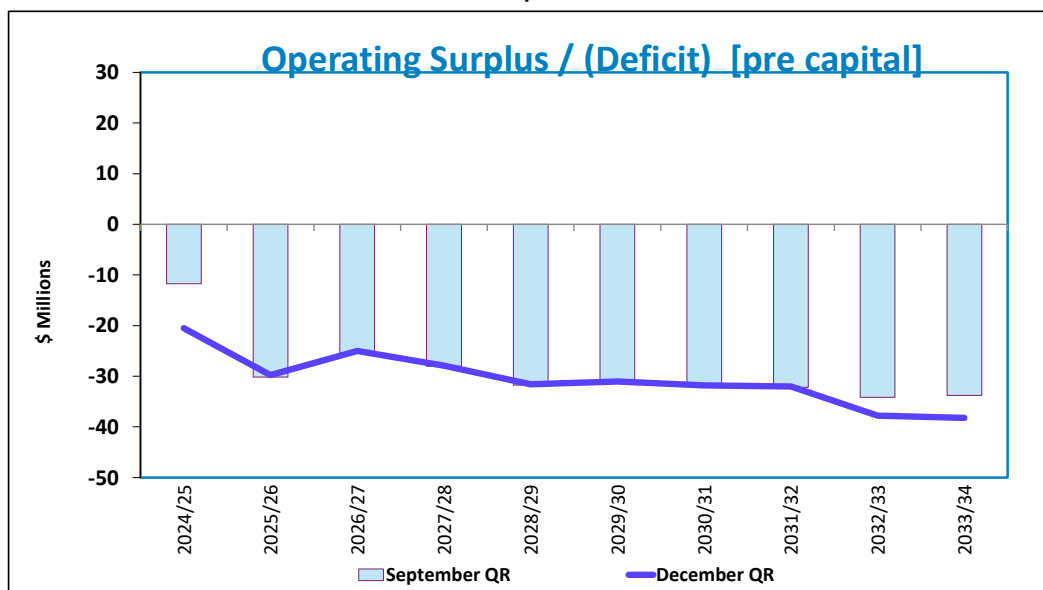
Indicator 1 - Long Term Operating Surplus/(Deficit) [pre capital]

Definition: The Operating Result [pre capital] provides an indication of the long term viability of Council. In broad terms, a deficit from operations may indicate that Council is not earning sufficient revenue to fund its ongoing operations (services) and continue to renew existing assets over the longer term. While this measure is important, it does include timing issues and impacts from specific transactions and operations which make it less accurate in demonstrating current performance. The Funds Available from Operations below is a more accurate indicator of current financial performance.

Commentary on Current Result: The forecast Operating Result [pre capital] has decreased in the current year due to the introduction of budget for prior year capital works still in progress at year end that do not meet the accounting requirements for capitalisation (\$6.7M), reduction in net revenue associated with Commercial Tipping (\$1.2M), introduction of funded projects (\$1.3M) and an increase in legal expenses (\$0.8M), partly offset by an increase in the interest on investments (\$1.1M).

Across the Long Term Financial Model, the Operating Result [pre capital] has been impacted by adjustments to the indices applied to Labour, Materials & Services, Fees & Charges and Rates. These indices have been updated based on the current economic environment and available information on future trends. The overall impact of these adjustments has had a negative impact on the budget forecasts, however, there was capacity through other offsets within some years of the budget to offset these adjustments and therefore is only impacting the Operating Result [pre capital] for the later years. The indices will continue to be monitored and updated through future budget reviews.

Graph 1



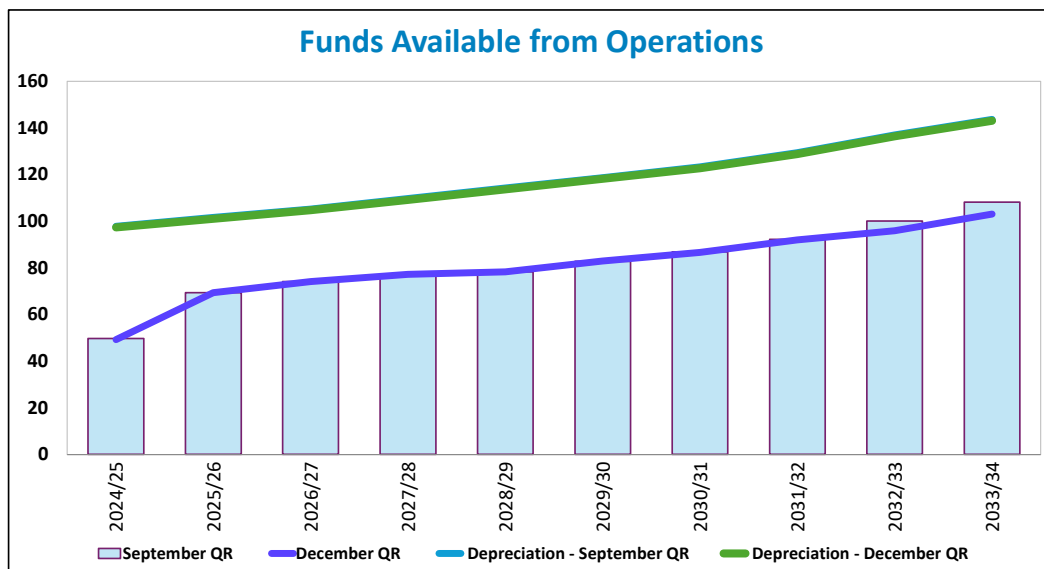
Indicator 2 - Funds Available from Operations

Definition: The matching of Funds Available from Operations with Council's asset renewal target (currently depreciation over the long term) is a primary target of Council to provide for effective renewal of assets and growth in assets.

Commentary on Current Result: The following graph shows the forecast depreciation expenses compared to Funds Available from Operations.

This indicator continues to demonstrate a shortfall in capacity to generate sufficient funds from operations to meet the current depreciation level currently used as a proxy for asset renewal requirement. The shortfall was created as assets were revalued at the end of 2021-2022 and in subsequent years. Work is continuing to develop Asset Management Plans to review asset data and management practices that will provide better estimates of asset lifecycle requirements and a more accurate understanding of longer term funding needs.

Graph 2



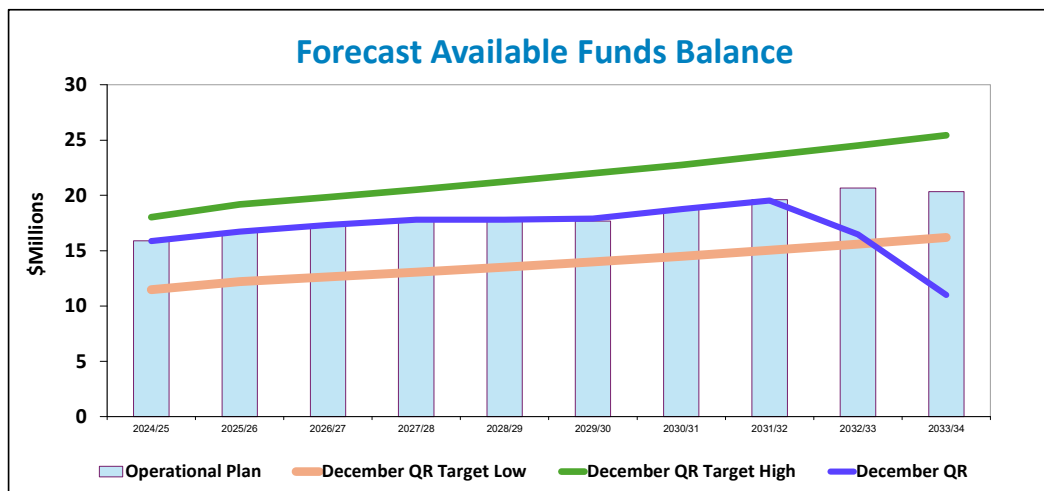
Note: The depreciation figures in the diagram above exclude the depreciation on Waste Remediation, SES & RFS vehicles, right-of-use assets and HACC vehicles that have specific funding sources outside Funds Available from Operations.

Indicator 3 - Available Funds

Definition: Available Funds are the uncommitted funds of an organisation that assist in meeting the short term cash requirements, provide contingency for unexpected costs or loss of revenue and provide flexibility to take advantage of opportunities that may arise from time to time.

Commentary on Current Result: Council's Financial Strategy has a target to achieve and maintain an Available Funds position between 3.5% and 5.5% of operational revenue [pre capital]. The target range for Available Funds at December 2024 is between \$11.5M and \$16.2M (lower range) and between \$18.0M and \$25.8M (upper range) over the life of the Long Term Financial Plan. The proposed forecast currently provides for Council to remain within the target range until the latter years of the Long Term Financial Model. The deterioration in the out years is due to the cumulative impact of the proposed indices adjustments, particularly labour indices versus rates revenue. Further modelling and budget revision will be required over time to bring these results in line with Financial Strategy.

Graph 3



6 Contracts and Other Expenses

The following list of contracts have been entered into during the Quarter that have yet to be fully performed. Details of contracts, other than contractors that are on a Council's preferred supplier list that have a value equivalent of 1% of estimated income from continuing operations or \$50K, whichever is the lesser, are provided.

Wollongong City Council December Quarter 2024 Contract Listing					
Contractor	Contract Detail and Purpose	Contract Value \$'000	Commencement Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted Y/N
Halbuild Pty Ltd	Unanderra Community Centre and Library Roof Replacement	625	2-Oct-24	28-Feb-25	Y
Grindley Construction Pty Limited	Early Works - Southern Suburbs Community Centre & Library	1,647	15-Oct-24	13-Feb-25	Y
Studio GL Pty Ltd	Built Form Controls for Centres	199	16-Oct-24	31-Mar-25	Y
Corrimal Swim Squad Pty Ltd	Cash Collection Services				
	Operate Corrimal Pool Kiosk & Frontline Cashier Service	125	17-Oct-24	24-Apr-25	Y
SportENG Engineering Design Consulting Services	Darques District Sporting & Community Hub Design Services	245	22-Oct-24	1-Dec-25	Y
Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd	Sportsfield Drainage Design & Construction - St James Park	191	28-Nov-24	30-Jun-25	Y
Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Retaining Wall - Fairwater Drive Horsley	426	10-Dec-24	21-Feb-25	Y

The following tenders were approved by the General Manager during the December Quarter of 2024-2025:

- T1000161 Sportsfield Drainage Design and Construction, St James Park Coledale
- T1000128 Darques District Sporting & Community Hub Stage 1 Design

The following table identifies the amount expended on consultancies and legal fees for the financial year.

Definition: Consultants are defined as a person or organisation that is engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally, it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

Wollongong City Council December Quarter 2024 Consultancy and Legal Expenses		
Expense	Expenditure YTD \$ 000's	Budgeted Y/N
Consultants	2,331	Y
Legal Fees	1,289	Y

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

There has been continuing negative economic and valuation changes to Council's budget since late 2021 budgets that have impacted Council's reported longer term financial position. There was also a significant mismatch between the Rate Pegs applied between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and those cost increases that has created a further gap in Council's reported and estimated financial results.

The September Quarterly Budget Review introduced a further increase in Depreciation based on asset valuations carried out for the end of 2023-2024 financial year. The additional \$11.5M in depreciation estimates further deteriorated the long term gap in providing targeted surplus Operating Results. A program of organisation sustainability improvements has been in action for a number of years and is entering a new phase into 2025-2026 that will continue to address this underlying shortfall. This program includes a substantial review of Asset Management Plans, asset management options, asset data and analysis of asset whole of life cost requirements. It is expected that these reviews will assist in further improving financial sustainability and the accurate reporting of future needs.

With the actions in place and ongoing sustainability programs being successfully implemented, it is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Wollongong City Council for the Quarter ended 27 December 2024 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2025 will be *satisfactory* at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure. It is my opinion that Council's short term cash position, ability to be able to meet its debt obligations, and continue to fund its service delivery in the short to medium term will remain sound and that all planned capital works based on current estimates will be appropriately financed.

Signed:

Date:

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
Wollongong City Council

Appendix 1 – Supporting Documents Report

Supporting Documents - Planning Studies & Investigations

Service & Project	2024/2025			2025/2026			2026/2027		
	Adopted Budget	Proposed Budget	Variance	Current Forecast	Proposed Forecast	Variance	Current Forecast	Proposed Forecast	Variance
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s
Corporate Strategy	105	77	28	484	484	0	514	514	0
Centralised Studies & Plans	28	0	28	484	484	0	514	514	0
Community Strategic Plan Review	77	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land Use Planning	679	679	(0)	328	328	0	0	0	0
West Dapto Review WaterCycle Masterplan	0	0	0	150	150	0	0	0	0
City Centre Planning Review	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City Wide Local Environment Plan Review	146	146	0	29	29	0	0	0	0
Battery Park, Smiths Hill & Flagstaff Hill Forts Heritage Consultant	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review Riparian Corridor Management Study & Policy	77	77	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0
City Centre Surrounds Planning	103	103	0	105	105	0	0	0	0
Built Form Testing Development Control Plan Chapter B4									
Development in Business Zones	209	209	0	44	44	0	0	0	0
West Dapto Vision Implementation - Infrastructure and	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stormwater Services	502	422	80	120	209	(89)	350	350	0
Floodplain Management Studies	100	0	100	120	120	0	350	350	0
Review of Hewitts Creek Flood Risk Management Study	100	50	50	0	89	(89)	0	0	0
Flood Risk Management Studies Best Practice	62	62	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Allans Creek Flood Risk Management Study	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Fairy Cabbage Creeks Flood Risk Management Study	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Collins Creek Flood Risk Management Study	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Wollongong City Flood Risk Management Study	52	97	(45)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Brooks Creek Flood Risk Management Study	27	40	(14)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Minnegang Creek Flood Risk Management Study	117	128	(12)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Services	952	733	219	0	143	(143)	0	0	0
Coastal Management Program for the Open Coast	810	616	194	0	106	(106)	0	0	0
Develop design guidelines for green roofs, green walls and facades	30	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values & Assets	42	25	17	0	17	(17)	0	0	0
Coastal Wetland and Littoral Rainforest Mapping	70	62	8	0	20	(20)	0	0	0
Natural Area Management	32	32	0	33	33	0	27	27	0
Vegetation Management Plans for High Priority Natural Areas	32	32	0	33	33	0	27	27	0
Transport Services	227	108	119	73	162	(89)	0	0	0
Accessible Car Parking and Bus Stops audit	22	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City Centre Parking Surveys	0	0	0	73	73	0	0	0	0
Lake Illawarra Shared Path Masterplan	110	50	60	0	60	(60)	0	0	0
Townadgi Creek Shared Path Feasibility Investigations	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pedestrian Bridge Thurston Av - Feasibility Study	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Implement Keiraville Gwynneville Access & Movement Strategy	29	0	29	0	29	(29)	0	0	0
Community Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0
Social Infrastructure Planning Framework - Bong Bong Town Centre Library and Community Centre Feasibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0
Cultural Services	0	0	0	52	52	0	0	0	0
West Dapto Vision Implementation - Cultural Strategy & Plan	0	0	0	52	52	0	0	0	0
Aquatic Services	200	120	80	0	80	(80)	0	0	0
Surf Club Strategy	100	60	40	0	40	(40)	0	0	0
Pools Strategy	100	60	40	0	40	(40)	0	0	0
Botanic Garden and Annexes	60	0	60	196	196	0	0	60	(60)
Mt Keira Summit Park Interpretation Design Guide	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0
Botanic Gardens Design Investigation for Asset Improvement	60	0	60	146	146	0	0	60	(60)
Parks and Sportsfields	592	200	392	0	392	(392)	32	32	0
Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan	169	0	169	0	169	(169)	0	0	0
Bulli Showground Masterplan	21	0	21	0	21	(21)	0	0	0
Fred Finch Park - Landscape Masterplan	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hill 60 Tunnels Reopening- Detailed Concept Plans	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feasibility Study Synthetic Football Pitch in Planning Area	87	40	47	0	47	(47)	0	0	0
Draft Bulli Showground Masterplan - Feasibility Assessment and Community Consultation	103	0	103	0	103	(103)	0	0	0
MacCabe Park Masterplan + Feasibility Investigations	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	32	0
Lang Park Masterplan	77	25	52	0	52	(52)	0	0	0
Financial Services	(1,500)	(372)	(1,128)	700	0	700	800	372	428
Supporting Documents - Projects in Progress	(1,500)	(372)	(1,128)	700	0	700	800	372	428
Governance and Administration	390	240	150	0	150	(150)	0	0	0
Asset Management Planning	390	240	150	0	150	(150)	0	0	0
Total Expenditure *	2,239	2,239	0	1,986	2,230	(244)	1,774	1,405	369

*Expenditure shown above is for full project cost. A number of projects are supported from external grant funds or internal restrictions

Appendix 2 – Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

Wollongong City Council December 2024 Quarterly Review Capital Project Report

Asset Class Programme	\$'000 Adopted Budget		\$'000 Proposed Budget		YTD Expenditure	\$'000 Variation	
	Expenditure	Other Funding	Expenditure	Other Funding		Expenditure	Other Funding
Traffic Facilities	3,338	(2,165)	2,477	(1,305)	903	(860)	860
Public Transport Facilities	20	(20)	25	(25)	15	5	(5)
Roadworks	16,487	(3,040)	19,609	(3,299)	14,436	3,122	(259)
Bridges, Boardwalks and Jetties	895	0	895	0	314	0	0
TOTAL Roads And Related	20,740	(5,225)	23,006	(4,629)	15,668	2,266	596
West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion	7,817	(7,667)	8,384	(8,234)	1,903	567	(567)
TOTAL West Dapto	7,817	(7,667)	8,384	(8,234)	1,903	567	(567)
Footpaths	5,833	(1,806)	6,677	(1,600)	2,002	844	206
Shared Paths	6,116	(2,091)	4,891	(866)	1,457	(1,225)	1,225
Commercial Centre Upgrades - Footpaths and Cycleways	495	(25)	1,095	(25)	535	600	0
TOTAL Footpaths And	12,444	(3,921)	12,663	(2,491)	3,994	219	1,431
Carpark Construction/Formalising	420	(420)	620	(120)	81	200	300
Carpark Reconstruction or Upgrading	715	0	915	0	191	200	0
TOTAL Carparks	1,135	(420)	1,535	(120)	272	400	300
Floodplain Management	3,755	(3,280)	4,457	(3,982)	2,845	702	(702)
Stormwater Management	5,777	(1,275)	6,677	(476)	1,737	900	800
Stormwater Treatment Devices	410	(400)	410	(400)	50	0	0
TOTAL Stormwater And Floodplain Management	9,942	(4,955)	11,545	(4,858)	4,631	1,603	97
Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall)	150	0	350	0	309	200	0
Administration Buildings	985	0	735	0	182	(250)	0
Community Buildings	13,905	(890)	9,405	(390)	2,740	(4,500)	500
Public Facilities (Shelters, Toilets etc.)	70	0	70	0	56	(0)	0
TOTAL Buildings	15,110	(890)	10,560	(390)	3,286	(4,550)	500
Tourist Park - Upgrades and Renewal	400	0	400	0	54	0	0
Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries - Upgrades and Re	390	0	540	0	187	150	0
Leisure Centres & RVGC	4,350	0	4,350	0	3,551	(0)	0
TOTAL Commercial Operations	5,140	0	5,290	0	3,792	150	0
Play Facilities	1,767	(402)	1,767	(402)	705	0	0
Recreation Facilities	790	(285)	1,040	(285)	678	250	0
Sporting Facilities	2,139	(1,473)	1,925	(1,259)	715	(214)	214
TOTAL Parks Gardens And Sportfields	4,697	(2,161)	4,732	(1,946)	2,097	36	214
Treated Water Pools	1,450	(60)	590	0	299	(860)	60
TOTAL Beaches And Pools	1,450	(60)	590	0	299	(860)	60
Whytes Gully New Cells	12,871	(12,871)	12,871	(12,871)	4,532	(0)	(0)
TOTAL Waste Facilities	12,871	(12,871)	12,871	(12,871)	4,532	(0)	(0)
Motor Vehicles	4,395	(2,286)	4,395	(2,286)	2,414	(0)	0
TOTAL Fleet	4,395	(2,286)	4,395	(2,286)	2,414	(0)	0
Mobile Plant (trucks, backhoes etc.)	3,600	(780)	3,600	(780)	2,391	0	0
TOTAL Plant And Equipment	3,600	(780)	3,600	(780)	2,391	0	0
Information Technology	1,340	0	1,340	0	923	(0)	0
TOTAL Information Technology	1,340	0	1,340	0	923	(0)	0
Library Books	1,374	0	1,374	0	1,018	(0)	0
TOTAL Library Books	1,374	0	1,374	0	1,018	(0)	0
Art Gallery Acquisitions	103	0	118	(15)	67	15	(15)
TOTAL Public Art	103	0	118	(15)	67	15	(15)
Land Acquisitions	250	(250)	457	(297)	(5)	207	(47)
TOTAL Land Acquisitions	250	(250)	457	(297)	(5)	207	(47)
Capital Project Contingency	3,448	0	332	0	0	(3,116)	0
TOTAL Non-Project Allocations	3,448	0	332	0	0	(3,116)	0
GRAND TOTAL	105,855	(41,486)	102,791	(38,916)	47,282	(3,064)	2,570

Budget variations being recommended include the following capital items:

Variations - Capital	Net by Type \$ 000's
Traffic Facilities Rephase construction funding from Transport for NSW for four separate traffic signal upgrade projects which have been deferred until 2025/26 due to delays in planning approvals. The four projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneer Road and Towradgi Road Traffic Lights, Pioneer Road and Rothery Street Traffic Lights, Princes Highway and Railway Street traffic lights upgrade and Princes Highway and Mount Brown Road traffic lights upgrade. 	0
Roadworks Reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Roadworks Program. Rephase Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program funding for a slope stabilisation project on Harry Graham Drive – construction deferred until Winter 2025. Introduce the remaining Transport for NSW Road Safety funding for upgraded of Mount Keira Road.	2,862
West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion Introduce NSW Housing Affordability Funding for the Cleveland Road upgrade project.	0
Footpaths Reallocate budget Capital Contingency to the Footpath Program. Rephase NSW Disaster Recovery Funds for completion of a storm damage restoration project due to delays in planning approvals. Introduce Transport for NSW funding for multiple new projects proposed under the Transport Integration and Planning (TIPs) funding program	1,050
Shared Paths Rephase Section 7.12 Developer contributions for Princes Highway North Wollongong Station to Guest Avenue due to delays in planning approvals. Rephase construction funding from Transport for NSW for Murray Road, East Corrimal which has been deferred until 2025/26.	0
Commercial Centre Upgrades – Footpaths and Cycleways Reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Commercial Centre Upgrades - Footpaths and Cycleways Program.	600
Carparks Rephase Section 7.12 Developer contributions for existing project - upgrade roadside parking in Swan St Wollongong (east of Corrimal Street)	700
Floodplain Management Introduce additional Stormwater Management charge funding for Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation Project - Stage 3.	0
Stormwater Management Rephase NSW disaster recovery funding for construction of two storm damage restoration projects.	1,700
Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall) Reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Cultural Centres (IPAC. Gallery, Townhall).	200
Administration Building Reallocate budget from Administration Buildings program to Capital Contingency.	(250)

Variations - Capital	Net by Type \$ 000's
Community Buildings Reallocate budget from Community Buildings to Capital Contingency. Rephase NSW Government Office of Sport funding for construction of new amenities building at Figtree Oval No. 2.	(4,000)
Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries Reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries	150
Recreation Facilities Reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Recreation Facilities	250
Sporting Facilities Rephase Section 7.12 Developer Contributions funding for project at Beaton Park - Sportsfield Lighting Upgrade which has been deferred.	0
Treated Water Pools Reallocate budget from Treated Water Pools to Capital Contingency. Rephase NSW Govt Office of Sport funding for upgrade of amenities at Helensburgh Pool.	(800)
Land Acquisitions Reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Land Acquisitions for 2 residential property purchases under the NSW Government flood mitigation Voluntary Purchase Scheme. Introduce Section 7.11 Developer Contributions funding for land purchases required for upgrade of Shone Ave/West Dapto Road intersection Upgrade.	160
Contingency Reallocate budget from Capital Budget Contingency to various program detailed above. Reduction to the Capital Budget Contingency for projects reallocated to operating.	(3,116)
Variation	(494)

Glossary and Naming Conventions

Term	Definition or Explanation
Current Budget	Current Budget, as revised and adopted by Council.
Original Budget	Adopted Budget as at the adoption of the Operational Plan in June (adoption of Attachment 1 - Budget).
Proposed Budget	Revised budget proposed before Council at the current quarterly budget review. Once adopted by Council, this will become 'Current Budget'

ITEM 2

PUBLIC EXHIBITION – WOLLONGONG DCP CHAPTER E3 CAR PARKING, ACCESS, SERVICING / LOADING FACILITIES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 - Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management was adopted on 15 December 2009 and updated on 2 April 2016, 21 November 2016 and 8 August 2022. A further review of this Chapter has occurred to reflect contemporary legislative and policy amendments. The current review is timely as it seeks to implement principles and actions outlined in key strategic work undertaken by Council including the City Centre Urban Design Framework, Sustainable Planning Framework Review Project, draft City Centre Movement and Place Study and Tourism Accommodation Review.

It is recommended that the revised draft Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing/Loading Facilities and Traffic Management be exhibited for a minimum 28-day period to allow community consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

The draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 - Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Summary of Proposed Amendments
- 2 Draft Revised Wollongong DCP 2009 - Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management
- 3 Parking and Access Checklist

BACKGROUND

In 2009 Council prepared and exhibited the Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) to accompany the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009. On 15 December 2009, Council adopted the Wollongong DCP 2009, and it came into force on 3 March 2010. Periodic reviews of the DCP 2009 are undertaken to ensure plans continue to be useful and relevant.

Chapter E3 of the Wollongong DCP 2009 outlines the objectives, controls and design guidance for the management of traffic associated with development in the Wollongong Local Government Area. The Chapter also outlines Council's requirements for the design, construction and provision of parking, access and loading facilities for specific development.

Since the adoption of the Wollongong DCP 2009, Chapter E3 has been reviewed in 2016 and 2022. Since the last review there have been updates to the relevant legislation, State Government guidelines and Council Policy relevant to this Chapter of the DCP.

PROPOSAL

A review of Chapter E3 has resulted in proposed updates to reflect contemporary legislation, guidance documents and Council Policy. Internal consultation was conducted with relevant Council Divisions to understand how the DCP Chapter E3 is used and applied, with the aim of incorporating improvements.

The DCP Chapter was also benchmarked against similar Chapters adopted by other LGAs, including –

- City of Sydney
- Willoughby
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Newcastle
- Lane Cove

A review of legislation and NSW Government guidelines relevant to Chapter E3 identified the need to update references to include -

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 [updated from SEPP (infrastructure) 2007].

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021 [new inclusion].
- National Construction Code 2022 [updated from Building Code of Australia].
- Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (Transport for NSW 2024) [updated from RTA Guide to Traffic Generating Developments 2022].
- Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (Department of Planning and Environment 2022) [new inclusion].

Since the last Chapter E3 review, Council has progressed the following strategic policy work, necessitating an update of the DCP Chapter to include relevant objectives and development controls –

- Vision for Wollongong City Centre, *A City for People* – a people-orientated, sustainable and liveable city (2016).
- Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework (UDF) (2020), endorsed to guide the preparation of draft amendments to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 and Wollongong Development Control Plan, to enable changes to development controls that will support the success of Wollongong City Centre into the future.
- Draft City Centre Movement and Place Plan, endorsed for exhibition on 24 June 2024. The Plan outlines the necessary changes to our movement network to deliver the outcomes of *A City for People* and the UDF.
- Sustainable Wollongong 2030 A Climate Healthy City Strategy.
- Urban Heat Strategy (2023).
- Draft Development Control Plan Chapter A2 – Ecological Sustainable Development.
- Draft Tourism Accommodation Review.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the changes recommended for Wollongong DCP 2009 - Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing/Loading Facilities and Traffic Management.

A key proposed amendment is the inclusion in Chapter E3 of an incentive for commercial development, as recommended in the Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework (Strategy 1.3 Pursue incentives for commercial development). It is proposed that car parking rates for office premises and business premises in the E2 Commercial Centre zone be reduced from a minimum of one space per 60m² to one space per 120m² of floor space. This proposed change will provide an incentive for commercial development in the City Centre by reducing the construction cost of parking. It will also help to encourage the use of public transport to the City. As part of the finalisation of the draft Wollongong City Centre – Movement and Place Plan, following its exhibition, the traffic, parking rates, pedestrian and cycle movement are being further reviewed which may require additional amendments to the Chapter E3.

Other proposed amendment to Schedule 1 Car Parking provisions for this Chapter, aligning with the recently released Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (2024), include -

- Reducing the car parking requirement from two spaces to one space for Dual Occupancies within the R1 General Residential zone, that surrounds the City Centre. This aligns with Chapter D13 and Council policy to encourage a mode shift to public and active transport.
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021 contains updated non-discretionary development standards for the provision of accommodation for seniors and people with a disability (hostels, residential care facilities and independent living units). It is proposed that the DCP car parking requirements be updated to read “Provided as per rates given within the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021” to align with the State’s policy.
- Guidance on multimodal transport network impacts, site access design, travel demand management, trip generation methods and parking. It is proposed that the DCP car parking requirements for the development of Pubs and Registered Clubs be updated to refer to this Guide, which requires the applicant to demonstrate that parking can satisfy peak maximum demand while drawing comparisons to similar developments to provide a more context driven analysis.

- Removing the current car parking requirements for Neighbourhood shops of “1 per 25m² of GFA”. The rationale for this proposed change is that Neighbourhood shops are generally located in residential areas and are restricted to a size of 100m². At 100m² they would be required to provide four car spaces, plus manoeuvring, which would equal the area of the shop. These facilities are intended to provide walkable access and see a quick turnover of parking.
- Including increased bicycle parking facilities for Medical Centres/Health Consulting rooms within Shop top housing developments, as per the guidance document TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (2024). The new requirement would be: “Employee/resident parking spaces: one per eight practitioners” and “Visitor parking spaces: one per four practitioners”.
- Consistent with the draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy, removing the duplicate car parking requirement for Hotel or Motel accommodation within the E2 Commercial Centre and MU1 Mixed Use zones in Wollongong City Centre (as defined in the Wollongong LEP 2009): “1 car parking space per 40m² GFA, where the hotel or motel accommodation is not strata subdivided” and “If a restaurant is included in the hotel / motel which is available to the general public, then an additional 15 car parking spaces per 100m² GFA of the restaurant shall be included”. The motel accommodation room rate of a car parking space per 4 staff members and 1 car space per room and 0.5 spaces per room for hotels would be retained. The removal of one of the parking rates will remove confusion on the applicable parking rate. An applicant may carry out their own surveys of similar developments and propose a lower car parking provision if suitably justified, as per the Hotel and Motel accommodation section within the TfNSW *Guide to Transport Impact Assessment*.

Also proposed is the introduction of a new section with objectives and development controls to capture development applications for a change of use within Employment zones, including E1 Local Centre, E3 Productivity Support, E4 General Industrial, and MU1 Mixed Use, where car parking demand for permitted uses in these zones varies. A Parking and Access Checklist has been prepared to inform a merit-based approach in these circumstances, which can be accessed via Councils Website (Attachment 3).

The key sustainability inclusions to the Chapter in response to Council’s recently endorsed Sustainable Wollongong 2030 and the Urban Heat Strategy (2023) centre on the -

- promotion of a reduction in the number of vehicles using the core of the City Centre and prioritise the City Centre for pedestrians; and
- encouragement of a mode shift across the LGA to public and active transport.

New objectives and development controls are proposed in relation to the provision of bicycle and micromobility parking and end of trip facilities; ensuring car parking areas for new developments are designed and constructed to enable electric vehicle charging points to be installed, either as the development occurs or at a later time; and promoting best practice design and construction of basement car parking to protect existing natural groundwater flows and ensure no negative impact to adjoining property, service provision or downstream waterways and properties.

A revised draft DCP Chapter E3 has been prepared (Attachment 2) which includes -

- An updated format in line with a new DCP Chapter template, which will be used for all subsequent DCP updates.
- Updated references to legislation, government guidelines, relevant government agencies, new zoning names.
- Updated Chapter objectives and new development controls to comply and more closely align with the recent NSW Department of Planning publication – Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (DPE 2022).
- Clarification and update of parking rate controls / waivers and updated Chapter objectives and development controls to align with the new Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (GTIA 2024) and the recommendations arising from the Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework.
- Introduction of a new section, incorporating objectives and development controls where a change of land use is being sought within Employment zones. A Parking and Access Checklist has been developed to assist in a merit-based approach.

- Introduction of new environmental sustainability objectives and development controls in line with recently adopted Council Policy, including Sustainable Wollongong 2030 A Climate Healthy City Strategy and the Urban Heat Strategy (2023).

It is recommended that Council resolve to exhibit the revised draft Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access Servicing/Loading Facilities and Traffic Management (Attachment 2) for a minimum period of 28 days.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Internal consultation was conducted with relevant Council Divisions to understand how the Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter E3 is used and applied, with the aim of incorporating improvements. The Council teams consulted included Development Assessment and Certification, Transport and Infrastructure Planning, and Design and Technical Services.

Feedback from the community and external stakeholders has also been considered through the public exhibition of related strategic documents including the Climate Friendly Framework – Discussion Paper and draft Tourism Accommodation Strategy.

This report proposes public exhibition of the amended Wollongong DCP 2009 draft Chapter E3 for a minimum period of 28 days. All submissions will be reviewed, and any post exhibition revised amendments will be reported to a future Council meeting for further consideration.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan and the following goals and strategies –

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment 1.5 Maintain the unique character of the Wollongong Local Government Area, whilst balancing development, population growth and housing needs	Land Use Planning
Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a liveable city 5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community.	Land Use Planning

CONCLUSION

A review of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management has been conducted and identified the need for amendments in line with current legislation, State Government guidelines and Council Policy. The revised draft DCP Chapter E3 includes new objectives and development controls to comply and more closely align with the recent NSW Department of Planning publication – *Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (2022)* and the new Transport for NSW (TfNSW) *Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (GTIA 2024)*, and recently endorsed Council Strategic documents.

This report recommends that the revised draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management (Attachment 2) be endorsed for exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days.

Table of Draft Changes to Chapter E3: Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
Chapter generally	Updated with current legislation, new government guidelines, updated zone names and Council Policy.	
	Detailed description of Integrated Development and Infrastructure SEPP deleted.	
	Overall tightening of requirements/development controls and new requirements/controls added.	
	Restructured to be more logical and consistent with other WDCP 2009 chapters recently reviewed and updated and a revised DCP Chapter template.	
Contents	Updated to reflect the new structure.	Contents restructured to be more logical and consistent with other WDCP 2009 chapters recently reviewed and updated, and a revised DCP Chapter template.
	<p>The new structure contains the following additional or changed section and subsection headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Purpose of this Chapter 1.1.2 Where this DCP Chapter applies 1.1.3 Application of this Chapter 2 Relevant Legislation, Standards and Guidelines 3 Parking Demand and Servicing Requirements 3.1 Parking Rates 3.2 Disabled Access and Parking 3.3 Bicycle and Micromobility Parking / Facilities 3.4 Variations to Parking Rates 3.5 Car Parking Layout and Design 3.6 At Grade Car Parking Areas 3.7 Basement Car Parking 3.8 Mechanical Parking Systems 	Summaries of legislation considered inappropriate in a DCP Chapter. Updated relevant legislation listed and references to obsolete legislation deleted.

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
	<p>3.9 Emergency Vehicles</p> <p>3.10 Public Car Parks</p> <p>3.11 Car Park Construction Requirements</p> <p>3.12 Travel Plans</p> <p>4 Access</p> <p>4.1 Vehicular Access</p> <p>4.2 Pedestrian Access</p> <p>5 Loading / Unloading Facilities and Service Vehicle Manoeuvring</p> <p>5.1 Loading / Unloading and Manoeuvring Area Requirements</p> <p>5.2 Noise Impact Assessment associated with Loading / Unloading Facilities</p> <p>6 Safety and Security (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Measures for Car Parking Areas</p> <p>7 Stormwater Drainage / Water Sensitive Urban Design</p> <p>8 Development Application Information Requirements</p> <p>9 Definitions</p> <p>Schedule 1: Car Parking, Bicycle, Motorcycle and Delivery Vehicle Parking Requirements</p> <p>Schedule 2: Car Parking Requirements for People with a Disability</p>	
	<p>The new structure has incorporated previous section 2 Objectives under a new section 1.1.3 Application of this Chapter (for overall aims of this Chapter) and has also introduced new objectives and controls for each specific area of assessment.</p> <p>Previous section 5 Adoption of other standards and guidelines has been incorporated into a new section, along with a listing of updated legislation under the heading 2 Relevant Legislation, Standards and Guidelines.</p>	

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
	<p>Previous section 6 Traffic Impact Assessment and Public Transport Studies have been deleted, and a new section introduced eight (8) Development Application Information Requirements.</p> <p>Previous sections 8 Vehicular Access and 10 Pedestrian Access have been combined in a new section 4 Access.</p> <p>Previous section 12 Landscaping Requirements for At Grade Car Parking Areas has been incorporated into a new section 3.6 At Grade Car Parking Areas.</p>	
	<p>The new structure has deleted the following previous section and subsection headings:</p> <p>4 Statutory Framework</p> <p>6 Traffic Impact Assessment and Public Transport Studies</p> <p>12 Landscaping Requirements for At Grade Car Parking Areas</p>	
1 Introduction	New sub section "1.1.1 Purpose of this Chapter" included and general guidance requirements for the construction of car parking facilities included.	The introduction of the DPE guideline "Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting" (2022) has been reflected in the objectives and controls of this DCP chapter.
	Noted that this DCP Chapter is informed by a number of Council policies and strategies.	Consistent with the revised DCP Chapter template.
	New sub section "1.1.2 Where this DCP Chapter applies" added.	Consistent with the revised DCP Chapter template.
	New sub section "1.1.3 Application of this DCP Chapter" added.	Consistent with the revised DCP Chapter template.
	The overall aims of this DCP Chapter have been revised and updated to reflect Council policy and DPE guidelines.	Previous section "2 Objectives" reviewed – overall Chapter aims have been included in the new sub section 1.1.3, incorporating an encouragement of a mode shift across the LGA to public and active transport, in line with Council endorsed sustainability policy. An overall aim of the Chapter has been included to ensure

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
		<p>the design and construction of parking, access and servicing areas is in accordance with best practice standards.</p> <p>Select objectives from the previous section "2 Objectives" have been moved under specific topic headings later in the Chapter, and linked to key development controls.</p>
2 Objectives	<p>Previous objectives (a), (b), (g), (i) and (j) incorporated into new objectives (d) "Ensure the design and construction of parking, access and servicing areas is in accordance with best practice standards" and (e) "Ensure adequate and safe vehicle access to sites without compromising pedestrian access, safety and streetscape qualities".</p> <p>Previous objectives (d) and (e) incorporated into new objectives (a) "Promote a reduction in the number of vehicles using the core of the City Centre and prioritise the City Centre for pedestrians, in accordance with Council policy" and (b) "Encourage a mode shift across the LGA to public and active transport".</p> <p>Previous objectives (f) and (h) moved to later sections under specific topic headings.</p>	<p>Wording of objectives improved or simplified. Overall Chapter aims have been included in the new sub section 1.1.3.</p> <p>Select objectives from the previous section "2 Objectives" have been moved under specific topic headings later in the Chapter, and linked to key development controls.</p>
3 Definitions	<p>Moved to back of chapter.</p> <p>Definitions listed in alphabetical order.</p>	New location of definitions consistent with other updated DCP chapters.
	New definitions added.	New definitions added in accordance with the introduction of the DPE guideline "Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting" (2022) and new proposed sustainability development controls.
4 Statutory Framework	Summaries of legislation deleted.	Summaries of legislation considered unnecessary in a DCP chapter. New section "2 Relevant Legislation, Standards and Guidelines" lists relevant and updated legislation, Australian Standards and relevant government guidelines.

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
5 Adoption of Other Standards and Guidelines	References to Standards, guidelines and publications updated, and incorporated into new section "2 Relevant Legislation, Standards and Guidelines".	<p>Updated legislation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Environmental Planning Policy (infrastructure) 2007 has been updated to SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 SEPP (Housing) 2021 <p>Updated guidelines/publications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (TfNSW 2024) National Construction Code (NCC 2022) Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (DPE 2022)
6 Traffic Impact Assessment and Public Transport Studies	Section deleted and a new section "8 Development Application Information Requirements" added. This section lists a number of studies that may be required in support of a development application, with the need for this information determined by Council at the pre-lodgement phase, and the level of Traffic Assessment to be determined by "Ausroads Guide to Traffic Management".	The need for additional studies, and the scope of these studies, will be determined by Council at any pre-lodgement phase of a development application. The Ausroads Guide to Traffic Management (updated periodically) is recognised as the best practice guide in relation to the need for transport impact assessments and the most appropriate methodology to employ.
7 Parking Demand and Servicing Requirements	"7.1 Car Parking, Motor Cycle, Bicycle Requirements and Delivery/Servicing Vehicle Requirements" heading replaced with new heading "3.1 Parking Rates". Sub section 3.1.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. Sub section 3.1.2 contains development controls 1 to 4 from the previous section 7.1. Control 5 deleted (listed under new section "8 Development Application Information Requirements").	<p>Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.</p> <p>The current development control 5 in section 7.1 outlines the methodology for a car parking study. The need for additional studies, and the scope of these studies, will be determined by Council at any pre-lodgement phase of a development application.</p>
	"7.2 Disabled Access and Parking" re-numbered as "3.2 Disabled Access and Parking". Sub section 3.2.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. Sub section 3.2.2 Development Controls references the need to comply with relevant Australian Standards, the National Construction Code (2022), relevant legislation and Council's DCP Chapter E1 Access for People with a Disability. The detailed description of the Australian Standards requirements currently cited in the DCP	<p>The following updated publication is referred to in the new sub section 3.2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Construction Code (NCC 2022) <p>The need to comply with the most recent Australian Standards is included as a control, in recognition that the Standards are updated from time to time.</p>

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
	have been removed. A new control has been included to ensure any adaptable car parking spaces required as part of a residential development are a minimum 3.8m in width.	A width of 3.8m satisfies the requirements of AS4299.
	“7.3 Bicycle Parking/Storage Facilities and Shower and Change Facilities” renumbered and renamed as “3.3 Bicycle and Micromobility Parking / Facilities”. Sub section 3.3.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. Table 1 Bicycle End-of-Trip Facilities updated.	The DCP chapter has been expanded to include parking and related provisions for micromobility modes of transport (eg electric scooters and e-bikes, electric skateboards...). Table 1 Bicycle End-of-Trip Facilities updated for clarity/ease of use. Proposed changes align with Wollongong City Centre – Movement and Place Plan and Integrated Transport Strategy (both endorsed for exhibition 24 June 2024), and Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 to encourage and accommodate mode share.
	“7.4 Waiver or Reduction of Parking Spaces” renumbered and renamed as “3.4 Variations to Parking Rates”. Sub section 3.4.1 Objectives updated. Sub section 3.4.2 updated to include a requirement to submit a “Car Parking and Access Checklist - Development with Variable Car Parking Demand ” to assist with merit based assessment of change of use development applications. Sub section 3.4.2 updated to include reference to proposed development of a heritage item, within a potential or identified archaeological site or within a Heritage Conservation Area.	Sub sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 updated to clarify that Council has discretion to waive or reduce the minimum number of car spaces required for proposed non-residential uses. Development control added to recognise that for change of use applications within Employment Zones, including E1 Local Centre, E3 Productivity Support, E4 General Industrial, and MU1 Mixed Use, car parking demand varies and there may not be the opportunity to increase parking supply at the development. The inclusion of a “Car Parking and Access Checklist -- Development with Variable Car Parking Demand” (linked to Councils Website) will assist in a merit based assessment. Development control added to recognise that constraints may limit the number of car parking spaces that can be reasonably provided in a heritage context (due to potential impacts on the identified significance of the site).
	“7.5 Car Parking Credits for Existing Development” section deleted.	The controls under this section are deemed to be captured in the new section “3.4 Variations to Parking Rates”.
	“7.6 Monetary Contributions for Off Site Car Parking Provision” section deleted.	The controls under this section are deemed to be captured in the new section “3.4 Variations to Parking Rates”.

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
	<p>"7. 7 Car Parking Layout and Design" renumbered as "3.5 Car Parking Layout and Design". Sub section 3.5.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. Development Control 10 wording updated. New Development Controls 11 (Heritage related) and 12 (EV ready related) added.</p>	<p>The current development control 10 in section 7.7 has been updated to emphasise the need to clearly separate pedestrian and vehicular movement, and provide specific guidance.</p> <p>New control 11 added to ensure the provision of car parking/access does not detract from the identified significance or setting where a development is proposed in a Heritage building or Heritage Conservation Area.</p> <p>New control 12 added to ensure that electric vehicle charging infrastructure is incorporated into the design and construction of car parking areas for new residential and non-residential developments, so that they are EV ready. Alignment with Council Policy to support a transition to zero emissions vehicle transport.</p>
	<p>"7.8 Basement Car Parking" renumbered as "3.7 Basement Car Parking". Sub section 3.7.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. Development Control 2 deleted.</p>	<p>The current development control 2 in section 7.8 has been deleted – part of the control has been incorporated into a new objective b) under 3.7.1, and the requirement for further studies has been included later in the Chapter under the new section 8 Development Application Information Requirements.</p> <p>New objectives and development controls have been added to reflect the new guideline "Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (DPE 2022)".</p>
	<p>"7.9 Mechanical Parking Systems" renumbered as "3.8 Mechanical Parking Systems". Sub section 3.8.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading.</p>	<p>Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.</p>
	<p>"7.10 Allocation of Car Parking within a Strata Titled Development" section deleted.</p>	<p>Conditions of consent rather than development controls.</p>
	<p>"7.11 Public Car Parks" renumbered as "3.10 Public Car Parks". Sub section 3.10.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading.</p>	<p>Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.</p>
	<p>"7.12 Electronic Parking Vacancy Signs" incorporated into new section "4.1 Vehicular Access".</p>	<p>Consolidation of objectives and development controls under one new heading "4.1 Vehicular Access".</p>

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
	<p>"7.13 Car Parking & Access Construction Requirements" renumbered and renamed as "3.11 Car Park Construction Requirements". Sub Section 3.11.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading.</p> <p>"7.14 Directional Signage for Car Parking Areas" incorporated into new section "4.1 Vehicular Access".</p> <p>"7.15 Green Travel Plans" renumbered and renamed as "3.12 Travel Plans". Sub Section 3.12.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. Sub section 3.12.2 contains updated development controls.</p>	<p>Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.</p> <p>Consolidation of objectives and development controls under one new heading "4.1 Vehicular Access".</p> <p>Requirement for the preparation of a Travel Plan added for larger proposed developments, to promote the reduction of car trips and encourage the use of sustainable transport. Addition of development control to encourage the submission of Travel Plans for other development, with the potential for a reduction in car parking requirements.</p>
8 Vehicular Access	"8 Vehicular Access" renumbered and renamed as "4 Access" incorporating new sub sections "4.1 Vehicular Access" and "4.2 Pedestrian Access".	<p>Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.</p> <p>"7.12 Electronic Parking Vacancy Signs" incorporated into new section "4.1 Vehicular Access". "7.14 Directional Signage for Car Parking Areas" incorporated into new section "4.1 Vehicular Access". "10 Pedestrian Access" incorporated into new section "4.2 Pedestrian Access".</p>
9 Loading / Unloading Facilities and Service Vehicle Manoeuvring	"9 Loading / Unloading Facilities and Service Vehicle Manoeuvring" renumbered as "5 Loading / Unloading Facilities and Service Vehicle Manoeuvring". Sub Section 5.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. Land use term updated. Reference to relevant policy updated.	<p>Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.</p> <p>Reference to "Bulky Goods Premises" updated to new land use term "Specialised Retail Premises".</p> <p>Updated Policy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Noise Policy (EPA 2011) NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA 2017)
10 Pedestrian Access	"10 Pedestrian Access" incorporated into new section "4.2 Pedestrian Access".	Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.
11 Safety & Security (Crime Prevention Through	"11 Safety & Security (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Measures For Car Parking Areas" renumbered as "6 Safety & Security (Crime Prevention Through Environmental	Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
Environmental Design) Measures for Car Parking Areas	Design) Measures For Car Parking Areas". Sub Section 6.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading.	
12 Landscaping Requirements for At-Grade Car Parking Areas	"12 Landscaping Requirements for At-Grade Car Parking Areas" renumbered and renamed as "3.6 At Grade Car Parking Areas". Sub Section 3.6.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading. New development controls have been added.	Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls. The current development controls 1 and 2 in section 12 have been deleted and incorporated into the new objectives for this section. New development controls have been added to ensure the provision of adequate shade, soil depth and appropriate tree species. Development controls relating to car parking moved from Chapter B5 Industrial Development to this chapter of the WDCP.
13 Stormwater Drainage / Water Sensitive Urban Design	"13 Stormwater Drainage / Water Sensitive Urban Design" renumbered as "7 Stormwater Drainage / Water Sensitive Urban Design". Sub Section 7.1 contains updated objectives specific to this heading.	Objectives included for each specific topic heading and linked to key development controls.
Schedule 1 – Car Parking, Bicycle, Motorcycle and Delivery Vehicle Parking Requirements	Schedule generally: Contents updated, removal of obsolete land uses, inclusion of new land uses.	Alignment with TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment and Council Policies.
	Capitalised City Centre within Car Parking Requirements Column of Dwelling house row.	Consistent formatting within this DCP and other DCPs.
	Addition of "Wollongong City Centre: 1 car parking space per dwelling" within Car Parking Requirements column of Dual occupancy (reduced from 2 spaces to one space).	This applies to land in the City Centre boundary zoned R1 General Residential. Aligns with Chapter D13 (dwelling houses only need 1 space in the city centre zone) and Council policy to encourage a mode shift to public and active transport.
	Car parking requirement for seniors and people with a disability (Hostels, Residential Care Facilities and Independent Living Units) updated to "Provided as per rates given within the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021"	Alignment with State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021, which contains updated non-discretionary development standards for the provision of accommodation for seniors and people with a disability (hostels, residential care facilities and independent living units).

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
	"Backpackers accommodation" row deleted.	TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment provides adequate direction on parking requirements.
	Office premises / Business premises / Retail premises rows amalgamated. Proposed reduction in required car parking rates for office premises and business premises in the E2 Commercial Centre zone from a minimum of one space per 60m ² to one space per 120 m ² of floor space.	Rows consolidated to simplify parking requirements. Land zones updated to be in alignment with new zoning names. Aligns with Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework (Strategy 1.3 Pursue incentives for commercial development). This proposed change will provide an incentive for commercial development in the City Centre by reducing the construction cost of parking. It will also help to encourage the use of public transport to the City and the park and ride Gong Shuttle.
	Reference to "Bulky Goods Premises" changed to "Specialised Retail Premises".	Updated to align with new land use term.
	Addition of "NOTE: Drive through facility. An exclusive area for queuing of cars for a drive-through facility should be considered to avoid unreasonably disrupting car parking operations or extending onto the street. A range of five to 12 car lengths from pick-up point may be considered dependant on turnover and four car lengths from ordering point may be considered as a guide" within Car Parking Requirements column of Take-away food premises.	Alignment with TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment.
	Car parking requirements for the development of Pubs and Registered Clubs updated as follows: "Refer to Guide to Transport Impact Assessment to show that parking satisfies peak maximum demand with an analysis of non-car mode share. Comparisons should be drawn with regard to similar developments".	Alignment with TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment, which provides guidance on multimodal transport network impacts, site access design, travel demand management, trip generation methods and parking. This Guide provides adequate direction on parking requirements.
	Addition of new land use "Artisan Food and Drink", and car parking requirements.	Recognition that less common land uses like artisan food and drink may not have suitable car parking or opportunity to increase parking supply at the development site. Requirement for applicants to submit a staff and patron demand/car parking and modal shift assessment to demonstrate no impacts on adjacent businesses (merit-based approach). Alignment with TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment.

Section in existing DCP Chapter	Proposed Change	Comment
	Removal of current car parking requirement for Neighbourhood shops of "1 car parking space per 25m ² of GFA", and addition of "These facilities are intended to provide walkable access. No parking requirements for vehicular parking".	Neighbourhood shops generally occur in residential areas (R2 Low Density Residential zones) and are restricted to a size of 100m ² . At 100m ² they would require four (4) car spaces, plus manoeuvring, which would equal the area of the shop. These facilities are intended to provide walkable access and see a quick turnover of parking.
	Increased bicycle parking facilities for medical Centres/Health Consulting rooms within Shop top housing Developments: "Employee/resident parking spaces: 1 per 8 practitioners" and "Visitor parking spaces: 1 per 4 practitioners".	Alignment with TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment.
	Removing current car parking requirement for Hotel or Motel accommodation within the E2 Commercial Centre and MU1 Mixed Use zones in Wollongong City Centre: "1 car parking space per 40m ² GFA, where the hotel or motel accommodation is not strata subdivided" and "If a restaurant is included in the hotel which is available to the general public, then an additional 15 car parking spaces per 100m ² GFA of the restaurant shall be included".	Consistent with the draft Tourism Review Strategy. It is considered more appropriate to have one rate within the City Centre, noting that the applicant may carry out their own surveys of similar developments and provide a lower car parking provision if suitably justified, as per the TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment.
	Removal of Video Stores row.	Obsolete Land use term.
Schedule 2 – Car Parking Requirements for People with a Disability	Updated with current guidance documents.	National Construction Code (NCC 2022) has replaced the Building Code of Australia.



Part E General (City Wide) Controls Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Rev No.	Adoption Date	In Force Date	Revision Details
0	15 December 2009	3 October 2010	Commenced
1	26 March 2012	2 April 2012	Updated
2	21 November 2016	14 December 2016	Updates resulting from sustainability review/
3	8 August 2022	22 August 2022	Schedule 1 updated to align with State Legislation
4	Table text	[Comments]	Table text

Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This DCP Chapter

1.1.1 Purpose of this Chapter

The Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 – Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Facilities and Traffic Management outlines the objectives, controls and design guidance for the management of traffic impacts associated with development in the Wollongong Local Government Area. The Chapter also outlines Council's requirements for the design, construction and provision of parking, access and loading facilities for specific developments. This Chapter supports the objectives contained in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009.

This Chapter is informed by the following Council policies and strategies:

- The Vision for the City Centre – A City for People: Public Spaces Public Life (2016)
- Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework (UDF) (2020)
- Sustainable Wollongong 2030 A Climate Healthy City Strategy
- Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-30
- Urban Heat Strategy (2023)
- Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030

This Chapter includes specific reference to recognised best practice design standards and guidelines, where appropriate.

1.1.2 Where this DCP Chapter applies

This DCP Chapter applies to any development requiring development consent under Part 4 or approval under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). This Chapter should be read in conjunction with other parts of the DCP, especially Part B (Land Use Planning Controls), Part C (Specific Land Use Controls), Part D (Locality Based DCPs / Precinct Plans) and Part E (General City Wide Controls).

1.1.3 Application of this DCP Chapter

The determining authority will take the provisions of this chapter into consideration in determining all applications within the Wollongong LGA. Development applications must demonstrate conformity with the aims, objectives and controls of this and other relevant chapters of the WDCP.

The aims of this DCP Chapter are to:

- a) Promote a reduction in the number of vehicles using the core of the City Centre and prioritise the City Centre for pedestrians.
- b) Encourage a mode shift across the LGA to public and active transport
- c) Provide for appropriate parking and services for all development, whilst promoting more sustainable transport use
- d) Ensure the design and construction of parking, access and servicing areas is in accordance with best practice standards
- e) Ensure adequate and safe vehicle access to sites without compromising pedestrian access, safety and streetscape qualities
- f) Support the transition to low emissions vehicle transport.

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2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The following are relevant to this Chapter:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Roads Act 1993
- SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021
- SEPP (Housing) 2021
- Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Water Management Act 2000
- NSW Aquifer Interference Policy
- Australian Standard AS 2890: Parking facilities set
- Australian Standard AS 1428: Design for access and mobility set
- Australian Standard AS 4299: Adaptable housing
- Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (TfNSW 2024)
- AUSTROADS Guide to Traffic Management
- National Construction Code (NCC 2022)
- Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (DPE 2022)

Note: where the above-mentioned standards and guidelines are superseded by updated versions, the version current at the date of lodgment of the Development Application shall apply to the proposed development

3. PARKING DEMAND AND SERVICING REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Parking Rates

3.1.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure an appropriate level and mix of parking provision, having regard to the likely demand
- b) Recognise variable accessibility to public transport in parking rates for different parts of the LGA

3.1.2 Development Controls

1. Parking for cars, motorcycles and bicycles is to be provided for specific land uses/developments in accordance with the minimum rates in Schedule 1 (noting that DCP Chapter D13 contains site specific car parking requirements for the Wollongong City Centre).
2. Where development proposals contain uses that fall into a number of different land use categories the parking requirements will be calculated by adding up the quantum of car parking, motorcycle and bicycle spaces required for each land use component. Where a formula in the table results in fractions, numbers are to be rounded up to the nearest whole number. If a number of uses are present on the same development site the rounding off is to take place after the requirements for all uses have been summed together.
3. Requirements relating to staff parking refer to the maximum number of staff concurrently present on the site at any time.
4. Where car parking and / or other requirements are not defined by this DCP chapter for a

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particular land use or in the TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessment, a detailed Car Parking and Traffic Impact Assessment Study will be required to be prepared for the proposed development (see Section 8).

5. Reduced parking rates for residential development in accordance with Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter E3 Schedule 1 for development within 450m walking distance of a rail station may be adopted, subject to a traffic and parking assessment submitted with the development application.
6. All car parking requirements associated with industrial development shall be provided 100% on site.

3.2 Disabled Access and Parking

3.2.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure disabled persons' parking spaces are provided and located according to best practice guidelines.
- b) Provide car parking spaces that are accessible to future users.
- c) Ensure a continuous accessible path of travel from accessible parking spaces and passenger drop off points to entrances of buildings.

3.2.2 Development Controls

1. Disabled access and parking facilities are to be provided in accordance with Australian Standards AS2890, AS1428 & AS4299, the National Construction Code (2022), the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Council's DCP Chapter E1 Access for People with a Disability.
2. The car parking rates for accessible car parking spaces are contained in Schedule 2.
3. Where adaptable car parking spaces are required as part of a residential development, any adaptable car parking spaces must be a minimum of 3.8 metres in width.

3.3 Bicycle and Micromobility Parking / Facilities

3.3.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure bicycle/micromobility parking spaces and end of trip facilities are provided and located according to best practice guidelines.
- b) Encourage trips by cycling and micromobility use, through the provision of conveniently located bike parking and end of trip shower and change, and storage facilities.

3.3.2 Development Controls

1. Parking for bicycles/micromobility modes of transport is to be provided for specific land uses/developments in accordance with the minimum rates in Schedule 1.
2. Bicycle/micromobility parking is to be designed in accordance with AS 2890 or AUSTROADS Guide to Traffic Management.
3. Provision for access and parking of vehicles is not to compromise the equity and amenity of bicycle/micromobility access and parking.
4. Shower, change facilities and personal lockers shall be provided in accordance with Table 1 below.

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5. Bicycle/micromobility parking devices should be designed to enable the wheels and frame to be locked to the device without damaging the bicycle. The parking device should be easily accessible to / from a public road. The bicycle parking device should not encroach into any pedestrian thoroughfare but should be positioned in full public view, wherever practicable.
6. The bicycle parking area should be designed to be protected from damage arising from the manoeuvring of motor vehicles and the opening of vehicle doors.
7. The bicycle parking area is to be well lit by appropriate existing or new lighting as per AS 1680.2 Table E1 or higher, if required for monitoring of the car park and access points by closed circuit television (CCTV).
8. The bicycle parking area should also be protected from the weather, as far as practicable.
9. The bicycle parking area should provide access to electrical power for the purpose of charging electric bikes and other mobility devices.

Bicycle End-of-trip Facilities - Table 1

Required Bicycle Parking Spaces (refer to Schedule 1)	Shower & Change Cubicle	Personal Lockers
< 5 bicycle spaces	n/a	n/a
5 - 20 bicycle spaces	1 female shower and change room; and 1 male shower and change room	1 per bicycle space
> 20 bicycle spaces	2 female shower and change rooms; and 2 male shower and change rooms; plus 2 additional shower and change rooms for every additional 10 bicycle spaces, or part thereof	1 per bicycle space
Note: Shower and change facilities may be provided in the form of shower/change rooms in a unisex area or shower/change rooms in separate female and male rooms.		

3.4 Variations to Parking Rates

3.4.1 Objectives

- a) Allow variations to on-site provisions for parking for proposed Non-Residential uses or change of use/redevelopment proposals.

3.4.2 Development Controls

1. Applicants must comprehensively justify any departure from the parking rates set out in Schedule 1 in any Statement of Environmental Effects or Traffic Impact Study accompanying the development application.
2. A reduction in the number of car parking spaces required of a Non-Residential development will be assessed on the merits of an application.
3. For development applications involving a change of use or redevelopment which do not cause any net increase in the demand for car parking, Council may determine that the provision of any additional car parking is not required. In the majority of cases, a Car Parking Impact Assessment Study will be required to demonstrate that the proposal will not necessitate any demand for additional parking and hence, to justify this car parking variation request.

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4. Where a departure from the parking rates is sought in association with a change of use development application within Employment Zones, including E1 Local Centre, E3 Productivity Support, E4 General Industrial, and MU1 Mixed Use (excluding Wollongong City Centre), applicants will be required to complete a "Car Parking and Access Checklist" available on Council's website, to assist in a merit-based assessment.
5. Car parking credits for existing land uses/development will only be supported where written evidence is provided which proves that the existing development is operating lawfully in accordance with development consent.
6. For development applications involving a change of use within the E2 Commercial Centre and MU1 Mixed Use zones in the Wollongong City Centre, the provision of additional car parking is not required.
7. For proposed development of a Heritage item, within a potential or identified archaeological site or within a Heritage Conservation Area, consideration may be given for any constraints that may limit the number of car parking spaces reasonably able to be provided on the site (due to potential impacts on the identified significance of the site).

Note: The following car parking reductions can be applied in relation to public parking availability and public transport accessibility –

City Centre E2 Commercial Centre and MU1 Mixed Use Zones (excluding residential, office premises, retail and business premises uses):

30% reduction due to increased access to public parking and public transport.

City Wide (Non-Residential uses only):

10% reduction* if bus stop is within 400m of site (measured along an existing footpath)

20% reduction* if railway station is within 800m of site (measured along an existing footpath)

10% reduction* if public car park with greater than 50 car spaces is within 400m of site (measured along an existing footpath)

*Reductions are cumulative with a maximum final reduction of 30%. However, an applicant can apply for a further 10% reduction on top of the 30% reduction if a Travel Plan is provided as outlined in Section 3.12

Note: This waiver does not apply to residential, only non-residential.

3.5 Car Parking Layout and Design

3.5.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure car parking areas are well-sited and designed as an integrated component of the total development, and do not dominate the streetscape or detract from the overall appearance or continuity of the streetscape
- b) Ensure the layout of car parking areas is in accordance with best practice guidelines
- c) Ensure parking areas and structures are designed to be easily and safely negotiated by vehicles and pedestrians
- d) Ensure car parking in new developments provide the essential infrastructure to allow the charging of electric vehicles and micromobility modes of transport (EV charging ready).

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3.5.2 Development Controls

1. The parking dimensions, internal circulation, aisle widths, kerb splay corners, head clearance heights, ramp widths and grades of the car parking areas are to comply with Australian Standard AS 2890. No sprinklers or other services shall encroach within the clear head clearance height requirement.
2. The layout of all car parking areas shall be in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2890 and the following additional requirements:
 - i) vehicles must be able to enter and leave the site in a forward direction without the need to make more than a three point turn.
 - ii) stacked parking may be permitted in the following circumstances:
 - a. the applicant must demonstrate that there is a need for stacked parking and that the provision of stacked parking will not adversely affect the safe, efficient and effective use of the site.
 - b. no more than two cars are parked in a stacked arrangement, so that no more than one vehicle has to move to allow egress of another.
 - c. provision shall be made on site for shifting cars without the movement of vehicles onto public streets.
 - d. Residential: only permitted where both spaces are utilised by the same dwelling and such spaces do not interfere with common manoeuvring areas; and
 - e. Business or Industrial: only permitted for staff spaces, provided the spaces are used by the occupants of one tenancy.
3. Small car spaces will only be permitted where the total quantum of required standard sized car parking spaces has already been provided. Small car parking spaces must be designed in accordance with AS 2890.
4. Car parking areas should be designed to ensure that through traffic is excluded or appropriately managed.
5. Pedestrian entrances / exits are to be separated from vehicular entry / exit points.
6. Developments with high pedestrian movements throughout the car parking area(s) such as major retail shopping centres, commercial offices and major entertainment / recreational facilities must incorporate clear and convenient pedestrian routes. The pedestrian routes within the car parking areas must take into account pedestrian desire lines and minimise potential vehicular / pedestrian conflict points. Pedestrian routes must be well lit and sited to maximise pedestrian visibility.
7. Car parking areas should incorporate traffic calming and pedestrian crossing facilities such as speed humps, raised thresholds, marked pedestrian crossing points and clear directional signage to pedestrian access points within the development. These must be provided within the car park in order to reduce speed and enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility in accordance with AS 2890.
8. Gradients of ramps and access driveways shall be provided in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2890.
9. Wheel stops must be designed and installed in accordance with AS 2890.
10. Pedestrian and vehicular movement is to be clearly separated by use of design devices such as change in paving, kerb, bollards and line marking. Dedicated pedestrian paths are to be included in multi lane parking areas. Pedestrian paths must be a minimum 1.2m wide and have a non-slip finish.

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11. The location of car parking spaces and access ways into the development should not detract from the identified significance or setting where a development is proposed in a heritage building or a heritage conservation area.
12. The following forms of Residential development - multi dwelling housing (>10 dwellings), residential flat buildings and shop-top housing, must:
 - i) Provide an EV Ready Connection for 100 percent of resident parking spaces (ie with appropriate electrical cabling to the parking space to support an electric vehicle charger).
 - ii) 100 percent of any parking bays assigned to car share use will provide electric vehicle charging (7kW or greater) from day 1 of operation.
 - iii) A minimum 20 percent, or two (whichever is greater), of visitor spaces are to provide electric vehicle charging (7kW or greater) from day 1 of operation.
 - iv) Provide EV Distribution Board(s) and associated sub-mains and EV charger circuit breakers at the time of building, and of sufficient size to allow connection of all EV Ready Connections and Shared EV connections to meet minimum specified requirements for "EV Ready" developments. The EV Chargers are to be supplied from dedicated Distribution Boards installed on each car park level (NOT supplied from individual unit switchboards).
 - v) All parking spaces must be serviced by a cable tray:
 - a. located within 10 metres (as measured from the ceiling at any edge of the parking space)
 - b. sized to accommodate the same number of cables as parking spaces the cable tray services
 - c. that terminates at the closest electric vehicle Distribution Board; and
 - d. that enables installation of charging stations in individual bays without works that require the consent of the building owner.
 - vi) Cable trays and conduits along with the individual EV charger power and load management data cabling from EV charger distribution boards to individual parking spots are to be installed at the time of building
 - vii) All new residential dwellings are to be provided with a minimum of one 32 Amp dedicated circuit and socket adjacent car parking facilities
 - viii) All common property electric vehicle chargers are to be individually metered and equipped with an Open Charge Point Protocol compatible payment system unless the cost of electricity use is borne by the strata.
 - ix) Identify on the plans submitted with the Development Application the future installation location of the cable trays from the EV Distribution Board to the car spaces allocated to each dwelling that have an EV Ready Connection, with confirmation of adequacy from an electrical engineer. Spatial allowances are to be made for cables trays and EV Distribution Board(s) when designing in other services.
13. All **new retail, commercial or mixed-use development with a cost of works of \$10 million or more** must include electric vehicle charging points at the following rate:
 - i) Provide 1 Shared EV connection for every 30 commercial car spaces (minimum 2 charging points being provided) distributed throughout the carpark to provide equitable access across floors and floor plates. For large retail development, the EV charging spaces should be publically accessible.
 - ii) All car share spaces and spaces allocated to visitors must have a Shared EV connection.

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- iii) All common property electric vehicle chargers are to be individually metered and equipped with an Open Charge Point Protocol compatible payment system unless the cost of electricity use is borne by the strata.
- iv) Identify on the plans submitted with the Development Application the future installation location of the cable trays from the EV Distribution Board to the car spaces allocated that have an EV Ready Connection, with confirmation of adequacy from an electrical engineer. Spatial allowances are to be made for cables trays and EV Distribution Board(s) when designing in other services.

NOTE: the National Construction Code 2022 includes new requirements for renewable energy equipment, electric vehicle charging and battery systems. Section J9D4 contains details for design and provision of distribution boards to support electric vehicle charging in car parks.

3.6 At Grade Car Parking Areas

3.6.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure car parking areas are well-sited and designed as an integrated component of the total development and do not dominate the streetscape or detract from the overall appearance or continuity of the streetscape
- b) Integrate landscaping into at grade car parking areas to provide visual relief and screen car parking from the public domain and adjoining properties
- c) Ensure shade is provided to car parking areas
- d) Ensure an appropriate selection of tree/shrub species
- e) Reduce Urban Heat Island effect associated with car parking areas

3.6.2 Development Controls

1. Where at grade car parking is to be provided in centres, locate parking to the rear of the site to allow buildings to define the street edge and contribute to the streetscape.
2. Any above-ground parking is to be sleeved behind a landscaped podium so it is not visible from the public domain.
3. Landscaping should be used throughout the car parking areas at regular intervals and around the perimeter of the car parking areas.
4. A minimum 3 metre deep front landscaped setback is required for car parking areas fronting a public road (excluding industrial developments where a 5 – 10 metre landscaped buffer screen may be required, depending upon the scale and height of the development).
5. A minimum 2 metre wide side landscaped buffer screen is required for all car parking areas.
6. A dense rear landscaped buffer screen setback may be required, particularly where the zoning or land use of the rear abutting properties is different to the subject site.
7. Car parking areas are to provide shade to a minimum 50% of parked vehicles.
8. Trees are to be planted at a rate of 1 tree per 10 car spaces. Tree species shall be selected to provide at least a 4-6m canopy spread at maturity. Trees shall be a minimum 100 litre size.
9. The provision of 1.5 metre wide landscaped islands is required (after every 5th parking space) for every 10 car parking spaces within each aisle of the car park, incorporating shade trees.
10. The planting of trees and larger shrubs should occur in the centre of the landscape planter

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beds with small shrubs and groundcovers positioned at the edge of the planter boxes.

11. Planter beds must have sufficient deep soil area for trees and shrubs to grow.
12. Trees and shrubs in car parks should be long lived species that do not drop branches, gum or fruit, and species which do not interfere with underground stormwater drainage pipes.
13. Any existing trees with a satisfactory Safe Useable Life Expectancy (SULE) rating should be retained within the car parking area, wherever practicable.
14. A fully automatic irrigation system is required in all car park planter beds. Tree root barriers should be installed around the edge of the planter beds to reduce future maintenance.
15. Wheel stops or 150mm concrete kerbs or edge treatments must be used to prevent vehicles encroaching upon the landscaped areas. The use of bollards may also be appropriate in certain circumstances.

3.7 Basement Car Parking

3.7.1 Objectives

- a) Integrate the siting, scale and design of basement or sub- basement car parking into the site and building design
- b) Ensure best practice design and construction of basement car parking, to ensure no ground settlement or movement, changes to groundwater level and/or adverse vibration impacts during construction which may negatively impact adjoining property or service infrastructure
- c) Protect existing natural groundwater flows, downstream waterways and downstream properties from seepage

3.7.2 Development Controls

1. The design of basement car parking and access should comply with AS2890 and should support the use of natural ventilation where possible.
2. The design of basement car parking should be integrated with the overall design of the development, and limiting the extent to which the podium extends beyond the building footprint will minimise the impact of the basement parking areas on the streetscape.
3. A minimum 2.2 metre headroom height shall be provided throughout any basement car parking and traffic circulation area.
4. Ventilation structures/openings/exhausts for basement parking and air-conditioning units must be orientated away from windows of habitable rooms and private open space areas on the subject site as well as adjoining sites. Ventilation grills must be integrated into the design of the façade of the building to minimise their visual impact.
5. The visual impact of all basement walls must be minimised through the use of various design techniques including well-proportioned ground level articulation and relief, mixed finishes, and materials, terracing and/or dense landscaping.
6. Basements must be protected from inundation from 100-year ARI flood levels (or greater). Flood proofing of the vehicular access, fire escape any ventilation openings must be demonstrated.
7. A site hydrogeology report, produced by a suitably qualified Hydro-geologist, is required prior to any design or construction work to determine the soil structure and level and flow regime of groundwater beneath the site. A minimum of 3 locations on the site should be investigated to allow triangulation of results to determine flow direction and hydraulic gradient. The scope of

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investigations and planning required is outlined in “Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (DPE 2022)”

8. The results of the hydrogeology report will determine if detailed investigations are required to develop a Groundwater Management Plan. The following must be reported as a minimum:
 - i) Depth to water table
 - ii) Recharge characteristics of water table
 - iii) Presence of contaminated soils
 - iv) Presence of contaminated surface water
 - v) Presence of contaminated groundwater
 - vi) Salinity level of groundwater
 - vii) Potential for underground structure to interact with the groundwater flow regime
 - viii) Proximity to nearby structures and how they may be affected by the proposed works.
9. Aquifer interference activities must be licensed to account for all water taken, have an approval, and must be designed and managed to ensure impacts are acceptable. Prior to any excavation starting, one of more of the following approvals will be needed:
 - i) A water access licence
 - ii) Water supply works approval
 - iii) Aquifer interference activity approval.

Note: Excavation for building basements that receive groundwater inflows, or seepage, is a type of “*aquifer interference activity*”.

10. Best practice basement construction for a car park is considered to include engineered drainage around and beneath a fully-tanked dry basement to restore natural groundwater flow conditions once construction of the building has been completed. A **fully-tanked dry basement design with no AG drain collection or disposal and an allowance made for any hydrostatic pressures** is considered waterproof and is designed to withstand the hydrostatic pressure of a saturated soil. This type of system requires no groundwater collection and is the default method of construction required by Council. The tanked basement design must demonstrate minimal harm and the completed structure is not to cause obstruction to predevelopment groundwater flow.

If a tanked basement design is impossible, reasons are to be provided and an alternative design must demonstrate compliance with “Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (DPE 2022)”.

11. Even with a watertight boundary it is recommended that underground car park levels be equipped with positive draining systems linked to pumps and sumps to allow surface run-off and wash-down water to be removed (and also in case the watertight perimeter is compromised in some way – e.g. service connections and ducts that can lead to water ingress).
12. Council will not accept a Pump and Sump System where groundwater is pumped into the stormwater – this system represents an unacceptable risk to Council in terms of potential negative environmental impacts.
13. Council will not accept any groundwater discharge (including AG drain) or basement seepage into the stormwater system. Overflow from a reuse system is also not permitted to be discharged to stormwater.

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Note: Discharging groundwater to the stormwater drain reduces the capacity of the drain to handle rainfall events and can lead to excessive flooding. It also impacts ability to reuse stormwater as a harvesting asset.

14. A temporary Trade Waste Agreement is required for discharge to the **sewer network** as part of any de-watering processes. A Dewatering Management Plan and Dewatering Completion Report will be required to support a water supply works approval application.
15. Waste collection vehicles may enter building basements to collect waste and/or recyclables subject to the following requirements:
 - i) Compliance with AS 2890.
 - ii) The height to the structural members and upper floor ceiling should allow for collection vehicle travel height/operational height, consistent with the type of vehicle nominated as the waste collection vehicle.
 - iii) Adequate provision of space clear of structural members or vehicle parking spaces to allow a typical three-point turn of collection vehicles or alternatively, provision should be made for a truck turn table within the basement car parking area; and
 - iv) The basement floor should be of industrial-type strength pavement and designed for a maximum wheel loading of seven tonnes per axle to accommodate garbage and recycling collection vehicles.
16. Wheel stops are to be provided to all car parking spaces to minimise vehicle accidents / damage and to prevent vehicle encroachment into public domain areas or landscaping.

3.8 Mechanical Parking Systems

3.8.1 Objectives

- a) Provide for the use of mechanical parking systems where provision of conventional car parking (ie at grade or basement) is not appropriate, and the proposed mechanical parking system is not a result of an overdevelopment of the site.

3.8.2 Development Controls

1. Any application for the use of mechanical parking systems must demonstrate to the satisfaction of Council that the provision of conventional car parking (ie either at-grade or basement car parking) is not appropriate given inherent site constraints, and that the proposed mechanical parking system is not a result of an overdevelopment of the site.
2. Mechanical stacked car parking systems will only be considered to meet the car parking needs of owners / tenants only. Mechanical stacked car parking will not be supported for shared use or for visitor parking.
3. Where it is proposed to incorporate a mechanical parking system within a development, the following information is required, as part of a Car Parking / Traffic Impact Assessment Study:
 - i) The company make and model of the proposed mechanical car parking stacking system.
 - ii) Demonstrated compliance with all relevant clauses of AS2890.
 - iii) Demonstrated minimum internal headroom clearance of 1.90m in the entry level of the system.
 - iv) Demonstrated minimum internal vertical clearance of 1.55m on all other levels within the parking system.

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- v) Details of security measures restricting the use of the system to owners / permanent residents of the building only (e.g. security keypads).
- vi) Details of noise and vibration associated with the use of the system.
- vii) Details of a waiting bay, demonstrating that vehicles can safely and conveniently wait at the entry level for other vehicles to manoeuvre to or from the parking system. Waiting bays must be designed so as to not obstruct traffic flow within the parking level and to prevent any on-site queuing. Waiting bays would typically have identical dimensions to parking spaces as per AS2890 and are additional to the parking requirement of the development.
- viii) Assessment of the likely vehicle queuing impacts associated with system, with reference to the operating times of the system, peak vehicle movements and available queue lengths within the parking area.
- ix) Swept path turning templates demonstrating the ability of vehicles to turn into and out of the system in a single movement.
- x) Assessment of the adequacy of the facility to cater for a range of vehicles from small sports cars up to large 4WDs (ie the facility is capable of storing the 100th percentile vehicle).
- xi) Proposed management procedures to be implemented in the running of the facility, including emergency response procedures.

NOTE:

- All visitor and customer parking spaces and those spaces associated with adaptable housing must be provided in at-grade positions (i.e. separate to any mechanical parking system), and
- The mechanical car parking stacker system and all associated infrastructure such as pits and ceiling indentations must be clearly shown on the architectural drawings of the car parking area, at the time of lodgement of the Development Application.

3.9 Emergency Vehicles

3.9.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure best practice design and layout of car parking to facilitate access for emergency vehicles, such as fire service, ambulance and police vehicles.

3.9.2 Development Controls

1. The location of car parking must not impede access for emergency vehicles.
2. Emergency vehicles must have unimpeded access to water and gas systems.

NOTE: refer to “Access for fire brigade vehicles and firefighters (2019).

3.10 Public Car Parks

3.10.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure public car parks are designed in accordance with best practice standards.
- b) Minimise the potential adverse queuing problems onto public roads associated with boom gates, by ensuring adequate queuing lengths are available on site.

3.10.2 Development Controls

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1. The establishment and operation of a public carpark requires formal consent and may also require concurrence with TfNSW if the carpark triggers the threshold levels contained in SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.
2. The design and location of any boom gate, and the minimum queue length required within the site, must be in accordance with the requirements of AS2890.

3.11 Car Park Construction Requirements

3.11.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure car parking construction is provided in accordance with best practice guidelines

3.11.2 Development Controls

1. All car parking areas and internal roads must be constructed of a hard-standing all-weather material (ie concrete or asphalt bitumen), which must be maintained to the satisfaction of Council, at all times.
2. The pavement construction shall be in accordance with the Subdivision Code and Council's Development Design and Construction Specifications requirements.
3. For large industrial or commercial office developments or major retail shopping centres, car parking areas should be designed to include water sensitive urban design treatment measures, in order to encourage infiltration of stormwater run-off rather than direct discharge of stormwater run-off into the piped drainage system.
4. Alternatively car parking areas may be sealed with an all-weather surface and high flows managed by detention storage and pollutants removed by suitably designed, installed and maintained devices (GPT, grass swales etc). Minimum trafficked area surface standards in this case are:
5. Low parking turnover (<50 movements) - flush seal (ie. two coat bitumen spray).
6. High parking turnover (>50 movements) - asphalt concrete.
7. All parking area surfaces will be certified by a suitably qualified Engineer prior to occupation or use.
8. All car parking and manoeuvring areas shall be permanently line marked as detailed in AS 2890.

3.12 Travel Plans

3.12.1 Objectives

- a) Reduce car trips and encourage the use of sustainable transports.

3.12.2 Development Controls

1. Development proposals that meet the following criteria must prepare a Travel Plan:
 - Educational establishments allowing an additional 100 students; or
 - Residential development containing 50 or more dwellings; or
 - Non-residential development which comprises a gross floor area (GFA) of 2,000m² or more and alterations and additions which increase the GFA to 2,000m² or more
2. For any other developments a Travel Plan is encouraged. Subject to a written agreement and

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conditions of consent to implement a Travel Plan, Council may reduce the required number of car parking spaces for development (an applicant can apply for up to a further 10% reduction above anything allowed CL 3.4 if a Travel Plan is provided)

Components/strategies of a Travel Plan will likely vary according to the nature of the development, but may include:

- identification and promotion of public transport options for staff/customers accessing the site e.g. via website, business cards, real time public transport arrival and departure boards in entry/exit lobbies of building
- preparation of a Transport Access Guide (TAG) for the site/venue
- encouragement of car share or a carpool system for employees
- encouragement of cycling and walking to the workplace through provision of secure bicycle parking, showers and lockers
- incentive schemes to encourage employees to commute using sustainable transport modes (such as provision of public transport vouchers/subsidised public transport tickets)
- provide staff with cycling allowances, loans and/or insurance
- park and ride facilities
- prominent display of a large map of cycling routes for staff/customers and residents (for example, in the foyer of a residential complex)
- Provision of services to reduce the need for travel (e.g. childcare, gym, convenience store, remote co-working space, video/teleconferencing facilities)

Please refer to the "Travel Demand Management" webpage by TfNSW for guidance on preparing a Travel Plan ([**Travel Demand Management | nsw**](#))

The undertakings made in the submitted Travel Plan will be included as conditions of consent to the development.

4. ACCESS

4.1 Vehicular Access

4.1.1 Objectives

- a) provide adequate and safe vehicular access to car parking areas in accordance with best practice guidelines
- b) ensure that all car parking areas have satisfactory manoeuvring areas to enable vehicles to leave the site in a forward direction
- c) Minimise traffic flow impacts/conflicts through the provision of appropriate parking vacancy and directional signage.

4.1.2 Development Controls

1. Access to off-street parking areas must comply with Council's Standard Vehicle Entrance Designs, with any works within the footpath and road reserve subject to a section 138 *Roads Act 1993* approval.
2. Sight distances to be used for assessment and determination of a suitable driveway location shall be obtained from AS 2890 for car use and any access to be used by a commercial vehicle.
3. Driveway grades, vehicular ramp width/grades and passing bays must be in accordance with

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AS 2890.

4. Generally, direct access to arterial or sub-arterial roads will not be permitted, except where no legal alternative access is available.
5. Where a development site has dual frontage to a classified road and a secondary road, all driveway crossings (ie entry and exit points) are to be provided via the secondary road unless it can be demonstrated that this arrangement will have an unacceptable impact on road safety and traffic efficiency. This must be justified with suitable studies or modelling.
6. In cases where an access to a classified road is permitted, a deceleration lane may be required, in order to maintain traffic flow movements along the classified road and to minimise potential rear end vehicular accidents which may otherwise occur where vehicles turn into the site from a trafficable lane.
7. The area required for any deceleration lane must be provided within the development site itself with this portion of the land being dedicated as public road at no cost to TfNSW or Council. Any necessary relocation of public infrastructure required due to a deceleration lane must be detailed in the architectural / section plans lodged with the Development Application with the costs of any such relocation, being fully borne by the developer.
8. For large retail shopping centres and major entertainment / recreation facility developments with separate or multi-level car parking areas, Council may require the provision of electronic parking vacancy signage at each entry to the car parking area or each carpark level, in order to minimise potential additional traffic flow movement impacts within the development and upon the surrounding road network arising from patrons having to access different car parking areas in the development, in endeavour to find a vacant car parking space.
9. All car parking areas shall be provided with appropriate entry and exit advisory signage to direct vehicles into / from the carpark and to minimise potential vehicular conflicts. The details of the proposed entry / exit signage shall be reflected on the architectural plans submitted with the Development Application.
10. Where a one-way traffic circulation flow is proposed, all internal roads within car parking area shall be appropriately line marked with directional (arrow) signage to clearly indicate the direction of traffic circulation and to minimise potential vehicular conflicts. This requirement shall be reflected on the architectural plans (ie car parking layout plans) to be submitted with the Development Application.
11. All advisory signage and pavement marking is to be provided in accordance with AS 2890.

4.2 Pedestrian Access

4.2.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure pedestrian access facilities are designed to be safe and in accordance with best practice guidelines.

4.2.2 Development Controls

1. New driveway crossings are required to be constructed at grade to facilitate and support access for pedestrians and disabled persons to and within the site.
2. Footpaths are to be provided for pedestrians to move from adjacent streets and footpaths onto the site and to destinations within the site. Particular attention is to be given to the movement of pedestrians to and from public transport stops, bicycle parking areas and disabled parking areas. Depending on the expected volumes of pedestrian traffic, weather protection for key pedestrian movement corridors should be integrated into the building design.
3. Provision for access by vehicles and vehicle parking is not to compromise the equity and

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amenity of pedestrian access.

4. Pedestrian facilities are to be designed in accordance with AUSTROADS Guide to Traffic Management.

5. LOADING / UNLOADING FACILITIES AND SERVICE VEHICLES MANOEUVRING

5.1 Objectives

- a) Ensure site design allocates adequate space for the loading, unloading, parking and manoeuvring of delivery and service vehicles within the subject property, in accordance with best practice guidelines.
- b) Ensure adequate areas are set aside on site to allow for the safe and efficient manoeuvring of delivery and service vehicles, and that access for these vehicles minimises any potential vehicular and/or pedestrian conflicts.

5.2 Development Controls

1. Site design must allocate adequate space for the loading, unloading, parking and manoeuvring of delivery and service vehicles within the subject property. Design of these areas shall comply with AS 2890.
2. Loading /unloading facilities shall be provided for the following land uses:
 - i) Retail shopping centres / specialty retail shops,
 - ii) Commercial Offices / Business Development,
 - iii) Specialised retail premises,
 - iv) Factory,
 - v) Warehouse distribution centre,
 - vi) Light industrial retail outlets,
 - vii) Landscape supplies establishment,
 - viii) Retail or Wholesale Nursery,
 - ix) Residential flat building/Multi-dwelling housing/Shop top housing,
 - x) Seniors housing (including housing for people with a disability),
 - xi) Take away food premises,
 - xii) Food and drink premises,
 - xiii) Kiosk,
 - xiv) Function,
 - xv) Function centre,
 - xvi) Medical centre /health consulting room,
 - xvii) Pub / Registered Club,
 - xviii) Funeral home / Funeral chapel

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xix) Other development requiring loading or unloading facilities.

3. Schedule 1 identifies the various types of service vehicles to be catered for within the various development types. Special vehicles such as buses, garbage trucks and ambulances may have particular access, manoeuvring and operating conditions. The designer or applicant should refer to *AS 2890.2 Off-street parking (Part 2: Commercial vehicle facilities)* and Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (TfNSW 2024).
4. Table 2 provides the minimum parking / service bay and manoeuvring requirements for delivery and service trucks

Minimum Parking / Service Bay and Manoeuvring Design Requirements for Service and Delivery Trucks - Table 2

Truck Type	Design Dimensions	Design Turning Template
Small Rigid Vehicle	Minimum length – 6.4m Minimum height clearance – 3.5m	As per AS 2890.2
Medium Rigid Vehicle	Minimum length – 8.8m Minimum height clearance – 4.5m	As per AS 2890.2
Large Rigid Vehicle	Minimum length – 12.5m Minimum height clearance – 4.5m	As per AS 2890.2
Articulated Vehicle (Semi- Trailer)	Minimum length – 19.0m Minimum height clearance – 4.5m	As per AS 2890.2

5.3 Loading / Unloading and Manoeuvring Area Requirements (Development Controls)

- 1) All small rigid trucks through to large rigid trucks and articulated heavy vehicles (semi-trailers) must be able to manoeuvre entirely on-site and enter and leave the site in a forward direction. All truck turning or manoeuvring areas must be separate from areas of normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- 2) All loading and unloading activities shall take place wholly within the loading bay, at all times. No loading or unloading activity shall take place within any car parking area, landscaping area, pedestrian footway or any public road reserve.
- 3) The designated loading / unloading area shall be kept free for that purpose, at all times.
- 4) Loading / unloading facilities shall be located so they are not visible from any adjoining residential area and do not transmit excessive noise onto any adjoining residential area.
- 5) All loading dock facilities must guarantee satisfactory on-site manoeuvring areas for trucks in accordance with the Australian Standard AS 2890.2 Design Vehicular and Turning templates. Council will assess the adequacy of proposed manoeuvring areas provided for on-site truck manoeuvring with reference to the standard vehicle turning templates as per the Australian Standard AS 2890.2 Design Vehicular and Turning templates.
- 6) All developments must be designed to ensure that the standard truck for each development as per Table 2 is able to complete a semi-circular turn on the site, in order to guarantee that all truck movements into / from the site are in a forward direction.
- 7) Truck turning circles shall not encroach upon any building, car parking space or landscaped area.
- 8) Access arrangements should be designed in accordance with the Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (TfNSW 2024) and Australian Standard AS 2890. However, it is desirable that

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separate access arrangements be made available for standard passenger vehicles and trucks upon the development site, in order to minimise potential vehicular conflicts.

- 9) All internal two-way access roads shall have a minimum width of 7 metres. Lesser widths may be provided if the internal road system is designed to a single one-way circulation arrangement within the site including any loading dock facilities. Directional signage shall be shown on all internal roadways (where required) to facilitate the orderly movement of trucks and other vehicles within the site.
- 10) As per the provisions of the National Construction Code, emergency vehicular access must be provided from a public road. In this respect, the internal access road must have an unobstructed 6 metre width with no part of the building being more than 18 metres away from the access road. The minimum 6 metre wide access road shall be reserved for vehicular and pedestrian access only and not built upon or used for any other purpose.
- 11) Loading docks should also be positioned wherever possible, away from the street frontage. Where such facilities can only be provided to the street frontage, appropriate landscaping will be required in front of the loading facility to adequately screen the development.
- 12) All loading / unloading and manoeuvring areas should be located as far as practicable away from any abutting residential or other sensitive development. Where these activities are likely to result in loss of amenity in nearby residential areas, visual and acoustic screening approved by Council may be required to minimise the potential loss of amenity to adjoining residential or other sensitive development.
- 13) Queuing associated with the loading dock must not impact the operation of adjacent car parking areas, pedestrian paths, internal circulation roadways or public roads.

5.4 Noise Impact Assessment Associated with Loading / Unloading Facilities (Development Controls)

- 1) The submission of a noise impact assessment report may be required with a Development Application where loading dock facilities are proposed to be positioned in proximity to any adjoining noise sensitive land uses such as residential dwellings, Senior Living developments and educational establishments etc. This requirement will be at the discretion of Council.
- 2) The NSW Road Noise Policy (EPA 2011) is to be used for the assessment of potential traffic noise impacts from the site.
- 3) The noise impact assessment report will be required to address the existing LA_{90} background & LA_{eq} ambient noise levels at the boundary to the nearest residential land uses during the daytime, evening and night-time periods. The noise impact assessment report must also address the predicted LA_1 (maximum noise level) and LA_{10} average maximum noise level of the development, particularly in respect to the loading and unloading activities conducted within the loading dock facility of the development. The noise impact assessment report should also apply the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA 2017) in determining the noise impact upon sensitive residential land uses. The policy prescribes a sleep disturbance criterion of $LA_{1(1\text{ minute})} < LA_{90(15\text{ minutes})} + 15\text{DB(A)}$.
- 4) Any noise impact assessment report shall also provide recommendations on acoustic attenuation measures required to be provided to improve the acoustic performance of the loading dock facility and / or other operational restrictions (i.e. restricted delivery times for delivery trucks), bearing in mind the nature and frequency of proposed truck deliveries to / from the site and the predicted noise impacts arising from loading / unloading activities.

6. SAFETY AND SECURITY (CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN) MEASURES FOR CAR PARKING AREAS

6.1 Objectives

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- a) Ensure car parking areas are designed using CPTED principles and best practice guidelines.

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6.2 Development Controls

1. The soffit of the roof slab, all walls and all columns of any basement car parking area in addition to the interior of all lift foyer areas, fire exits and other staircases must be painted in a white finish, in order to improve the visibility throughout the car park and to minimise potential 'dark spots'.
2. The exit fire stairs should also be wide and open, in order to improve visual surveillance into these areas from the car parking and traffic circulation areas within the facility.
3. The car parking area should also be designed to prevent blind corners and to maximise visibility and sightlines for both persons in vehicles and pedestrians.
4. All car parking spaces should be visible to approaching vehicles and not 'hidden'.
5. All pedestrian areas should follow pedestrian desire lines and be well lit.
6. The lighting of car parking areas must be in accordance with AS 1680 and lighting levels must be in accordance with AS 1680.2 Table E1 or higher if required for monitoring of the car park and access points by closed circuit television (CCTV).
7. All emergency lighting and exit lights are to be provided with "vandal – resistant" fittings suitable for use in an unsupervised car park.

7. STORMWATER DRAINAGE / WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

7.1 Objectives

- a) Mitigate detrimental effects on the downstream stormwater environment by minimising peak flow rates and pollutants discharged from the site.

7.2 Development Controls

1. Refer to the Stormwater Management chapter contained in Part E of this DCP for stormwater drainage and on-site stormwater detention requirements for off-street car parking and access areas.
2. For certain developments, the Water Sensitive Urban Design treatment measures may also be required for car parking and access areas in accordance with the requirements of the Water Sensitive Urban Design chapter in Part E of the DCP.
3. A Stormwater Management Plan is to be submitted with any Development Application detailing water sensitive urban design and utilization of landscaped features to disperse, filter and infiltrate car park runoff.

8. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The following information may be required to be submitted by the applicant in support of a development application – these studies/plans must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced consultants. The need for this information will be determined by Council at the pre-lodgement phase and the level of Traffic Assessment is to be determined by Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 12: Figure 5.1:

- Car Parking and Traffic Impact Assessment Study
- Intersection and/or network modelling of potential traffic impacts of the proposed development (including submission of electronic modelling files to Council)
- Preliminary/Final Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Public Transport Study

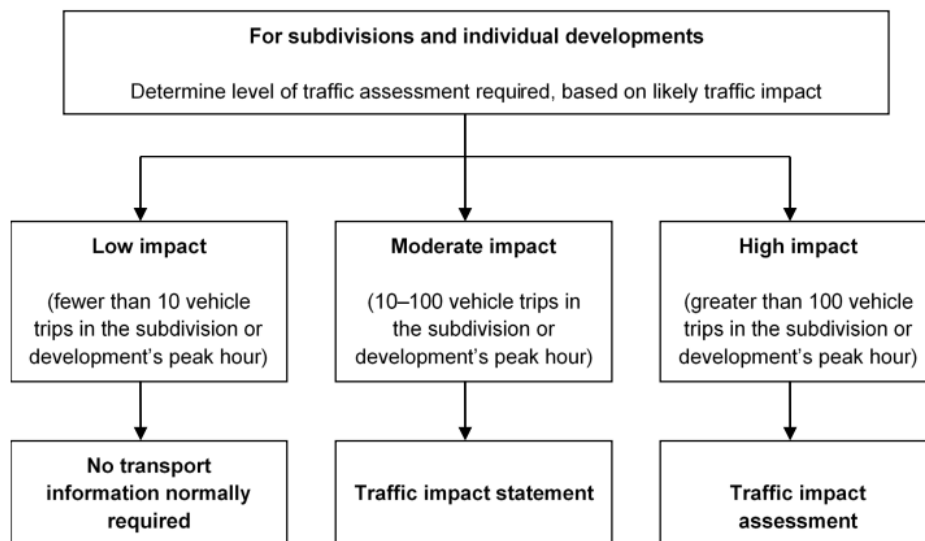
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- Travel Plan
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Geotechnical Report
- Hydro-geological Report
- Landscape Concept Plan

Note: Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (TfNSW 2024) contains methodology guidance.

Guide to Traffic Management Part 12: Integrated Transport Assessments for Developments

Figure 5.1: Level of traffic assessment required for developments



Source: Modified from Western Australian Planning Commission (2006).

Figure 1 – Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 12: Figure 5.1

9. DEFINITIONS

Active Transport - Transport that requires individual physical effort to provide mobility. For personal travel, this includes walking, use of a wheelchair or mobility aid, cycling using a bicycle (without power assistance) and power-assisted micromobility. Active forms of transport for freight delivery include both pedal-powered and electric power-assisted cargo bikes

Aquifer – means a geological structure formation or an artificial land fill permeated or capable of being permeated permanently or intermittently with water.

Aquifer Interference Activity – an activity that penetrates an aquifer, interferes with water in an aquifer, obstructs the flow of water within an aquifer, or takes or disposes water from an aquifer.

AUSTROADS means AUSTROADS: "Guide to Traffic Management".

De-watering – the removal of groundwater or surface water from a construction site – in construction the water is pumped from wells or sumps to temporarily lower the groundwater levels to allow excavation in dry and stable conditions below natural groundwater level.

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GFA is “Gross floor area” and is defined in the LEP.

Groundwater - refers to any water occurring in or obtained from an aquifer and includes any matter dissolved or suspended in any such water. Its presence at a particular depth may be temporary or permanent. During construction, any water that resides below the natural ground surface is classified as groundwater.

Micromobility Device - Small, lightweight, power-assisted vehicles operating at low speeds, to carry one person plus a child or other passenger, or a small load, for example, e-bikes and e-scooters

Minimal Harm – see Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting (DPE 2022)

Seepage – water that seeps from the ground around the building basement.

Structurally integral protection – chemically-enhanced water-resistant concrete used in combination with a waterproof membrane

Tanking – a continuous waterproof barrier is applied to the inside or outside of the basement structure, or an external membrane can be painted or sprayed onto the external surface which can be covered by a drainage board to provide protection from backfill.

Travel Plan – a strategy designed to encourage the use of environmentally friendly transportation methods, aiming to reduce reliance on private cars and promote alternatives like walking, cycling, public transport and carpooling.

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10. SCHEDULE 1 – CAR PARKING, BICYCLE, MOTORCYCLE AND DELIVERY VEHICLE PARKING REQUIREMENTS

Note: Variations to controls in Schedule 1 may be considered if supporting information is submitted in accordance with CI 3.4 of this Chapter.

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycling Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirements	Delivery/Service Truck Requirements
Boarding house	Provided as per rates given within the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021			NA
Dwelling house	City wide: 1 space per dwelling with a gross floor area of less than 125m ² ; or 2 spaces per dwelling with a gross floor area of 125m ² or greater Wollongong City Centre: 1 car parking space per dwelling	NA	NA	NA
Dual occupancy	City wide: 1 car parking space per dwelling (<125m ²) or 2 car parking spaces per dwelling (125m ² or greater) Wollongong City Centre (R1 General Residential Zone): 1 car parking space per dwelling	NA	NA	NA
Residential flat building / multi-dwelling housing / Shop top housing / Attached Dwelling	City wide: 1 car parking space per dwelling (<70m ²) or 1.5 car parking spaces per dwelling (70-110m ²) or 2 car parking spaces per dwelling (>110m ²), plus 0.2 car parking spaces per dwelling for visitors Wollongong City Centre or within 400m of railway station (measured along existing footpath): 0.5 car parking space per dwelling (<70m ²) or 1 car parking space per dwelling (70-110m ²) or 1.25 car parking spaces per dwelling (>110m ²), plus 0.2 car parking spaces per dwelling for visitors	1 bicycle space per 3 dwellings (residents) and 1 bicycle space per 12 dwellings (visitors)	1 motorcycle space per 15 dwellings	Large Rigid Vehicle (Waste Contractor) >10 dwellings – side loading waste collection vehicle (refer to Chapter E7: Waste Management)
Housing for seniors and people with a disability (Hostels, Residential Care Facilities and	Provided as per rates given within the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021	NA	NA	Large Rigid Vehicle

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Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycling Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirements	Delivery/Service Truck Requirements
Independent Living Units)				
Hospitals	City wide: 1 car parking space per medical practitioner plus 1 car parking space per 2 employee plus 1 car parking space per 2 beds.	1 bicycle space per 5 car spaces	1 motorcycle space per 25 car spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle
Bed and breakfast accommodation	City wide: As per dwelling house plus 1 car parking space per guest bedroom	NA	1 motorcycle space per 10 guest bedrooms	NA
Tourist and visitor accommodation	City wide: 1 car parking space per 2 staff members plus 1 car parking space per apartment / unit	NA	1 motorcycle space per 10 apartments / units	Small Rigid Vehicle
Office premises / Business premises / Retail premises	City wide (excluding the E2 Commercial Centre and MU1 Mixed Use zones in Wollongong City Centre): 1 car parking space per 25m2 of GFA – Retail premises 1 car parking space per 40m2 of GFA – Office premises / Business premises Zone MU1 Mixed Use in Wollongong City centre (as per Wollongong LEP 2009): 1 car parking space per 60m2 of GFA – Office premises / Business premises / Retail premises Zone E2 Commercial Centre in Wollongong City Centre (as per Wollongong LEP 2009): 1 car parking space per 60m2 of GFA – Retail premises 1 car parking space per 120m2 of GFA – Office premises / Business premises Note 1: Where there is an inconsistency between the parking rates specified for uses within the “Business premises” and “Retail premises” groups, the	1 bicycle space per 200m2 GFA for staff plus 1 bicycle space per 750m2 GFA for visitors – Office premises / Business premises 1 bicycle space per 750m2 GFA for staff plus 1 bicycle space per 1000m2 GFA for shoppers – Retail premises.	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces >1,000m ² GFA 0 Large Rigid Vehicle, Articulated Vehicle (Semi-Trailer) *

Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycling Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirements	Delivery/Service Truck Requirements
	specific parking rates shall prevail except in Zones E2 Commercial Centre and MU1 Mixed Use in Wollongong city centre. For example, the specific parking rate for Medical Centre is 4/consulting room plus 1/3 employees. This rate would prevail over the general Business Premises rate of 1/40m ² , except if the development is located in Zones E2 or MU1 in Wollongong City Centre.			
Specialised Retail Premises	City wide: 1 car parking space per 30m ² GFA (<500m ²) or 2 car parking spaces per 100m ² (500-3000m ²) or 2 car parking spaces per 150m ² (>3000m ²)	1 bicycle space per 200m ² GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle – Articulated Vehicle (Semi-Trailer) *
Vehicle sales or hire premises	City wide: 0.75 car parking spaces per 100m ² GFA plus 3 car parking spaces per work bay where servicing is undertaken	1 bicycle space per 200m ² GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Articulated Vehicle (Semi-Trailer)
Car tyre fitting centres	City wide: 3 car parking spaces per work bay	1 bicycle space	1 motorcycle space per 3 work bays	Large Rigid Vehicle
Food and drink premises	City wide: 1 car parking space per 25m ² GFA (excluding specific premise types described below)	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle
• Restaurant	City wide: 1 car parking space per 4 staff, plus 1 car parking space per 6m ² or 1 car parking space per 4 seats whichever is the greater Note: For change of use applications in Town Centres (as defined in Chapter B4 Development in Business Zones), the provision of additional parking will not be required	1 bicycle space per 200m ² GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle
• Take-away food premise	City wide: 1 car parking space per 25m ² GFA Note: Drive through facility. An exclusive area for queuing of cars for a drive-through facility	1 bicycle space per 200m ² GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	<500m ² GFA - Small Rigid Vehicle >500m ² or drive through facility – Large Rigid Vehicle

Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycling Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirements	Delivery/Service Truck Requirements
	should be considered to avoid unreasonably disrupting car parking operations or extending onto the street. A range of five to 12 car lengths from pick-up point may be considered dependent on turnover and four car lengths from ordering point may be considered as a guide, as per TfNSW's Guide to Transport Impact Assessment			(Semi- Trailer) *
• Pub	Refer to TfNSW's Guide to Transport Impact Assessment to show that parking satisfies peak maximum demand with an analysis of non-car mode share. Comparisons should be drawn with regard to similar developments	1 bicycle space per 25m2 GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	<500m ² GFA - Small Rigid Vehicle >500m ² or drive through facility – Large Rigid Vehicle (Semi- Trailer) *
• Artisan Food and Drink	A "Car Parking and Access Checklist" available on Council's website needs to be carried out to demonstrate that there will be no impacts on adjacent businesses as outlined in Section 3.4.			Large Rigid Vehicle
Neighbourhood shop	City wide: These facilities are intended to provide walkable access. No parking requirements for vehicular parking.	1 bicycle space per 25m2 GFA	NA	Small Rigid Vehicle
Kiosk	City wide: 1 car parking space per 25m2 GFA	1 bicycle space per 25m2 GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle
Function centre	City wide: 1 car parking space per 2 staff plus 1 car parking space per 5m2	1 bicycle space per 10 stalls	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle
Medical centre / Health consulting room	City wide: 4 car parking spaces per consulting room plus 1 car parking space per 3 employees	Employee/resident parking spaces: 1 per 8 practitioners Visitor parking spaces: 1 per 4 practitioners	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle
Hotel or motel accommodation	City wide: 1 car parking space per 2 staff members plus 1 car parking space per unit / apartment. If a restaurant / function room is included in the hotel / motel which is available to the general public, then an additional 15 car parking spaces per 100m2 GFA of the	NA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	>15 units/ apartments – Large Rigid Vehicle

Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycling Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirements	Delivery/Service Truck Requirements
	restaurant / function room shall be included Wollongong City Centre: 1 car parking space per 4 staff plus 1 car parking space per motel unit or 0.5 car parking space per hotel unit / apartment			
Registered Club	Refer to TfNSW's Guide to Transport Impact Assessment to show parking satisfies peak maximum demand	1 bicycle space per 25m2 GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	<500m ² GFA – Small Rigid Vehicle >500m ² GFA Large Rigid Vehicle, Articulated Vehicle (Semi-Trailer) *
Funeral home / Funeral chapel	City wide: 1 car parking space per 4 seats plus 1 car parking space per funeral service area	NA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle
Restricted premises	City wide: 1 car parking space per 40m2	1 bicycle space per 200m2 GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle
Service station / convenience store / fast food restaurant	City wide: 1 car parking space per 2 staff plus 3 car parking space per work bay plus 1 car parking space per 25m2 of retail convenience store plus 10 car parking spaces for any ancillary fast food restaurant component	2 bicycle spaces	1 motorcycle space per 10 car parking spaces	Articulated Vehicle (Semi-Trailer)
Timber and building supplies	City wide: 1 car parking space per 45m2 GFA	1 bicycle space per 200m2 GFA of factory building	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle – Articulated Vehicle (Semi- Trailer) *
Veterinary hospital	City wide: 3 car parking spaces per consulting room plus a loading / unloading area to cater for horse trailers etc (If the veterinary hospital involves care for larger animals)	NA	NA	Small Rigid Vehicle plus trailer parking / manoeuvring
Industry	City wide: 1 car parking space per 75m2 GFA; or 1 car parking space per 150m2 GFA for buildings greater than	1 bicycle space per 200m2 GFA	1 motorcycle space 25 car parking spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle – Articulated Vehicle (Semi- Trailer) *

Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycling Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirements	Delivery/Service Truck Requirements
	5,000m ² where the facility is purpose built for a particular business and where it can demonstrate that staff car parking is satisfactorily catered for			
Light Industrial Retail Outlets	City wide: 1 car parking space per 25m ² GFA of gross floor area	1 bicycle space per 200m ² GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car spaces or part thereof	<500m ² GFA – Small Rigid Vehicle >500m ² GFA - Large Rigid Vehicle
Landscape and garden supplies	City wide: 1 car parking space per 30m ² GFA of any building used for retailing plus 1 car parking space per 45m ² for outdoor areas used for retail display purposes plus 1 car parking space per 200m ² for areas used exclusively for propagation or storage, whether indoor or outdoor.	NA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle – Articulated Vehicle (Semi- Trailer) *
Retail Plant Nursery	City wide: 10 car parking spaces plus 1 additional car parking space per 100m ² of building GFA or land area used for the retailing of plants	NA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle – Articulated Vehicle (Semi- Trailer) *
Vehicle body repair shop / Vehicle repair station	City wide: 1 car parking space per 2 employees plus 3 car parking spaces per work bay	1 bicycle space per 200m ² GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle
Manufactured home estate	City wide: Car Parking as per Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005	NA	NA	Large Rigid Vehicle
Caravan park	City wide: 1 car parking space per site Note: In accordance with Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005	NA	NA	Large Rigid Vehicle (Waste collection trucks and Coaches)

Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycling Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirements	Delivery/Service Truck Requirements
Educational establishment	1 car parking space per staff member plus 1 car parking space per 10 Year 12 students	1 bicycle space per 10 students above grade 4	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Large Rigid Vehicle
Child Care Centres	1 space for each member of staff present at any one time plus 1 visitor space per 6 children plus 1 space as per Off Street Parking for People with Disabilities plus 2 large spaces (3.2m x 5.5m) for parents requiring the use of strollers	1 bicycle space per 200m ² GFA	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Vehicle - Medium Rigid Vehicle
Place of Public Worship	1 space per 20m ² GFA, or 1 space per 10 seats, whichever is the greater	1 bicycle space per 10 car parking spaces	1 motorcycle space per 25 car parking spaces	Small Rigid Truck

NOTE*: The determination as to the standard truck size for a particular development will be dependent upon the nature and scale of the development and will be determined by Council at the pre-lodgement meeting stage.

11. SCHEDULE 2 – CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Building Code of Australia Classification	Car Parking Requirements (Table D4/D6 of the NCC)
Class 1b and 3 buildings For a boarding-house, guest house, hostel, lodging house, backpackers' accommodation or the residential part of a hotel or motel For a residential part of a school, accommodation for the aged, disabled or children, residential part of a health-care building which accommodates members of staff or the residential part of a detention centre	Calculated by multiplying the total number of car parking spaces by the percentage of: - (i) accessible sole-occupancy units to the total number of sole-occupancy units; or (ii) accessible bedrooms to the total number of bedrooms. The calculated number shall be taken to the next whole figure. 1 accessible space for every 100 carparking spaces or part thereof.
Class 5,7,8 and 9c buildings	1 accessible space for every 100 carparking spaces or part thereof.
Class 6 buildings (i) Up to 1000 carparking spaces, and (ii) For each additional 100 carparking spaces or part thereof in excess of 1000 car parking spaces	1 accessible space for every 50 carparking spaces or part thereof, and 1 accessible space
Class 9a buildings For a hospital (non-outpatient area) For a hospital (outpatient area) (i) Up to 1000 carparking spaces; and (ii) For each additional 100 carparking spaces or part thereof in excess of 1000 carparking spaces.	1 accessible space for every 100 carparking spaces or part thereof. 1 accessible space for every 50 carparking spaces or part thereof, and 1 accessible space.

Chapter E3 Car Parking, Access, Servicing / Loading Facilities and Traffic Management

Building Code of Australia Classification	Car Parking Requirements (Table D4/D6 of the NCC)
For a nursing home For a clinic or day surgery not forming part of a hospital	1 accessible space for every 100 carparking spaces or part thereof. 1 accessible space for every 50 carparking spaces or part thereof.
Class 9b buildings For a school For other assembly buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) With up to 1000 carparking spaces; and (ii) for each additional 100 carparking spaces or part thereof in excess of 1000 carparking spaces 	1 accessible space for every 100 carparking spaces or part thereof. 1 accessible space for every 50 carparking spaces or part thereof, and. 1 accessible parking space

	Car Parking and Access Checklist - Development with Variable Car Parking Demand (Change of Use Applications within Employment Zones)			
SUPPLY	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Is there allocated or shared on-site car parking? How many car spaces?				
Is there opportunity for shared / street parking to become available outside typical industry / business hours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there bicycle parking facilities or opportunities on site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there access to informal car parking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there available on-street parking (timed – within 250m catchment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there proximity to public car parking? Please specify distance to nearest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What is the potential for cross-utilisation of car parking spaces? i.e. Operating hours of other businesses (applicant may be seeking to operate outside of normal retail trading hours), which may determine when their parking spaces are available for other uses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the site in close proximity to a town centre? Please specify distance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

SUPPLY	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Is the site in close proximity to a train station, bus stop?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the site in close proximity to a bike path?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the site in close proximity to the current e-scooter routes - see E-scooters and E-bikes City of Wollongong ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a proposed Travel Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
DEMAND	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
What is the maximum patron capacity and seats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What are the staff numbers & arrangement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a booking system (if relevant)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Please list the adjacent uses within the industrial or commercial area or complex.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What are the anticipated driving activities? (Is there parking on site, pick up / drop off, group transport etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there formalised (ie sign posted) pick-up and drop-off areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What are the hours of operation and what times are anticipated to be busiest?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Will there be any car parking and access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

DEMAND	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
provisions advertised and promoted?				
Are there any potential outdoor dining areas (exempt development provision)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Will events be held at the venue? e.g. bands in the evening/at weekends Please provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

ITEM 3 POST EXHIBITION - TOURISM ACCOMMODATION REVIEW STRATEGY

The Wollongong Local Government Area currently has 67 tourist accommodation establishments, providing an estimated 1,845 rooms which can cater for over 5,376 guests. In addition, there are 211 cabins which can cater for 1,179 guests and 269 powered and 122 unpowered camping and caravanning sites each night. There are also currently 792 premises registered providing Short-term Rental Accommodation.

On 12 August 2024, Council endorsed the draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy for exhibition. The draft Strategy and updated supporting Discussion Paper were exhibited from 16 September 2024 to 4 November 2024. Fifteen submissions and 12 engagement website comments were received.

The draft Strategy has been reviewed and updated and it is recommended that the Tourism Accommodation Strategy be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

The Tourism Accommodation Strategy be adopted (Attachment 2).

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Summary of Submissions
- 2 Tourism Accommodation Strategy

BACKGROUND

Tourism and tourism accommodation is a contributor to Wollongong's economy, providing employment for about 4.4% of the workforce and 3% value added output (id Economy Profile 2022-23 data). Given Wollongong's large and diverse economy this is not unexpected, and the percentages are similar to the NSW average. Tourism is an important part of Wollongong's economy and supports other sectors. Increased visitation, especially overnight visitors, has a positive benefit to the local economy through increased expenditure which supports local jobs and businesses including conference and training providers.

An action in the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (2020) and Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029 was the preparation and exhibition of the draft Tourism Accommodation Review.

On 28 June 2021, Council considered a report on the draft Tourism Accommodation Review – Discussion Paper. The draft Review found that Wollongong has a wide range of accommodation establishments. The draft Review focused on planning issues associated with the supply and demand for tourism accommodation. The draft Review does not consider tourism uses, attractions or events.

Council resolved that -

The draft Tourism Accommodation Review – Discussion Paper be exhibition for a minimum period of six (6) weeks to enable community and tourism industry input, to assist in the development of a draft Tourism Accommodation Strategy.

The draft Discussion Paper was exhibited from 19 July 2021 to 30 September 2021.

On 20 May 2024, Council hosted a Tourist Accommodation Roundtable which provided an opportunity for invited stakeholders with an interest in tourism accommodation to share their experiences and expertise. Participants very generously took the time to discuss barriers and opportunities that would support more investment in tourist accommodation development in the city.

On 12 August 2024, Council considered a report on the updated Discussion Paper and the draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy. Council resolved that -

The draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy be exhibited for a minimum period of six (6) weeks to enable community and tourism industry input.

The draft Strategy and updated supporting Discussion Paper were exhibited from 16 September 2024 to 4 November 2024.

Accommodation audit update

The 12 August 2024 report indicated that Wollongong had some 74 tourist accommodation establishments within the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA), providing an estimated 1,924 rooms. There were also 854 premises registered providing Short-term Rental Accommodation. The following changes have occurred to the LGA's accommodation capacity since the August 2024 Council report -

- Surfside 22 at 22 Crown Street, Wollongong reopened with 16 rooms.
- DA-2023/760 at 22-30 Kenny Street Wollongong has been approved, which includes a 107 room 4-star hotel.
- DA-2023/767 at 163-171 Crown Street and 80-82 Church Street was approved in December 2024 as a deferred commencement. The mixed-use development includes a 236-room hotel and 114 room motel. DA-2024/870 for demolition of existing structures and bulk excavation and earthworks is under assessment.
- 22 motel cabins have opened at Club Windang which were originally approved through a 2009 Development Application consent.
- The Normandie Motel at 30 Bourke Street, North Wollongong has been demolished, a reduction of 34 rooms.
- The number of registered Short-term Rental Accommodation premises has reduced from 825 to 792.
- In September 2024, a State Significant Development proposal for an ecotourism development at Lot 100 DP 715376 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Coalcliff was lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The proposal is for 24 eco-tourist cabins, and amenities building and walking tracks. Council officers provided initial comments on the proposal. The land is zoned C2 Environmental Conservation, and the accommodation use is not permitted in the zone, which has resulted in the State Significant Development request. The Department is currently preparing Secretary's Environment Assessment Requirements (SEARs) which the applicant will use to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal.

State Tourism initiatives

Review of the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030

On 8 October 2024, the NSW State Government released the Review of the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 (prepared in 2021) which seeks to achieve a \$91 billion visitor economy by 2035. The review proposes a 40% increase on the previous goal. The review highlights key challenges including -

- The need for 40,000 extra hotel rooms, a 41% increase on what's currently available.
- Significant worker and skills shortages in roles such as tour guides and chefs.
- Need for increased business event facilities in Sydney, Western Sydney and priority regional areas.

The Review of the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 sets out a series of recommendations for achieving the goal including -

- Prioritise the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy as a government-wide economic focus.
- Anchor the Visitor Economy Strategy around 'experience tourism'.
- Celebrate First Nations culture and businesses through authentic visitor experiences.
- Increase accommodation quality across regional NSW and quantity in Greater Sydney.
- Boost aviation capacity in key domestic and international markets.
- Leverage leisure events to grow seasonal visitation and showcase NSW's strengths.

- Dominate Australia's business events sector.
- Capitalise on NSW's status as being number one for international students.
- Foster a diverse, skilled visitor economy workforce.

The Review of the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 does not specifically mention Wollongong or the Illawarra.

Visitor Economy Infrastructure Investment Project Report

On 13 December 2024, Destination Sydney Surrounds South (DSSS) released the Visitor Economy Infrastructure Investment Project Report for the region. Relevant to Council's draft Tourism Accommodation Strategy, the report highlights that -

- There is strong interest by multiple investors in investing in accommodation in the region.
- The lack of accommodation is a major inhibitor to growth of the sector particularly the growing corporate sector.
- There is a perception of the region as a day-trip destination due to lack of accommodation (this is especially salient in relation to areas like Wollongong and the Southern Highlands).
- Additional spend and major events forgone due to lack of accommodation.
- The lack of accommodation demand and supply data means the health of the sector is not fully understood.
- The lack of accommodation supply targets means tourism is not prioritised in land-use planning (not considered highest and best use).
- Emerging engine industries (Defence, ICT, advanced manufacturing and professional services) become hamstrung by lack of accommodation to support corporate travel associated with business activities.

The report suggests that for the tourism sector, the State's development application processes are unclear, difficult to navigate and rarely beneficial. Also, that local government and State consent authorities are often considered to be obstructive, difficult to work with and unresponsive by the tourism industry.

The report includes the following recommendations -

- DSSS take the lead on attracting and coordinating tourism accommodation investment to the region.
- A whole of Government approach is required to encourage tourism accommodation investment.
- Introduce tourism development key performance indicators (KPIs) and indicative timeframes to signal to investors the intentions of responsible approval agencies.
- Improve the development application assessment processes, by State and Local Government, including reducing referral and assessment timeframes, utilising complying development, utilising Regional Panels.
- Deferring or exempting development contribution levies to encourage investment, albeit the local levy is only 1-2% of the development cost.

Warrawong Parklands

Between 18 November and 13 December 2024, the State Government sought suggestions for the future use of the Warrawong Parklands a 32-hectare State owned site on the Lake Illawarra foreshore along King Street and Northcliffe Drive, Warrawong. Part of the precinct is zoned SP3 Tourist.

The community was asked how they use the reserve, what they value and ideas for the future use. According to the website there were 207 contributions. The majority of suggestions appear to relate to low key recreation uses and lake uses. One comment opposed on-site camping and accommodation due to flooding and other constraints. Two submissions opposed free camping, while two submissions suggested that the permissibility of camping be reviewed and another submission considered that facilities should be constructed to support the camping and a \$10/night fee charged.

While noting that tourist accommodation is permissible in this location and could be a part of its development moving forward, no community comments appear to suggest a hotel or motel accommodation as a future use.

PROPOSAL

In response to the exhibition of the draft Tourism Accommodation Strategy, 12 on-line and 15 submissions were received. The submissions are summarised in Attachment 1 and in the following table:

	Support	Oppose	Comment	Total
On-line comments	4		8	12
Accommodation operators & SP3 owners	3		3	6
State agencies	2		1	3
Organisations	2	1	1	4
Community letters / emails		1	1	2
Totals	11	2	14	27

Submissions from Venues NSW, Destination Sydney Surrounds South (DSSS), the Property Council of Australia – Illawarra generally supported the draft Strategy.

NSW Crown Lands did not support a zoning change on the Judbooley Parade, Windang foreshore and noted that the tourist parks and escarpment lookouts were on Crown Land and any changes needed to be consistent with the Reserve purpose.

Comment: The Strategy has been updated to reflect NSW Crown Lands comments.

Destination Wollongong submitted a 10-point plan, designed to tackle Wollongong's tourism accommodation shortage and boost Wollongong's Visitor Economy. The plan proposed -

- 1 Review planning controls across zoning, land uses, height and floor space allowances and parking requirements, to provide incentives and bonuses to developers to make both hotels and CBD serviced apartments as more financially viable propositions.
- 2 Identify and incentivise key CBD locations (on either private or public land) for five-star hotel developments, with prescriptive conditions to fill market gaps.
- 3 Explore opportunities to increase the number and quality of cabins in the three council tourist parks, to maximise capacity.
- 4 Ensure the WIN Stadium precinct master plan features a convention centre with flexible floorspace as a key attractor for Wollongong's conferencing market, designed to showcase its coastal location and complemented by nearby premium hotel product.
- 5 Facilitate and incentivise mid-market motels in Wollongong's suburbs to co-locate with clubs and/or enter into private-public partnerships to create a circular economy.
- 6 Identify and incentivise key sites in the Port Kembla district to service the BlueScope Masterplan redevelopment and the potential cruise terminal for the Port (which is particularly crucial, given that accommodation is not currently permitted on BlueScope land holdings).
- 7 Amend planning guidelines and provide bonuses to allow suitable sites for small-scale eco-accommodation to meet market demand along the route of the Great Southern Walk and Illawarra Escarpment mountain bike trail network.
- 8 Advocate for a suitable accommodation offering as part of the Warrawong foreshore master planning process, given the site's appropriate SP3 zoning, location and size.
- 9 Commission research by industry specialists to forecast the type, scale and location of accommodation required in the next 10 to 20 years.

- 10 Create a joint concierge service through Destination Wollongong and Council, informed by the above research, that targets new tourism product in priority sectors and locations to ensure alignment between attractors and the ability to service them.

Comment: The first three (3) suggestions are consistent with the draft Strategy. The use of Registered Club sites has been considered, however many are constrained by flooding. Tourism accommodation is listed as a sensitive land use which is not appropriate in flood prone lands. Genuine eco-tourism proposals are supported, however it should not be at the expense of the natural environment and they should have regard to site constraints. The other suggestions are outside the scope of the Tourism Accommodation Strategy and can be managed through broader tourism initiatives, including by Destination Wollongong.

Submissions from tourism site owners and operators, included the following site-specific suggestions -

Submission	Comment
Club Windang – seeking a building height increase to 45m to enable a 7-storey motel and club development	The use of club sites for hotel and motel accommodation has been considered. Tourism accommodation is listed as a sensitive land use. It is unlikely that the Club Windang site will be suitable for tourism accommodation, due to flood constraints.
Lots 429 & 501 Kruger Avenue, Windang - seeking to permit residential development and increase the building height to 20m	Tourism accommodation is listed as a sensitive land use. It is unlikely that the Kruger Avenue site will be suitable for tourism accommodation, due to flood constraints.
Otford Farm – seeking recognition of a 1982 development application approval of a 15-room motel and restaurant, and an additional use of Hotel and Motel Accommodation	The approved motel use has not progressed for some 40 years. If the consent remains valid, it can be acted upon or modified / amended. An additional use is not required to be listed in the LEP for the approved development. An additional use may result in a hotel or motel development of a different scale to the approved development.
163-171 Crown Street / 80-82 Church Street, Wollongong - the Globe development proposal supporting incentives for hotel development, and a review of parking rates	Support noted
131 Princes Highway, Figtree (the former bus depot) supporting a review of the SP3 zoning and suggesting that the E3 Productivity Support zone may be more appropriate	It is unlikely that the former bus depot will be used or is suitable for tourism accommodation, due to flood constraints, likely contamination and it is adjacent to an existing motel. A scoping proposal could be submitted as the first step in reviewing the planning controls for the site.
Oscars Group – the owners of Wollongong Novotel, Towradgi Beach Hotel, Quality Suites, Towradgi and Unanderra Hotel. The submission requested that the Quality Suites site (19 Carters Lane Towradgi) also be zoned R3 Medium Density Residential consistent with the rezoning proposal for the adjoining residential apartment buildings which are part of the same strata plan.	The proposed change to the Quality Suites site is out of scope for this review. The focus of the Strategy is to increase tourism accommodation. There is a risk of a decrease in tourism accommodation if the suggestion was to be implemented.

The 27 submissions included 84 comments and suggestions, which have been considered under the following themes -

- Accommodation – 43 comments.
- Attractions and events – 13 comments.
- Marketing – two comments.
- Transport – five comments.
- Research – 11 comments.
- Employment – five comments.
- Implementation – two comments.
- Other uses – three comments.

Accommodation:

43 comments were received on a range of accommodation issues.

- ***Hotel and Motel Accommodation***

Ten comments supported increased hotel and motel accommodation, especially in the Wollongong City Centre.

Four (4) comments supported incentives and intervention to encourage more accommodation. One comment opposed bonus provision and the proposal to define serviced apartments as commercial floor space in the City Centre.

One (1) comment noted that the high room prices in Wollongong was due to the lack of accommodation competition.

One (1) submission suggested that more accommodation was required for people with a disability.

Two (2) submissions noted that hotel operators need residential development on-site, to make the tourism accommodation feasible.

One (1) submission noted that budget accommodation is being used to provide emergency housing accommodation, which is reducing the availability of rooms for visitors.

- ***Tourist Parks***

Two (2) comments identified the need to improve the facilities at the tourist parks. One comment suggested that more camping sites were required.

One (1) submission suggested that the tourist parks should be converted to residential estates to provide housing to address the housing crises. The three (3) Tourist Parks suggested, are on Crown Land that have a reserve purpose of public recreation. The Crown reserve purpose would not enable housing development.

- ***Short-term Rental Accommodation***

One comment was received on the impact of Short-term rental accommodation on long-term rental accommodation.

The number of registered properties providing Short-term Rental Accommodation continues to decline. In January 2025 there were 792 registered properties, of which 404 provide hosted and 388 non-hosted accommodation. Previously, in August 2024 there were 825 registered premises, with the peak occurring in March 2023 with 1,125 registered premises.

Attractions and events:

The Tourism Accommodation Review Discussion Paper noted a range of tourism attractions within the LGA. However, a review of attractions and events is outside the scope of the Tourism Accommodation Strategy. Nevertheless, feedback about the need for more attractions and events to attract more visitors and increase the range of activities provides context and includes -

- Supporting upgrades to the Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Precinct (Wollongong Entertainment Centre).
- Establish a convention centre.
- Wollongong Botanic Gardens – better marketing.
- Wollongong Harbour improvements.
- Establish a Regional Museum.
- Need a cinema.
- Relocate the Visitors Centre from Bulli Tops to Wollongong CBD.

Council coordinates and manages many events through a number of initiatives, including -

- Major Events Strategy, including -
 - UCI World Road Cycling Championships (2023).
 - Australian Triathlon Championships (April 2025) and World Triathlon Championships Finals (October 2025).
 - Yours and Owls Festivals.
 - Illawarra Folk Festival.
 - Sydney to the Gong Bike Ride.
 - Australia Day Aquathon.
- Community events:
 - News Years Eve and Australia Day events.
 - Community Fairs.
- Small Cultural Grants – for activities like music, performing arts, visual arts and craft, and other cultural projects, up to \$4,000
- Naidoc Week Grants – small grants for not-for-profit groups holding community events here in Wollongong during Naidoc Week, up to \$1,500
- In July 2024, Council announced it will sponsor 20 community events during 2024-25 through \$50,000 of financial assistance. The successful events are listed on [Connect with community at local events sponsored by Council | City of Wollongong](#)
- Connecting Neighbours Grants – small grants to community members and groups who want to make a positive impact in their local area. Up to \$250 for individual community members with a shared project idea. Up to \$1,000 for projects with the backing of a support organisation.
- Council's Events Calendar lists all events: [Events Calendar | City of Wollongong](#) while non-Council events are listed on the Visit Wollongong website: [Events | What's On | Visit Wollongong | Destination Wollongong](#)
- Permit/Plug/Play Program – Council received a \$500,000 grant from the State Government under the State's Vibrancy Reforms. The grant enables Council to review the complexity of planning and hosting street-based events, then streamline the process by implementing a local solution. Council is then required to host an event, evaluate the new process and provide feedback to the State Government. On 3 February 2025, Council resolved to streamline the event application process by preparing a Planning Proposal to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009 to exempt event organisers from the need to apply for development consent to hold events on Council managed land, including Crown land. An Event Application / licence from Council would still be required to hold the event.

Employment:

Five comments were on the range of employment opportunities provided by visitor accommodation, the range of skills required, and the opportunity for youth employment.

It is agreed that tourism accommodation provides a range of employment opportunities, for a percentage of the workforce.

Economic Profile (ID) indicates that the LGA has a tourism workforce of 5,322 persons living in the LGA, (or 6.1% of the workforce) of which 43.2% are male and 56.7% female; 43.6% are 15-24 years of age, 32.1% are 25-44 years old; 46.0% work part-time and 53.6% have no qualifications. 446 workers (7.67%) appear to be in specific accommodation occupations, including 100 hotel managers (1.72%) and 44 hotel or motel receptionists, and 131 housekeepers (2.26%). Of the workforce, 4,598 persons (79%) are in Food and Beverage related occupations, of which some would work in accommodation venues, while the majority would be employed at cafes and restaurants.

Marketing:

Two comments identified the need for improved marketing of the City, accommodation and attractions.

Destination Wollongong manages the marketing of Events, Attractions and Accommodation within the LGA.

Transport:

Five (5) comments identified the need for improved public transport to service visitors. Two submissions supported the establishment of a Cruise terminal at Port Kembla, and identified the accommodation benefits.

One (1) submission identified the need for more flights into Shellharbour Airport from more destinations.

It is agreed that limited public transport service does impact the visitor experience of Wollongong. Including express trains not stopping at stations close to beaches or bushwalk track heads, poor service frequency, limited bus services and frequency.

Research:

Eleven comments identified the need for more research and data analysis into -

- Economic benefits of tourism and accommodation.
- Local spending.
- Market trends.
- Comparison with other Regional Cities.
- Visitor and accommodation needs.
- Environmental impacts and constraints.

One (1) submission identified the need for the preparation of an overall Tourism Strategy, addressing attractions, marketing and accommodation.

The Tourism Accommodation Discussion Papers (2021 and 2024) provided some of the suggested tourism data, research and analysis. The draft Tourism Accommodation Strategy contains suggestions to improve accommodation options and the number of rooms available through land use planning changes.

The preparation of a broader Tourism Strategy is beyond the scope of the current Tourism Accommodation Strategy.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Formal exhibition of the draft Tourism Accommodation Strategy and updated Discussion Paper undertaken from 16 September 2024 to 4 November 2024, included the following consultation initiatives:

- An exhibition webpage on Council's Engagement Site
- Media releases
- Letters to all owners of land zoned SP3 Tourist
- Emails to known accommodation operators

- Emails to Tourism Roundtable participants
- Emails to other stakeholders

Council's webpage received 405 views, 221 documents were downloaded and 12 feedback comments were provided. As a consequence of the exhibition, 12 on-line comments and 15 submissions were received. The comments and submissions are summarised in Attachment 1. As a consequence of the submissions some minor amendments have been made to the draft Strategy which are highlighted in Attachment 2.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 1. It specifically delivers on the following -

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy		Service
1.5	Maintain the unique character of the Wollongong Local Government Area, whilst balancing development, population growth and housing needs	Land Use Planning

CONCLUSION

Tourism and tourism accommodation is a contributor to Wollongong's economy, providing employment for about 4.4% of the workforce and 3% value added output.

There are 67 tourist accommodation establishments within the Wollongong LGA, providing an estimated 1,845 rooms which can cater for over 5,376 guests. In addition, there are 211 cabins which can cater for 1,179 guests and 269 powered and 122 unpowered camping and caravanning sites available each night. There are also currently 792 premises registered providing Short-term Rental Accommodation.

On 12 August 2024, Council endorsed the draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy for exhibition. The draft Strategy and updated supporting Discussion Paper were exhibited from 16 September 2024 to 4 November 2024. Fifteen submissions and 12 engagement website comments were received.

The draft Strategy has been reviewed and updated in response to feedback.

It is recommended that the Tourism Accommodation Strategy be adopted to enable implementation projects to proceed.

Draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy – Summary of Submissions

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Our Wollongong on line comments

	Author	Comment
1.	Community member	Nice
2.	Community member	There needs to be more accommodation that is truly accessible for people with disability. Consultation with stakeholders is needed to ensure access is appropriately planned and designed.
3.	Community member	I support! I think there should be more done to entice people to come to the gong in the first place though. I think at the maximum people come here as a stop on a way to somewhere else or do a day trip - it would be fantastic if we could have more attractions or be THE place people want to stay in.
4.	Community member	<p>Every time we have had friends stay from interstate they end up sharing facilities with homeless people in both caravan parks and motels. I totally understand they need access to temporary accommodation but it's their lifestyle that is the issue thieving, poor social skills, unruly beg etc and our visitors paid a lot of money for this accommodation.</p> <p>Our caravan parks really don't rate compared to other around the state and we are missing so many opportunities to attract cyclist to our lake if only we could cycle around the lake and not have to go on busy and dangerous roads</p>
5.	Community member	<p>The goal is to ensure that the strategy not only attracts investment but also fosters community buy-in and supports sustainable job creation. By addressing key areas such as branding, marketing, experience-driven tourism, and employability, the strategy can be better positioned to achieve long-term success and provide lasting benefits for our Wollongong community.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement: While the draft mentions the stakeholder roundtable, it lacks a more detailed summary of feedback from diverse groups such as residents, small business owners, and tourism operators beyond hotel developers. This could provide a more holistic understanding of</p>

	Author	Comment
		<p>the local community's needs and concerns, leading to greater support for the strategy.</p> <p>Specific Data Analysis: The strategy would benefit from including more detailed quantitative data or projections, such as expected economic impact or estimated visitor growth, to support proposed amendments and planning changes. Projections on job creation, such as estimates of how many jobs might be created per new accommodation unit, would also help stakeholders understand the scale of economic impact.</p> <p>Market Trends Analysis: Insights into broader tourism trends, such as shifts in accommodation preferences (e.g., rise in short-term rentals, eco-tourism), could provide a clearer rationale for the strategic directions. This analysis would help align Wollongong's offerings with evolving visitor expectations and preferences.</p> <p>Environmental Considerations: While there is mention of bushfire concerns and environmental zones, a more thorough analysis of the environmental impacts of increased tourism accommodation (e.g., water use, waste management, and traffic congestion) is needed. The strategy should assess the capacity of existing infrastructure to support new developments, including utilities, transportation networks, and public services, to ensure sustainable growth.</p> <p>Comparative Analysis: Including comparisons with other regional cities or case studies where tourism accommodation expansion significantly impacted local employability could enhance the strategy. This would help illustrate realistic expectations for job creation and economic growth in Wollongong, lending credibility to the projections and demonstrating the potential for long-term success.</p> <p>Actionable Timeframes: Although the document discusses plans over the next 5-10 years, more detailed timelines for specific actions and progress evaluations could help clarify how the goals will be met. Clear milestones would provide a roadmap for stakeholders and ensure accountability in implementing the strategy.</p> <p>Marketing and Promotion Strategy: A detailed strategy on how Wollongong will be marketed to potential investors and tourists is touched upon but not fully developed. This could help bridge the gap between planning controls and the attraction of investors, ensuring that Wollongong is positioned as a desirable destination with a unique identity.</p> <p>Economic Impact of Tourism Accommodation on Job Creation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and Indirect Employment: Tourism and hospitality sectors are significant sources of employment. New hotels, motels, and other accommodation options can create direct jobs (e.g., hospitality, maintenance, management) and indirect jobs (e.g., in supply chains, local attractions,

	Author	Comment
		<p>restaurants). Including projections on potential job growth can help align training programs and investment with expected needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal and Long-term Employment Patterns: Tourism often faces seasonal fluctuations, influencing the types of jobs available (e.g., part-time, seasonal roles) and local economic stability. Addressing potential seasonal employment patterns based on visitor numbers can help plan for both temporary and permanent roles. • Skills and Training Needs: Predicting the types of skills required to support tourism accommodation growth (e.g., hospitality management, digital marketing) can guide local training programs. Collaborations with institutions like TAFE and the University of Wollongong can ensure that the workforce is equipped for these new jobs. • Youth Employment: Assessing opportunities for youth employment is crucial, especially in regions where young people may seek entry-level roles in tourism and hospitality. Highlighting these opportunities could help retain young talent in the Wollongong area, assists international students and address youth unemployment. Long-term Economic <p>Resilience: Analysing the role of tourism accommodation in creating a diversified local economy can demonstrate how these jobs contribute to long-term economic resilience. Understanding the economic multiplier effect—how increased tourism leads to spending in other sectors like retail, food services, and cultural activities—can provide a more holistic view of job creation beyond direct roles in accommodation. I trust that by considering these points the Draft Tourism Accommodation Strategy can align more closely with successful global practices. A stronger focus on stakeholder engagement, detailed analysis, and sustainability will ensure that the strategy is not only effective in attracting investment but also in providing meaningful benefits to the local community and economy. Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback.</p>
6.	Community member	<p>The tourism accommodation review strategy report to Council dated 12 August 2024 notes that a Tourist Accommodation Roundtable with tourism and development hosted by Council on 20 May 2024 provided feedback from industry representatives that included: A broader tourism marketing strategy is required (beyond scope of this planning control review)</p> <p>Is Council considering tourism opportunities on its land holdings? These pertinent points by industry representatives would indicate that the current accommodation review is too narrowly focused (or putting the cart before the horse).</p>

	Author	Comment
		The second point is also of interest. For example, Wollongong Botanic Gardens at Keiraville is hardly mentioned and not regarded as tourist zone despite being one of the highest rated tourist attractions on travel sites. Cities around the world with a botanic garden enjoy high visitation, and it is a mystery as why this garden precinct is not developed into a first class tourist attraction with a modern visitors centre, café, gallery and plant sales like Eurobodalla Botanic Garden near Batemans Bay and at other larger gardens. Wollongong Council's Tourism Accommodation Review Discussion Paper, dated July 2024, states: Domestic day trips have increased by 81% from 2,103,950 in 2010/11 to 3,816,352 in 2022/23, with a COVID dip in 2021/22 of 1,902,831 trips. Converting day trips to visitor nights is a key strategy. A broader tourism marketing strategy is required to develop attractive tourism packages. A common strategy used by tourism bodies elsewhere is to suggest an itinerary for 1, 2 or more days. The Illawarra has many attractions for tourists looking for more than a day trip.
7.	Community member	Impose the requirement for residents who utilise short term rental accommodation to have an approved DA for an additional sole occupancy unit within their dwelling. The DA should be conditional of NCC fire separation requirements for SOU's being achieved. It's a life Safety hazard to users to be accommodated in non NCC Compliant accommodation. Also it's a commercial disadvantage to legitimate hotel/motel operators have to abide by Fire Safety requirements and they are trying to compete with backyarders.
8.	Community member	Having moved to the area 4 years ago, we have had many people who wanted to visit us and see Wollongong. However their visit has been very short, due to a lack of affordable decent hotel accommodation. Especially those coming from Sydney who usually bypass Wollongong on their way down south, is a missed opportunity for this city that can offer so much more. In addition to the accommodation an reliable train service to the city plus a decent frequent bus service to offer transport to the suburbs north and south of the CBD would add to the appeal of the city as a destination. Frequent means services every 15-20 minutes and running on weekends! Finally it's a real blight on the city there is no cinema here, the sun does not always shine, we must be the only city of this size in the western world that does not have one. With the rate of the WIN development it could be decade before one becomes a reality there.
9.	Community member	There should be consideration whether it is appropriate to continue the 3 beachside campgrounds in Towradgi, Corrimal and Bulli. Land values have grown considerably, but the willingness to pay for a camping site has not, still around \$30-

	Author	Comment
		<p>40. Sydney does not have campgrounds, at what point do we realise we are not Tathra and permit tall buildings at these locations instead? These 3 sites alone can meet most of our tourist accommodation needs. The Review rightly notes that feasibility (and the shortages for apartments leading to more attractive profitability for developers) is an issue in getting hotels built. But this is not the case for a well located beachside hotel - because the willingness to pay for this accommodation would far outweigh costs - it would be an attractive investment. Feasibility for more market rate apartments is a similar story, and by starting with hotels on our coast we set a great precedence, politically, to start developing our coast where people want to live, where costs are not the issue - rather planning restrictions don't permit development. The 1km stretch of the City allowing tall buildings does not cut it. And the alternative does not exist - we will never get another hotel or many apartments built out in eg Balgownie. People come to Wollongong for the ocean and coastal public space. I strongly support The Review proposing to raising heights, FSR and changing use to permit more coastal development to respond to and appropriately reflect high land values. There is no denying the low density and strict settings of the planning system are in the way, as we also have a shortage of apartments, Aged Care and Child Care buildings. Feasibility can be overcome by permitting taller buildings where people want to be. These coastal places should probably not be wasted on campsites and low density development. We need to plan for what is appropriate in 2050 which should be >10 storeys. Some locations might shadow the beach, a small area should be OK given we have many km of beach, and or going taller on headlands where solar access is less of an issue should be considered. Aiming for 3 storeys like the highly successful and desirable Headlands Hotel would be drastically under-developing it, with a lack of sites permitting this we would end up seeing redevelopment proposals for more luxurious, expensive accommodation for the few who can afford it in the mid term, well before the structures have past their use-by date. Aiming for more numbers would keep prices down for normal families who deserve a holiday. We see this premature redevelopment with many buildings only 40-50 years old, it is too soon, it's not ideal for investors, and it's a drag on construction capacity for our region.</p> <p>I'd like to note that in Kiama Council, they open up Council ovals over Christmas holidays for campers. We could do that in Fairy Meadow on the ovals if people want to have holiday camping sites. That way we can permit our 3 permanent camping sites develop hotels.</p>
10.	Community member	It would be beneficial to have more high-end accommodation in the CBD. The UCI event showed that we were lacking

	Author	Comment
		accommodation as this was sought out as far as Brighton by attendees. Having events in Wollongong would also contribute to increased use of our retail precinct that seems to have a high turnover.
11.	Community member	<p>Well done on continuing this important work. There are some significant inaccuracies in the audit of tourist and visitor accommodation. Any claimed tourist accommodation not listed on any Online Travel Agents cannot realistically be considered bona fide. Salt Serviced Apartments closed many years ago. Piccadilly, Keiraleigh, Sky, Dicey Riley's, The Harp, Keiraview and the Cabbage Tree motel have not had a bona fide "tourist" stay in them for many years. I'm also not aware of the following properties still operating as serviced apartments - Bel Mondo, Smith Street, Park Street. Lastly, the Pilgrim Lodge at Nan Tein Temple is ONLY available for buddhist retreats and accommodating long term students and is therefore not bona fide tourist accommodation. My list above includes approximately 400 claimed "tourist" rooms. Normandie has now been demolished and Park Beach will be soon. Flinders Motel is likely to be next to go, with it's residential development approval and having recently sold to a developer.</p> <p>My only other comment is in regard to the SP3 zoning. I note that all such sites in the LGA have been identified and analysed. There are extremely limited opportunities for hotel development within the very limited sites with this zoning. Realistic opportunities for hotel development have long existed at the Wollongong Entertainment Precinct and Kully Bay foreshore - however, I fundamentally question whether "continuing to prohibit" any form of residential development on such sites is sensible. Mixed use development is likely the most sensible approach to achieving genuine hotel development. The new Crowne Plaza at Shell Cove did not stack up financially without the residential component. Austinmer Headlands with 69 serviced apartments is an interesting case study. As a strata titled development, with the restrictions to owners use (I believe 90 nights per annum), many of the unit owners simply "lock up" their property and only use it as a private holiday home. ie, the unit is not made available in the short term letting pool for tourists. Perhaps preferable would have been to permit a modest residential component to the development on the requirement that a bona fide hotel be included - where all units where available for tourists 100% of the time. Hotels being "permitted" has never been the problem. Again, a hotel was always permitted on the SP3 zoned Austinmer Headlands site (arguably offering the most scenic views in NSW), yet it sat vacant and derelict for more than a decade. A planning approach to hotel development is of course valid, but on it's own cannot bridge the vast gap to economic viability. There are extreme barriers to entry for hotel development, particularly in</p>

	Author	Comment
		Wollongong - with arguably the highest land values of any regional city in Australia. Objective 5 - "Preventing tourist accommodation being outcompeted by residential development by not permitting residential development in the SP3 Tourist zone". I feel this is flawed. Instead, we need to turn attention to incentivising tourist accommodation development where it is permitted (B2, B3, B4, B6 etc). In the suburban town centres, take Unanderra for example - the CBD sites permit mixed use development and already have 1.5:1 FSR - but are being gobbled up for 1 storey fast food developments, sometimes taking up the entire (strategic) site and only delivering 10% of the permitted Gross Floor Area. Simple example in such case, where a suburban motel near a train station could be very successful and actually be delivered, considering a far more realistic land value (compared to Wollongong CBD). Offering a 3:1 FSR for a bona fide tourist accommodation development. We're competing with the free market and when a 1 storey fast food restaurant, or obviously an affordable housing complex, is a far more profitable development than a 50 room motel - therein lies the problem. Genuine congratulations on trying to tackle this, but as I've been saying for nearly 20 years - bold action is needed.
12.	Community member	Any promotion of new hotel construction must be delivered such that the new supply of hotels is sustainable and Wollongong is able to generate sufficient new demand to support new hotels. Wollongong must attract and sustain annually new major events and corporate activity. There needs to be a balanced approach between demand and supply. Historically government incentives have not worked and have caused supply shocks that have had detrimental impacts on the accommodation market. Examples include Sydney in the lead up to the 2000 Olympics. As such, new supply should be left to the market and not manipulated through planning.

Letters / emails – Accommodation & SP3 owners

	Author	Comment
1.	Otford Farm	We own land at Stanwell Tops that has a DA, which is substantially commenced during the approval period, for a 15 room motel, managers residence, restaurant and car parking Thank you for now mentioning Otford Farm with horse riding as part of the list of things to see and do in Wollongong LGA in the current draft Strategy. We note that in your new review you point out that 13 out of 74 existing tourism establishments are located in land use zones which do not permit the current accommodation use Of


	Author	Comment
		<p>particular note are the three accommodation providers located very close to our land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tumbling Waters Retreat</i> • <i>The Tops Conference Centre and Accommodation</i> • <i>The Govinda Valley Spiritual Retreat and accommodation at Otford (Lot 1 DP 190250)</i> <p><i>We would like that as part of the review, our commenced Motel DA 81/407 at 192 Lawrence Hargrave Drive Stanwell Tops also have the proposal "Permit Hotel and Motel Accommodation as an additional permitted use on the site on Lots 1/2 DP 1106860 " to ensure that we do not face more hurdles to finish the much needed tourism accommodation. This will also keep us in line with the other accommodation providers in our immediate vicinity who also are not located on current zoning that allows approvals for motels and hotels.</i></p> <p>Also it should be noted Council clearly states: <i>"The rezoning of sensitive bushland sites in the Illawarra Escarpment, Escarpment Plateau, Sydney Drinking Water Catchment or the Hacking River catchment to SP3 Tourism or to permit new tourist accommodation facilities, including eco-tourism, is not supported. The escarpment and bushland are part of the attraction of Wollongong and should be protected to ensure it can be enjoyed by future generations. The potential economic and employment benefits of tourist accommodation, shouldn't override the existing conservation values."</i></p> <p>This means the likelihood of gaining a new approval, via Wollongong City Council, for a Motel Site on the site we have commenced on, or any other site in the area would be very minimal.</p> <p>We were astounded to find out that Urban Property Group has lodged with NSW Major Projects an "Eco Tourist Facility" of 24 Cabins and Pavilion on the cliff edge north of Coalcliff without mentioning our DA that will also be offering tourist accommodation in the near vicinity.</p> <p>Our humble and low key existing approved and commenced development is ideally located close to the Grand Pacific Walk as our site land abuts Bald Hill, hence can provide vital accommodation for the tourists who are doing sections of the walk.</p> <p>By having our Motel site clearly listed as an additional permitted use on our land in your final Tourism Accommodation Strategy it will be of great benefit to both us and also Council, showing that Tourist accommodation is being provided to service the new infrastructure of the Grand Pacific Walk.</p>
2.	MMJ for site owner	163-171 Crown St, 80-82 Church St Wollongong / DJ & City Diggers or The Globe Project

	Author	Comment
		<p>The draft Strategy is strongly supported, but could be refined to ensure its effectiveness and flexibility. The site is zoned E2 Commercial Centre.</p> <p>DA-2023/767 proposes a mixed use development which includes 350 hotel/motel rooms.</p> <p>Incentive provisions for high-quality hotel and motel accommodation is supported. The term “5 star or equivalent” should be defined to ensure it encompasses upper midscale or above accommodation types or chains. The Globe may not conform to traditional 5 star ratings.</p> <p>Incentive provisions should not be limited to strictly sole hotel and motel accommodation developments. Sole hotel and motel accommodation developments are less viable. It is common practice to include tourist accommodation in mixed use developments, where varying land use types complement and promote activity between each other.</p> <p>The bonus provisions should be extended to missed use developments that provide a minimum threshold of say 200 rooms or more.</p> <p>The Globe has the capacity to increase the height of the hotel building, which won’t impact overshadowing of MacCabe Park between 12noon-2pm, but would overshadow in the morning. Its is suggested that “no overshadowing” be reworded to “no meaningful overshadowing” or “minimal impact between 12 noon – 2pm” on key public spaces.</p> <p>Support reduced car parking rates,</p>
3.	MMJ for site owner	<p>131 Princes Highway Figtree</p> <p>The site is zoned SP3 Tourist, with an FSR of 1.5:1 and maximum building height of 9m. Historically the site has functioned as a bus depot.</p> <p>The site is flood prone due to proximity to American Creek.</p> <p>The constraints challenge the feasibility of tourist-related uses.</p> <p>The owners advocate for the site to be rezoned to E4 General Industry or E3 Productivity Support. This would unlock the sites potential for meaningful redevelopment contributing to local economic growth.</p> <p>The draft Strategy outlines bonus provisions for tourist accommodation uses, but not other uses permitted in the SP3 tourist zone, creating a mismatch. Incentives for other permitted uses should be introduced.</p>
4.	Lakeside Windang Pty Ltd	<p>Lot 501 Kruger Avenue Windang which land has a large frontage and widened road reserve to Windang Road. Lot 501 is zoned SP3 Tourist.</p> <p>Lot 429 Kruger Avenue Windang which land is zoned R2 Low Density Residential which adjoins Lot 501.</p> <p>Both Lot 429 and 501 adjoin the Windang Golf Driving Range which occupies Lots 74 and 75 DP233101 and Lot 303</p>

	Author	Comment
		<p>DP774062 which are owned by Wollongong City Council and zoned SP3 Tourist.</p> <p>The strategy proposes to allow “hotel and motel accommodation” with an FSR 1:1 in the R2 Low Density Residential zone.</p> <p>The SP3 zoned land at Warrawong known as the Kings Wharf Development has a FSR of 1.5:1 and a height limit of 20.0m. I am also aware development of this land is unlikely to proceed. Currently Lot 501 DP 809609 and Lots 74 and 75 DP233101 and Lot 303 DP774061 have a FSR of 1.5 :1 with a height limit of 9.0m.</p> <p>Lots 74 and 75 DP233101 and Lot 303 DP774061 are bounded on their eastern boundary by the unmade Shellharbour Road which divides the SP3 zone.</p> <p>From a strategic view point we request that the height limit on Lot 501 DP809609 and Lots 74 and 75 DP233101 and Lot 303 DP774061 be increased to 20.0m with the current FSR 1.5:1 remaining.</p> <p>The Draft Tourist Accommodation Strategy 2024 suggests major hotel development occur within the Wollongong CBD. It is also important that major hotel development also occur north and south of the Wollongong CBD for the benefit of tourists and residents.</p> <p>Hotel development north of the Wollongong CBD has taken place with the Headlands Hotel at Austinmer which is zoned SP3 Tourist and has a FSR of 1.5:1 and a height limit of 15.0m.</p> <p>Hotel development south of the Wollongong CBD which is required could occur at Windang on the lands noted above if provided with a height limit of 20.0m particularly given that the Kings Wharf Development at Warrawong is unlikely to proceed.</p> <p>The land noted above at Windang has acid sulphate issues which will require future development to have undercroft parking to avoid basement construction hence the need for an increased height limit.</p> <p>The Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy 2024 notes Lot 501 as containing a swamp. This is incorrect Lot 501 in part does contain a stormwater detention basin for the Windang Garden Estate.</p> <p>This existing detention basin would be retained as a feature and landscaped in a future hotel development on Lot 501.</p>

	Author	Comment
		<p>The current SP3 zoning under Wollongong LEP 2009 does not allow “residential accommodation”.</p> <p>The prohibition on “residential accommodation” needs to be reviewed by Council and considered with the viability and management of major hotel developments.</p> <p>There needs to be in major hotel developments some allowable “residential accommodation” for key workers and some permanent residents of the development.</p> <p>In providing housing for key workers and some permanent residents the viability and operational management of a major hotel development is secured.</p> <p>A major hotel developed at Windang would include many of the other permissible uses in the SP3 zone to provide vitality and a sense of place to the major hotel development as a destination.</p> <p>The Windang SP3 Tourist zone is unique located between Lake Illawarra and the ocean beach.</p> <p>The SP3 Tourist land to the east of the unmade Shellharbour Road being Lots 135,140 and 156 DP726745 being a former airstrip now in Aboriginal ownership also provides an opportunity for a sensitively designed future Aboriginal related tourist development within the existing 9.0m height limit.</p>
5.	HWIS for Club Windang	<p>Club Windang Board and its Members, we welcome Council's review of Tourist Accommodation in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). As a key Stakeholder (SP3), the Club supports the increase in the number of tourism accommodation beds available in the Wollongong LGA.</p> <p>As you are aware, Club Windang is currently completing a Motel Cabin project in Cedar Avenue Windang comprising twenty (20) new Motel Cabins, Cabana, Laundry & Pool . This will generate 78 accommodation beds opening in the first quarter of 2025.</p> <p>The Board are now in the process of Master Planning its Bowling Club site located in Judbooley Parade to encompass two (2) Motel Towers over a new 'state of the art' Club facility. Located at the southern entrance of the Wollongong LGA, it will become 'the Gateway' to Wollongong City.</p> <p>The build would be completed in two (2) Stages to enable continual trade during the construction period. Details as follows:-</p>

	Author	Comment
		<p>Stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basement Carparking for Club Patrons and Motel Guests • Ground Floor Clubhouse, Motel facilities & Public Spaces • Level 1, Clubhouse Facilities & Function Facilities • Seven (7) Levels of Motel accommodation with 95 Rooms <p>Stage 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Existing Club into Motel Tower 1 • Demolish Existing Clubhouse • Extend Basement Carparking • Extend Clubhouse across two (2) Towers at Ground Level & Level 1 • Five (5) Levels of Motel Accommodation with 55 Rooms & Roof Terrace <p>To accommodate the proposed design, height planning controls will need to be adjusted in the LEP & DCP (2009) to allow a minimum height level of 35.50m. However, we would request that a maximum height level be set at 45.00m to take into account current flood levels in the area and additional parking levels that may be required.</p> <p>As you can imagine, this will be an 'Iconic Tourist Development' that will set new standards for tourist accommodation. With a 'state of the art' clubhouse, Function Facilities and view over the lake and ocean, the development will be Council's showpiece for Tourism. It will draw visitors and guests from intrastate, interstate and overseas.</p> <p>Akin to our plans to develop the Club site, we would also ask Council to consider the conversion of the adjacent redundant park into an on-ground parking area with modern Rest Room facilities. Following the Council's redevelopment of the foreshore area, this has drawn additional locals and tourists to the area to utilise the extraordinary foreshore areas. As you would know, parking is essential to the success of any tourist area. Currently, visitors to the foreshore are parking on the redundant park and in the limited Club parking area. Last weekend, visitors to the area were parking on the redundant park and in the side streets up to a kilometre away which is not ideal and poses safety risks for the locals in narrow streets.</p> <p>Should Council recognise the urgent need to accommodate parking for tourists, the Club is willing to consider a</p>

	Author	Comment
		<p>Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Council as part of the Masterplan Development to build the on-grade carpark and modern Rest Room facilities.</p> <p>This would be almost essential (and built first) given the construction logistics in and around the new development over a two (2) year period.</p> 
	2 nd email on behalf of Club Windang	<p>Further to Club Windang's submission, we raised the issue of parking in and around the lake foreshore. More specifically, the lack of parking given the attraction of the area following Council's rejuvenation of the foreshore precinct which has been well received by the public.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months, the public have taken to parking their cars on the redundant Parkland adjacent to the Club. The volume of parking varies from a dozen or so cars to being fully taken up.</p> <p>The Council has identified the need to develop 'Tourism' and a critical element for this success is public parking. As part of your Draft submission to Council, I ask that you consider the redundant park be re-zoned (or re-tasked) as a potential Public Carpark. As mentioned, Club Windang would be willing to look at a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to build an on-grade carpark and new Rest Room facility as part of its long-term development of its site.</p>
6.	Oscars Group	<p>170 Pioneer Road, Towradgi (The Towradgi Beach Hotel) 19 Carters Ln, Towradgi (Quality Suites) 14 Cliff Rd, North Wollongong (Novotel Wollongong Northbeach) 27 Central Rd, Unanderra (Unanderra Hotel)</p> <p>we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any potential planning and development opportunity across our holdings within the Wollongong LGA. We have undertaken studies across our Towradgi Beach Hotel site including ecological, flood, traffic and planning studies and have considered various options that we would like to explore with Council. Request Council to consider the inclusion of our Stara title (SP90280) Quality Suites into their proposed change to residential zoning of the blocks directly behind us at 25 Carters Ln (SP83610) currently Zoned SP3.</p>

	Author	Comment
		Oscars primary business is Accommodation and Food & Beverage, creating employment along with attracting and supporting tourism in each of its locations. Oscars group employs nearly 3000 people across more than 50 operations along the east coast of Australia, from as far north as Cairns through to Victoria.

Letters / emails – State agencies

	Author	Comment
1.	Destination Sydney Surrounds South (DSSS)	<p>Council's comprehensive strategy is essential for the growth and sustainable development of the tourism sector in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The proposal not only addresses the current limitations in accommodation availability but also sets the foundation for long-term growth and competitive positioning of Wollongong as a premier tourist destination.</p> <p>Key Points of Support:</p> <p>Retention and Expansion of Existing Accommodation - By encouraging the upgrading and expansion of existing hotel and motel facilities, this strategy ensures that current infrastructure is not only preserved but modernised. This is a crucial step in maintaining a diverse range of accommodation options that can cater to various visitor demographics and evolving preferences. At the recent NSW Visitor Economy Forum, the impact of the Western Sydney Airport on regional visitor growth and the need for additional accommodation was a strong theme.</p> <p>Establishment of High-End Accommodation - The introduction of two new five-star (or equivalent) hotels in the Wollongong City Centre represents a significant leap forward for the region. High-end accommodations attract a higher-spending visitor, contributing to the local economy and increasing the city's appeal as a world-class destination. It will also create jobs and stimulate investment in complementary sectors, such as dining, entertainment, and retail.</p> <p>Incentives for Development - The strategy's use of planning controls to incentivise development is forward-thinking and practical. Offering these incentives encourages developers to invest in the area, ultimately leading to an increase in accommodation options while preserving the integrity of our natural and urban landscapes. These measures will boost confidence in the local market and facilitate strategic partnerships.</p> <p>Preserving the SP3 Tourist Zone - The prevention of residential development within the SP3 Tourist zone ensures that this prime land remains dedicated to its intended purpose. By protecting this zone, the strategy preserves</p>

	Author	Comment
		<p>opportunities for future tourism accommodation developments, which are critical to meet the increasing demand for visitor stays in the region.</p> <p>Comprehensive Review of Planning Controls - A periodic review of the planning controls, including height restrictions, floor space ratio, and other development controls, ensures that the SP3 Tourist zone remains flexible and responsive to market needs. This adaptive approach promotes sustainable growth while maintaining the quality and character of the area.</p> <p>The Draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy 2024 is a timely and necessary initiative to unlock Wollongong's full potential as a destination. Its balanced approach between development incentives, preservation of key zones, and monitoring ensures that the region can sustainably meet the needs of both visitors and residents alike. DSSS supports this strategy and encourages Council to continue pushing forward with these ambitious, yet achievable goals.</p>
2.	Venues NSW	<p>Venues NSW commends Wollongong City Council for its work on the tourism accommodation review and the proposed changes to increase investment in new tourism and hotel facilities. The proposed changes align closely with Venues NSW's master plan for the future of WIN Stadium and a new WIN Arena to replace the current WIN Entertainment Centre.</p> <p>Venues NSW's facilities make a significant contribution to the Illawarra economy, creating jobs, driving expenditure and attracting visitors to the region. Having a range of modern and attractive accommodation facilities is vital for the Illawarra region to secure new and lock in existing major sporting and entertainment events.</p> <p>Venues NSW's master plan reimagines WIN Stadium's foreshore location, making one of the best stadium sites in world sport even better. The master plan also proposes a new WIN Arena and, importantly, will create new and improve current connections to the Wollongong CBD. Venues NSW is also strongly supportive of the proposal to increase the allowable height for a new WIN Arena to 32m, which is appropriate for a modern multi-purpose arena.</p> <p>We look forward to continuing our work with Council to establish Wollongong as a premier tourist destination for sports and entertainment and better serving the broader Illawarra community.</p>
3.	Department of Planning, Housing	<p>The Department notes that Wollongong City Council intends to prepare Plans of Management for Crown Reserves that contain the 3 Council managed tourist parks being Bulli,</p>

	Author	Comment
	and Infrastructure - Crown Lands	<p>Corrimal and Windang Tourist Parks. These parks are located on Crown Reserves reserved for the purpose of Public Recreation and therefore should be accessible by the general public and available for the public's recreational use and enjoyment. Any proposed developments should enhance the use of the reserve for its intended purpose. Plans of management are the appropriate authorising environment to assess the impact of proposed developments and identify any limiting factors. The Department would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that Plans of Management must be consistent with the reserve purpose.</p> <p>The draft Strategy also suggests that camping/glamping be considered at Sublime Point (reserve purpose Public Recreation) and permitted through the adoption of a Plan of Management. Once again, the Department reiterates that Plans of Management must be consistent with the reserve purpose and any additional proposed land uses may require the addition of new reserve purposes under section 2.14 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016. Further consultation with Crown Lands and the claimant Aboriginal Land Council will be required.</p> <p>The draft Strategy suggests rezoning of Crown land consisting of 'bushland' at Sublime Point to C2. The bushland area is reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 as a State Conservation Area and the current zoning, being C1, is the most appropriate.</p> <p>The Department is raising concerns about the suggestion of changing the zoning of Lot 101 DP 1195639, Judbooley Parade, Windang from SP3 to RE1 as this will restrict future uses of the site and therefore adversely affect the land value. This site is subject to undetermined Aboriginal Land Claims. The Department advises that consultation regarding this proposal be undertaken with Crown Lands and the claimant Aboriginal Land Council as a key stakeholder.</p> <p>The draft Strategy suggests zoning changes at Woodrow Place, Figtree from RE2 (Low Density Residential) to E3 (Productivity Support). It is suggested that Wollongong City Council staff consult with the Department in relation to either acquisition of the land or creation of a new reserve and appointment of Council as Crown Land Manager prior to further consultation about these proposed changes and any potential impacts on Crown land.</p>

Letters / emails - organisations

	Author	Comment
1.	Neighbourhood Forum 5	<p>At its meeting on 2nd September the Forum resolved that Council be advised of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. very strong objection to allowing hotels and motels in the R2 Low Density residential zone, except, if the State Government persists in destroying our residential neighbourhoods, when they are in association with proposals under the new Transit Oriented Development; 2. objection to re-defining serviced apartment as commercial when clearly they are only used for residential purposes; 3. objection to giving a floor space bonus of 2:1 (making up to 8:1 total) for hotels and motels in Business Centres.
2.	Neighbourhood Forum 5	<p>At its meeting 4/11/24 the Forum resolved that Council be advised of the need for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 support for efforts to attract much-needed new tourist accommodation, for all standards, particularly recognising the need for at least one 5-6 star hotel to compete with other like-sized cities and for the strategy to identify appropriate sites before trying to attract market interest; 2 Council to prioritise and fund the creation of a quality regional museum in the city's cultural precinct to show its industrial, heritage, cultural, colonial and military history; 3 relocate the tourist visitor facility to the city centre as a location much more appropriate than at Bulli Tops; 4 support for the incorporation of a convention centre able to host large scale events in plans to redevelop the WEC; 5 undertaking a master planning exercise for the area surrounding historic Wollongong Harbour to enhance its untapped potential as a tourist drawcard; 6 dramatically increasing the promotion of what are currently seen as 'hidden gems' such as Wollongong Botanic Gardens and the adjoining Gleniffer Brae and consideration of infrastructure enhancements in the gardens to enable outdoor concerts in summer; 7 support and promotion of Port Kembla as a new cruise terminal; 8 a review of opportunities for providing camping sites.
3.	Destination Wollongong	<p>Destination Wollongong makes the following comments on the draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy.</p> <p>We submit a 10-point plan for consideration, designed to tackle Wollongong's tourism accommodation shortage and boost Wollongong's Visitor Economy:</p>

	Author	Comment
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As flagged in the report, review planning controls across zoning, land uses, height and floor space allowances and parking requirements, to provide incentives and bonuses to developers to make both hotels and CBD serviced apartments as more financially viable propositions. 2. Identify and incentivise key CBD locations (on either private or public land) for five-star hotel developments, with prescriptive conditions to fill market gaps. 3. Explore opportunities to increase the number and quality of cabins in the three council tourist parks, to maximise capacity. 4. Ensure the WIN Stadium precinct master plan features a convention centre with flexible floorspace as a key attractor for Wollongong's conferencing market, designed to showcase its coastal location and complemented by nearby premium hotel product. 5. Facilitate and incentivise mid-market motels in Wollongong's suburbs to co-locate with clubs and/or enter into private-public partnerships to create a circular economy. 6. Identify and incentivise key sites in the Port Kembla district to service the BlueScope Masterplan redevelopment and the potential cruise terminal for the Port (which is particularly crucial, given that accommodation is not currently permitted on BlueScope land holdings). 7. Amend planning guidelines and provide bonuses to allow suitable sites for small-scale eco-accommodation to meet market demand along the route of the Great Southern Walk and Illawarra Escarpment mountain bike trail network. 8. Advocate for a suitable accommodation offering as part of the Warrawong foreshore master planning process, given the site's appropriate SP3 zoning, location and size. 9. Commission research by industry specialists to forecast the type, scale and location of accommodation required in the next 10 to 20 years. 10. Create a joint concierge service through Destination Wollongong and council, informed by the above research, that targets new tourism product in priority sectors and locations to ensure alignment between attractors and the ability to service them . <p>Planning controls obviously play a crucial role in hotels being built, so having council proactively address this is a welcome initiative. There is, however, a number of mitigating factors when only one of the last eight approved developments actually came to fruition. We need to act decisively when you consider the</p>

	Author	Comment
		<p>lead times required for hotels and the feeder opportunities on the horizon – from Western Sydney Airport to the redevelopment of BlueScope land, a potential cruise terminal, master plans for Warrawong and the WIN Stadium precinct, and the soon-to-open Great Southern Walk and Illawarra Escarpment mountain bike trail network. The current ceiling in the number of hotel rooms is already restricting the expansion of business tourism, major events and significant visitation from looming opportunities such as cruise turnarounds.</p> <p>Ä co-operative and co-ordinated approach is needed across all levels of government, industry bodies and private landholders. Urgent consideration of a number of specific and practical shorter-term solutions is necessary, while we work together to address some more substantial projects. A hand-in-glove approach is required across entities to prevent market gaps. For instance, National Parks will soon launch the 67km Great Southern Walk as a showcase attraction. However, it appears there will likely not be any huts built on Maddens Plains as part of this project, leaving non-campers with no suitable accommodation in the area two-thirds of the way into a multi-day walk. This is a critical flaw. It makes the handling of a proposal such as this Coalcliff could get a 24-cabin eco-tourism facility Region Illawarra an important and urgent issue.</p> <p>The issue is not only just about more accommodation beds. More tourism attractions, major events and conferences provide significant boosts to the visitor economy and local employments. We should offer a dedicated concierge service and targeted inducements to attract permanent product that contributes to our lifestyle and enriches the lives of both locals and visitors. Attractions that should be considered include a nature-based adventure park, a wave pool, a film studio, the southern hemisphere’s most radical skate park, a golf entertainment complex, an LA-style beachside basketball precinct, a festival site and convention centre. High land values are an inhibitor, but the region can be an attractive proposition for any of these facilities, if Wollongong is progressive in providing incentives, imaginative in shared land use, willing to unlock dormant blocks, and prescriptive in what we want. Further attractions to position Wollongong as ‘Sydney’s playground’ will reap financial, social, community and health benefits.</p> <p>It is more difficult to prove feasibility and gain investment for hotels, compared to residential development. Intervention by way of incentives is needed to address the imbalance. Once residential blocks are approved, the land is lost to public use forever. Hotels and serviced apartments stimulate our local economy, as do attractions and shared use facilities that</p>

	Author	Comment
		provide locals with jobs, host events, engage the community and attract visitors.
4.	Property Council of Australia – Illawarra	<p>Overall, we are supportive of Council reviewing the strategy to encourage new and expanded tourist accommodation proposals. The incentives and changes to the planning controls are welcomed and we hope to see these implemented and taken up by industry to provide more tourist accommodation options and venues.</p> <p>We acknowledge that to bring two five-star hotels online within 10 years also means that we need to ensure we have the right mix of events to attract people to the city. We would like to see Council taking a bold step in working closely with Destination Wollongong and other industry stakeholders to collaborate and develop a clear Tourism Strategy that attracts investment, promotes our city and our ‘unique selling point’ to draw people to the area.</p> <p>We believe there is a real opportunity to increase tourism and the number of visitors to our city, however that is not achieved without the support of the community and local businesses. Projects such as the Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Precinct and conference venue being planned will be key to attracting corporate events and other expos, which will entice further tourism accommodation to be developed in the city. It is also important that we are working with industry and tourism accommodation providers to provide a diverse range of accommodation options and understand ‘what we need’ from a demand perspective. It would be great to see Council do some further work with Destination Wollongong about ‘who’ is visiting Wollongong and what types of accommodation they need which could then feed into this strategy.</p> <p>For example, when an event such as ‘Yours and Owls’ is held in the city we need to be able to support this cohort of visitors with a range of options to stay in Wollongong at a range of price points, not only a hotel or a traditional type of accommodation. Understanding who our ‘visitor’ is should be a very important part of this strategy, and should reflect and support a wider tourism and events strategy for the city.</p> <p>We believe this strategy is a positive step forward and welcome any opportunity to work with Council to provide feedback and insights from the industry to enable further collaboration and implementation of this strategy.</p>

Letters / emails – community

	Author	Comment
1.	Community member	<p>I was fortunate to attend the recent release of the State Government's 'Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 Review', with my key takeaway being that it has never been more important for a city to have its ducks in a row regarding its visitor economy strategy. NSW currently enjoys \$51.4 billion in annual visitor spend, yet Wollongong captures disproportionately little of this. The good news is that the state government aims to increase this visitor spend to \$91 billion in the next five years, and we're incredibly low-hanging fruit here in Wollongong, as is the broader Greater Illawarra Region.</p> <p>From a local government perspective, Wollongong must be culturally prepared to allocate bandwidth toward this lucrative growth sector. Comparing this strategy with its predecessor, it's clear that progress is being made within Wollongong Council. However, true success will only come when both the council and the community fully understand the problem.</p> <p>In brief, I believe the key challenges to address are as follows:</p> <p>The Current Market</p> <p>The visitor economy is fiercely competitive, and due to an undersupply of quality, affordable hotel rooms, Wollongong has priced itself out of the market. For example, in Wollongong's CBD, 3-star hotels are priced like 4-star hotels, and 4-star hotels often exceed the rates of 5-star hotels elsewhere, sometimes by a considerable margin. This has left Wollongong's room yield higher than Sydney's, despite not having a single 5-star hotel in the mix.</p> <p>[It is important to note that openly acknowledging this problem will enhance investor confidence within the hotel sector, which cannot be overstated.]</p> <p>Our Local Economy</p> <p>Cities need a healthy mix of spenders to sustain and grow. Wollongong's CBD relies heavily on local spending, leaving it vulnerable to changes in the local economy. With many Wollongong residents saving for their own holidays, the question remains: who is saving to spend money here?</p> <p>Spend Map Data, combined with the post-COVID decline in cash usage, reveals that Wollongong's CBD has experienced a more than 20% drop in customer spend, while business costs have risen by over 30%. This highlights the urgent need to attract more visitors from outside the region and explains why the CBD is dotted with 'For Lease' signs and struggling businesses.</p> <p>Flyability</p> <p>With 74% of NSW's visitor economy driven by domestic visitors—70% of whom come from Victoria and Queensland—Shellharbour Airport serves as a poignant 'temperature check'</p>

		<p>on Wollongong's visitor economy. Despite servicing Australia's ninth-largest catchment area, our airport ranks only 75th in terms of traffic. The lack of accommodation options in Wollongong contributes to this under performance, and improving hotel capacity will be essential in reversing this trend.</p> <p>Connectivity</p> <p>The 'Wollongong City Centre Movement & Place Plan' is an excellent example of problem identification, revealing a city that isn't well-connected to the region or even within itself. Regions experiencing growth in their visitor economies are characterized by strong connectivity and place-making efforts that enhance the visitor experience. Understanding this problem clearly will lead to the desired outcomes.</p> <p>Building Hotels</p> <p>While it may appear that the CBD's hotel problem is on the verge of being solved, given the number of rooms currently in pre-planning and planning stages, the reality is different. It has been 42 years since the last large-scale, full-service hotel opened its doors in Wollongong's CBD. Over the years, planners have seen thousands of hotel keys proposed, but none built in this space. Learning from these 42 years of challenges is critical to finally getting these hotels out of the ground. Repeating the same approaches won't yield different outcomes, no matter how promising the proposals look.</p> <p>Affordable Housing</p> <p>As Wollongong drives construction growth, hosts large events, and supports industry expansion, the absence of sufficient hotels creates a perfect storm that pushes housing stock into the short-term rental market. Solving the hotel shortage is integral to addressing the affordable housing issue. The lack of competition among hotels drives landlords toward the short-term rental market, leading to higher rental yields by displacing families in favor of short-term visitors. [It's also important to note that short-term rentals tend to be self-contained, benefiting national supermarkets and bottle shops over local businesses.]</p> <p>Youth Unemployment</p> <p>Wollongong's limited employment diversity has exacerbated the issue of youth unemployment. With key sectors being heavy industry, trades, and care services, many young people struggle to find meaningful job opportunities outside of these. Expanding the tourism sector would introduce more engaging jobs, helping to reduce Wollongong's disproportionately high youth unemployment rate.</p> <p>Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Precinct (ISEP)</p> <p>Wollongong is currently not fit for purpose when it comes to expanding the WIN Entertainment Stadium and Entertainment Centre. Visitors already experience price hikes of over 300% on event days, and this will only worsen with the increased capacity of ISEP. Expanding hotel capacity will</p>
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		<p>strengthen the business case for what could be one of the most exciting developments in Wollongong’s recent history, ensuring it receives government funding.</p> <p>Chicken & Egg</p> <p>A persistent issue in Wollongong has been a tendency to wait for external factors to align instead of actively advocating for hotel development. This reflects a misunderstanding that the market alone will deliver the necessary infrastructure. The data makes it clear: demand isn’t the issue. Without proactive intervention, residential development will always win out. Land and construction costs make it almost impossible for hotels to compete in this space. Councils must identify the types of hotels the city needs, their ideal locations, and how to attract these developments.</p> <p>Regional Marketing</p> <p>The federally defined ‘Illawarra Region’ is one of the most resource-rich areas in the state. However, the five LGAs within the region often compete with one another instead of working together to attract external spending. While Wollongong’s role as a vibrant city hub is improving, it needs a critical mass of accommodation to fully deliver on its potential, benefiting not only Wollongong but also the surrounding LGAs.</p> <p>Fit for Purpose</p> <p>Maintaining existing accommodation stock requires careful management. Essential structural elements include on-site parking, ensuite bathrooms, exclusive loading areas, access to transport hubs, and effective noise mitigation.</p> <p>Not all hotels are created equal. It is crucial to strategically encourage the right types of hotel developments in the right areas.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This strategy represents a critical step in aligning Wollongong’s future with the broader goals of the state’s visitor economy. The challenges we face—whether it’s the shortage of quality hotels and the need for better connectivity—are not insurmountable, but they do require decisive and coordinated action. Every aspect of the visitor economy is interconnected and without adequate accommodation, we will continue to lose opportunities for events, tourism, and investment that could benefit the entire region.</p> <p>Solving these problems isn’t just about building hotels—it’s about creating a city and a region that can sustain growth while enhancing the quality of life for locals. It requires a shift in mindset within both the council and the community to view Wollongong as a competitive destination worthy of investment. Thoughtful regional marketing that unifies the Illawarra LGAs under a shared vision will be essential, ensuring that Wollongong acts as a central hub for visitors while driving economic benefits across the region.</p>
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		<p>There's also a unique opportunity to align tourism growth with solutions to other critical issues. Increasing accommodation supply can ease the pressure on housing, reducing the reliance on short-term rentals that displace families. Similarly, a thriving tourism sector can address youth unemployment by creating diverse, engaging job opportunities. Each hotel built and each event hosted strengthens Wollongong's capacity to attract future investment and builds the case for major developments like ISEP.</p> <p>The work that has gone into this strategy reflects a growing understanding of the region's potential and the barriers that need to be overcome. However, this is just the beginning. Sustained progress will require ongoing dialogue between the public and private sectors, continuous data-driven adjustments, and a willingness to adapt to evolving market conditions.</p> <p>By keeping these conversations active and prioritizing long-term, strategic thinking, we can position Wollongong to capitalize on the projected visitor economy growth. Together, we have the opportunity to transform Wollongong into not just a destination but a model for how cities can balance tourism with community well-being and economic resilience. The journey ahead will require perseverance, but with the right collaboration and commitment, we can unlock extraordinary outcomes for Wollongong and the entire Illawarra Region.</p>
2.	Resident Stanwell Tops	<p>TUMBLING WATERS RETREAT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SUPPORTING COUNCIL C2 -ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ZONE OF TUMBLING WATERS RETREAT SITE STANWELL TOPS 2. OBJECTING TO permit Hotel and Motel accommodation as already Council has stated that the zoning does not allow these types of facilities. 3. Allowing such classification of the facilities is clearly an overdevelopment of the site in such a zone and limited overcrowded site area. 4. Originally presented to Stanwell Tops ratepayer residents and approved by the then eventual proven corrupt Council as a "health retreat", the site has metastasised into a wedding/ conference/ restaurant and accommodation through apparent stealth amendments completely removed from the original attention of "health retreat". 5. At one time (documented) Council was approached by Cardno Forbes Rigby not to advertise one amendment as it would be "detrimental" to their client. However Council, to their credit, public advertised the amendment. 6. Council will have all this documentation. 7. The site is located in a proven high bushfire zone with limited exits out of Stanwell Tops. 8. There is already unauthorised use of the Council Reserve off Bendena Gardens for Wedding Guests at TWR and also in

		<p>Longview Crescent. All guests must park on site. The Council Reserve has been seriously eroded.</p> <p>9. It is not in the Public or Ratepayers interest to have this proposal approved, considering it is adjacent to local ratepayers who live across from this establishment.</p> <p>THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE</p> <p>1. This site is already adequately addressed for catering to large numbers.</p> <p>2. The site has a considerable area impacting on the Woronora Plateau/Illawarra Escarpment Wildlife Corridor.</p> <p>3. The Hargrave Creek runs through the property into the Stanwell Tops, hanging swamp, one of the highest rated protected areas in the Wollongong LGA. It is already cut by a road into the establishment.</p> <p>4. It is located in a proven high risk bushfire site with limited exits out of Stanwell Tops.</p> <p>5. Enough traffic volume already is impacting the Stanwell Tops.</p> <p>GOVINDA VALLEY SPIRITUAL RETREAT</p> <p>1. Located in Otford Valley, this site already has accommodation that apparently has unauthorised separate ensuites in some of the facilities, i.e. without DA consent.</p> <p>2. There is no sewerage utility and is a seep away system into the steeply sloping front yard in close proximity of the Hacking River.</p> <p>3. Because the site is isolated in a proven high bushfire zone and limited access, it would be wise of Council to not recommend a Hotel or Motel Classification that would increase patronage putting them in possible harms way in the event of a bushfire storm.</p> <p>4. A poor single lane access across the Hacking River railway weir and is frequently closed due to flooding and flash flooding.</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>1. For the above reasons for the individual resorts, I can not support any of the Hotel and Motel recommendations as shown in the Tourism Accommodation Review.</p> <p>2. I agree with the following Statement in the Review as these 3 sites are within the Illawarra Escarpment or in the proven Wildlife Corridor between the Escarpment and the Royal National Park (Hacking River Catchment):-</p> <p>“The rezoning of sensitive bushland sites in the Illawarra Escarpment, Escarpment Plateau, Sydney Drinking Water Catchment or the Hacking River catchment to SP3 Tourism or to permit new tourist accommodation facilities, including eco-tourism, is not supported. The escarpment and bushland are part of the attraction of Wollongong and should be protected to ensure it can be enjoyed by future generations. The potential</p>
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		economic and employment benefits of tourist accommodation, shouldn't override the existing conservation values."
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Wollongong City Council

Tourism Accommodation Strategy

February 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism and tourism accommodation is a contributor to Wollongong's economy, providing employment for about 4.4% of the workforce and 3% value added output (id Economy Profile 2022-23 data). Increased visitation, especially overnight visitors, has a positive benefit to the local economy through increased expenditure which supports local businesses and jobs.

The Wollongong LGA currently has some 67 tourist accommodation establishments, providing an estimated 1,845 rooms which can cater for over 5,376 guests. In addition there are 211 cabins which can cater for 1,179 guests and 269 powered and 122 unpowered camping and caravanning sites each night. There are also 792 premises registered providing Short-term Rental Accommodation.

The available accommodation is summarised in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Accommodation summary

	Number of establishments	Number of rooms available	Guest Capacity	Number of Powered sites	Number of Unpowered sites	Number of Cabins	Cabin guest capacity
Backpackers Accommodation	4	43	32				
Bed and Breakfast Accommodation	9	15	36				
Holiday Letting	7	12	35				
Serviced Apartments	13	389	1024				
Tourist Parks	5			269	122	211	1179
Hotels and Motels - Budget Motel	22	654	1724				
Hotels and Motels - Hotel 4-4.5 star	2	370	1007				
Hotels and Motels - Mid Market	4	237	637				
Hotels and Motels - Conference Centre	1	116	600				
Hotels and Motels - Student	1	24	76				
Hotels and Motels - Luxury Boutique	1	5	10				
Hotels and Motels - Boutique	2	36	128				
Guest House	1	12	20				
Total	67	1845	5376	269	122	211	1179
Short-term rental accommodation	792						

On 28 June 2021, Council endorsed the draft Tourism Accommodation Review – Discussion Paper for exhibition. The draft Discussion Paper reviews the planning controls that affect tourism accommodation. Tourism accommodation venues occur throughout the LGA, although are concentrated around the Wollongong City Centre. Different forms of Tourism accommodation are permissible in many zones under the Wollongong LEP 2009. The SP3 Tourist zone is partially used for tourism accommodation.

The draft Discussion Paper was exhibited from 19 July 2021 to 30 September 2021 and 9 submissions were received. Advice from a further 20 establishments confirmed or updated the accommodation capacity data, and 10 owners advised that their property was no longer used for visitor accommodation. Since then, one establishment has reopened, Council has approved development applications for 8 new hotel accommodation venues, although only 1 has commenced construction, and is assessing 2 other development applications.

Also informing the Review was a Tourist Accommodation Roundtable held in May 2024, which provided an opportunity for invited stakeholders with an interest in tourism accommodation to share their experiences and expertise. Participants very generously took the time to discuss barriers and opportunities that would support more investment in tourist accommodation development in the city.

Some of the feedback provided included:

- More rooms and beds are required to attract and support major events and conferences, including one or two 5 star or equivalent hotels
- Acknowledged that a number of approved development applications for hotels had not progressed to construction
- Nature of tourist accommodation is changing towards more mixed use developments
- Wollongong CDB is primarily a weekday business and conferencing market
- Hotel feasibility is challenging due to a range of factors, including high land and construction costs, holding costs before operational cashflow kicks in, and competition with higher yielding uses.
- General support for incentives flagged in discussion paper, however encouraged Council to consider more opportunities:
 - bonus/incentive provisions supported for hotel investment, including specific controls for targeted sites
 - rezoning additional CBD sites to SP3 Tourist not supported
- A broader tourism marketing strategy would further support the tourist accommodation sector
- Consider tourism opportunities on public land holdings.

Following exhibition, the draft Discussion Paper was updated to reflect the feedback and changes in State planning policy and is available to provide background to the Strategy.

On 12 August 2024 Council noted the updated Discussion Paper and endorsed the draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy for exhibition. The draft Strategy has been prepared to guide possible amendments to land use planning controls to incentivise and support the retention of and development of new tourism accommodation across the City. The draft Strategy was exhibited from 16 September to 8 November 2024. On [XX XXXXX] 2025 Council considered a report on submissions, and resolved to adopt this Tourism Accommodation Strategy.

2. TOURISM ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

Wollongong currently contains a good variety of accommodation at different price points and markets (Table 1.1). However, Wollongong is lacking a 5 or 6 star hotel facility which is considered a significant gap in the market that supports corporate visitation.

Industry feedback is that Wollongong also lacks the required number of rooms / beds to attract major events and conferencing. While not quantified, this strategy seeks to provide a land use planning framework that supports investment in more hotel keys (rooms).

As a regional city, businesspeople visit Wollongong during the week for work trips, training, and conferences. There are opportunities for greater mid-week visitation underpinned by the recent increase in A-grade office space attracting visitation by corporates as well as the public and private hospitals, Wollongong University and TAFE attracting visitation by professionals who need accommodation during their stay.

On the weekend, Wollongong's proximity to Sydney means that for many people, Wollongong is an easy day trip to visit family and friends, attend an event or enjoy our local attractions.

Council would like to maximise the economic and employment benefit of increased visitation and would like to convert weekend day trips into overnight stays so visitors spend more and enjoy what Wollongong has to offer.

The attraction of and investment in tourist infrastructure is a shared opportunity across all tiers of government, industry associations and the development / investor sector. Council's roles in tourism accommodation, extend to the following:

- Manages planning controls that permit and guide tourist accommodation venues and protect the surrounding amenity. Council must balance the demand and need for accommodation with other land uses.
- Assesses development applications for tourism accommodation and activities.
- Manages 3 tourist parks and a campground.
- Promotes tourism and events through Destination Wollongong
- Enables and supports events on community land, including markets, festivals, and sporting events.
- Manages beaches and some natural areas, which are significant attractors to visitors.

The Tourism Accommodation Review and this Strategy focus on the first role, the provision of planning controls to support investment in hotels. Broader tourism promotion activities would build on this focus and consider matters such as branding, marketing, promotion, and product development.

2.1 TOURISM ACCOMMODATION OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES

The following tourism accommodation guiding objective is **adopted**:

To increase the number of tourism accommodation beds available in Wollongong LGA. This will be achieved by:

- a. *Retaining, upgrading and expanding existing hotel and motel accommodation*
- b. *Targeting the establishment of two new 5 star or equivalent hotel in the Wollongong City Centre*
- c. *Enabling new tourism accommodation opportunities on existing SP3 Tourism zone sites*

To progress the objective, the following strategies are proposed:

1. Provide incentives through planning controls, for the development of at least two 5 star or equivalent accommodation venues within Wollongong City Centre within 5 - 10 years.
2. Continue to permit and encourage a range of accommodation types throughout the LGA.

3. Through planning controls, encourage the retention and upgrading of existing accommodation facilities.
4. Incentivise through planning controls, an increase in the number of rooms available.
5. Prevent tourist accommodation being out-competed by residential development, by not permitting residential development in the SP3 Tourist zone
6. Review the planning controls of the SP3 Tourist zone to ensure it is fit for purpose, including the land use table, height controls, floor space ratio and associated development controls.
7. Monitor the number and percentage of short-term rental accommodation available, and impact on long-term rental accommodation.

2.2 TOURISM ACCOMMODATION TYPES

The Wollongong LEP 2009 defines tourist and visitor accommodation as *a building or place that provides temporary or short-term accommodation on a commercial basis, and includes any of the following—*

- (a) *backpackers' accommodation,*
 - (b) *bed and breakfast accommodation,*
 - (c) *farm stay accommodation,*
 - (d) *hotel or motel accommodation,*
 - (e) *serviced apartments,*
- but does not include—*
- (f) *camping grounds, or*
 - (g) *caravan parks, or*
 - (h) *eco-tourist facilities.*

The later three land uses are still forms of visitor accommodation but are not included in the broader parent definition.

In addition, Short-term Rental Accommodation is separately defined under the Housing SEPP 2021 to mean:

short-term rental accommodation means a dwelling used by the host to provide accommodation in the dwelling on a commercial basis for a temporary or short-term period.

It is divided into hosted and non-hosted accommodation, defined as:

hosted short-term rental accommodation means short-term rental accommodation provided where the host resides on the premises during the provision of the accommodation.

non-hosted short-term rental accommodation means short-term rental accommodation provided where the host does not reside on the premises during the provision of the accommodation

This part of the strategy will consider whether changes to planning controls need to be made to each of the different forms of accommodation. It is noted that full merit-based assessment would be undertaken on any development application lodged.

2.2.1 Backpacker Accommodation

Following the closure of the Wollongong Youth Hostel (YHA), there are no backpacker facility operating in the LGA. Due to the proximity to Sydney, and the nature of the local tourism experience, Wollongong is not high on backpackers' itinerary. As a result, there does not appear to be demand for additional establishments. Nevertheless, we want to support this form of accommodation in appropriate locations if there is demand in the future.

The Backpacker accommodation use will remain a permissible land use in the R3 Medium Density Residential, E1 Local Centre, E2 Commercial Centre, E3 Productivity Support and SP3 Tourist zones.

No LEP or DCP changes are proposed.

2.2.2 Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

There are currently 9 bed and breakfast accommodation facilities in the LGA. The permissibility of short-term rental accommodation through the SEPP Housing has provided an alternate, easier approval pathway for a dwelling to be used for accommodation. The most recent development approval for a bed and breakfast was in 2022 and it is anticipated that Council will receive very few development applications in the future for the use.

To provide opportunities for this form of accommodation should there be interest in the future, bed and breakfast accommodation will remain a permissible land use in the RU2 Rural Landscapes, RU4 Primary Production Small Lots, R1 General Residential, R2 Low Density Residential, R3 Medium Density Residential, E1 Local Centre, E2 Commercial Centre, MU1 Mixed Use, SP3 Tourist, C3 Environmental Management and C4 Environmental Living zones.

No LEP or DCP changes are proposed.

2.2.3 Farm Stay Accommodation

Two Farm Stay accommodation facilities have been approved in the LGA with the most recent approval in 2015, however, it appears that neither site is operating. The use is permitted in the Rural and Environmental Management zones.

The Agri-tourism reforms through the Code SEPP, permits Farm Stay accommodation as either exempt or complying development if the specified development standards are satisfied. The permissibility is guided now by SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development) 2008 (part 2 subdivision 16E and Part 9 Division 4).

Similar to Bed and Breakfast Accommodation, the permissibility of short-term rental accommodation through SEPP Housing 2021 and the Code SEPP agri-tourism changes has provided alternative, easier pathway for a rural dwelling to be used for accommodation. It is anticipated that Council will not receive many development applications for Farm Stay Accommodation.

The draft Tourism Accommodation Discussion paper had suggested that farm stay accommodation could be removed as a permitted use in the rural and environmental conservation zones, as the use is now permitted as exempt and complying development via the SEPP. However, removing the use would preclude development applications being lodged with Council for proposals that don't comply with the development standards in the SEPP. On this basis, it is proposed to retain farm stay accommodation as a permitted use to provide a local merit-based planning pathway if required.

No LEP or DCP changes proposed.

2.2.4 Hotel and Motel Accommodation

There are 33 hotel and motel accommodation facilities in the LGA providing a range of accommodation choices from budget to luxury boutique. The Hotel and motel accommodation use is currently a permissible land use in the E1 Local Centre, E2 Commercial Centre, MU1 Mixed Use, SP3 Tourist zones.

Within the Wollongong City Centre, there have been ten applications approved for additional hotel accommodation and two development applications are under assessment that propose three separate hotels. Of the ten applications approved, only one site is under construction. One consent has lapsed, two of the sites have been subject to subsequent development applications which do not include tourism accommodation and works have not commenced on the other sites. Two applications were approved in late 2024 for 2 developments, one of which contains 236 room hotel and 114 room motel, the other includes a 107 room hotel.

In talking to industry, we understand that some of the barriers to hotel development include –

- Cost of financing and current interest rates
- Cost of construction
- Need for cross-subsidisation by other uses

- Return on investment / cash flow commencing occurring at opening of the hotel
- Having an arrangement with an international Hotel brand does not provide additional cash flow for construction

The Tourism Accommodation Discussion paper identified the need to incentivise the retention or redevelopment of existing hotel and motel accommodation and the provision of new accommodation facilities. In response to the matters raised, the following amendments are proposed –

- Wollongong LEP 2009:
 - Make *hotel and motel accommodation* permissible in the R1 General Residential zone. This land use zone is located around the Wollongong City Centre, in Wollongong and North Wollongong and would provide for greater permissibility of hotels and motels in the City Centre; close to major services, attractions (such as restaurants, city beaches/parks, the harbour and nightlife) and transport. This action could assist in stimulating investment in the city centre and support the local tourism industry, fostering competition and addressing supply. This change would also ensure that should existing tourist accommodation developments located in the R1 zone wish to redevelop or intensify their use this would be permissible (subject to development consent).
 - Make *hotel and motel accommodation* permissible in the R2 Low Density Residential zone. This would make a number of existing motels across the LGA which are located in R2 Low Density Residential zones as permitted land uses. It may also encourage additional facilities to be established.
 - ~~permit an additional floor space ratio of 0.5:1 for Hotel and Motel Accommodation in the R1 General Residential and R2 Low Density Residential zones~~
 - ~~permit an additional floor space ratio of 2:1 for Hotel and Motel Accommodation in the City Centre E2 Commercial Centre, MU1 Mixed Use zones. The bonus FSR provision would not be available to mixed use developments.~~
 - Permit additional floor space ratio and height of building bonuses for hotel and motel accommodation, and serviced apartments, based on the following table:

Zone	No. existing premises	Existing		Proposed increase for Hotel and Motel Accommodation and Serviced Apartments	
		Floor Space Ratio	Height of Buildings (m)	Floor Space Ratio bonus	Height of Buildings (m) bonus
R1 General Residential	8	1.5:1	9, 16, 24, 32	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
R2 Low Density Residential	5	0.5:1	9	0.5:1	4m (1 storey)
R3 Medium Density	0	0.5:1, 0.75:1, 1.2:1	11, 13, 15, 16	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
E1 Local Centre	5	0.75:1, 1.5:1	9, 11, 15, 20, 30	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
E2 Commercial Centre – City Centre	6	Base 1.5:1 Commercial up to 6:1 Residential up to 3.5:1	16, 32, 48, 60, 65, 80, 120	Nil < 50 rooms 0.5:1 for 50 - 100 rooms	30%

Zone	No. existing premises	Existing		Proposed increase for Hotel and Motel Accommodation and Serviced Apartments	
		Floor Space Ratio	Height of Buildings (m)	Floor Space Ratio bonus	Height of Buildings (m) bonus
				1:1 for 101-200 rooms 1.5:1 for >200 rooms	
E3 Productivity Support	2	Base 1.5:1 Commercial up to 3.5:1 Residential up to 2.5:1	6, 16, 24, 32	0.5:1	30%
MU1 Mixed Use – City Centre	5	Base 1.5:1 Commercial up to 3.5:1 Residential up to 2.5:1	24, 48,	0.5:1	30%
SP3 Tourist	9	Nil, 0.5:1, 1.5:1	9, 11, 15, 24, 32	1:1	12m (3 stories)
RE1 Public Recreation	0	Nil, 0.5:1, 1.5:1	9, 11, 15, 24, 32	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
RE2 Private Recreation	2	Nil	9	Nil	4m (1 storey)
C2 Environmental Conservation	2	Nil	9	Nil	4m (1 storey)
C3 Environmental Management	1	Nil	9	Nil	Nil

- consider rezoning some sites where the existing Tourism Accommodation use is not currently permitted to another zone.
- Wollongong DCP 2009
 - Chapter C3 Parking - Clarify and reduce parking rate, to remove inconsistency
- Wollongong City-wide Development Contributions Plan:
 - Defer the development contributions for Hotel and Motel Accommodation (or that component in mixed use developments) until Occupation Certificate. This will assist the cash flow of hotel developments which don't have pre-sales like residential development.

2.2.5 Serviced Apartments

There are 12 Serviced Apartment developments, 11 of which are in the Wollongong City Centre. The Serviced Apartment use is a permissible land use in the R1 General Residential, R3 Medium Density Residential, E1 Local Centre, E2 Commercial Centre, MU1 Mixed Use, and SP3 Tourist zones.

In response to the matters raised by the development industry, the following amendments are proposed –

- Wollongong LEP 2009
 - Clause 4.4A(6) City Centre – move serviced apartments from being considered as residential FSR to commercial FSR
- Wollongong DCP 2009
 - Clarify and reduce parking rate – same as Hotel and Motel Accommodation

2.2.6 Short-term rental accommodation

Short-term rental accommodation supports the tourist economy by providing additional accommodation options for visitors. In January 2025 there were 792 registered short-term rental accommodation (STRA) premises in the LGA. Of these, 404 premises offered hosted accommodation and 388 premises non-hosted accommodation. Under current legislation, hosted and non-hosted STRA premises can operate for 365 days per year, although some Councils have reduced that number to 180 days and Byron Shire Council has a 60 day limit in some suburbs.

Conversely, short-term rental accommodation (especially for non-hosted accommodation) does reduce the number of properties available for longer term rental accommodation. However, at less than 1% of housing stock, Wollongong does not have the high number or percentage of short-term rental accommodation dwellings that is the case in some other coastal holiday regions.

In February 2024 the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure released a discussion paper on Short and Long-term Rental Accommodation. The discussion paper noted some of the positives and negative aspects of STRA and discussed what other States and countries are doing. The discussion Paper sought input and did not propose any changes.

Council officers made a submission to the Department which (in summary):

- outlined the number and distribution of STRA in the LGA (at the time)
- Noted the impact on the viability and feasibility of existing and proposed accommodation facilities
- Noted the benefits of the visitor accommodation
- suggested a moratorium of the use of properties for STRA given the current housing crisis and lack of accommodation for renters and key-workers.
- suggested that the use be inserted into the Standard LEP Instrument, to enable Council to determine local policy settings.

The Department may propose changes to the rules for STRA following its consideration of submissions received. At the moment, Council has no legislative responsibility, resources or authority to monitor and enforce for short-term rental accommodation requirements.

At this stage, the Department has not announced the findings of the review and as such no changes to our planning policies are proposed. Further review of the settings for short term rental accommodation may be considered following the outcome to the Department's review.

2.2.7 Camping grounds and caravan parks

There are four caravan parks and one camping areas in the LGA (excluding National Parks), of which Council manages 3 tourist parks and the Coledale Beach campground.

The use is permitted in the SP3 Tourist, RE1 Public Recreation and RE2 Private Recreation zones.

The three tourist parks managed by Council are on Crown Reserves which have a reserve purpose of public recreation. Council is required to prepare a Crown Land Plan of Management for these reserves.

The use of Council or Crown Land for pop-up camp sites to provide event accommodation is supported. For example, Bulli Showground provides a camping option for the Bulli Folk Festival, and camping / glamping options were available for the UCI World Road Cycling championships.

The provision of pop-up sites needs to comply with the Local Government (Manufactured Homes Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2021 and guidelines to ensure the health and safety of users. For example, adequate toilets and amenities, fire safety and waste management. The site may also need to be rehabilitated post event. Council needs adequate time to assess any development application prior to an event.

The current approach to the provision and permissibility of camping grounds and caravan parks are appropriate for current requirements.

No LEP or DCP changes are required or proposed. Council has prepared Plans of Management for Council land and some Crown Reserves which would enable temporary use. The preparation of Plans of Management for the three Crown Reserves which contain the tourist park, and the Bulli Tops Crown Reserves is scheduled to occur over the next 1-2 years.

Council is open to considering the inclusion of a low scale hotel or motel component in the tourist parks, to expand the accommodation offer. The Crown Reserves have the reserve purpose of "public recreation". To enable the hotel and motel accommodation use, an additional purpose would need to be included in the reserve, through the Plan of Management process. All Crown Reserves in the LGA are subject to NSW Aboriginal Land Claims and Federal Native Title considerations, which will need to be considered as part of any change to the reserve purpose and use.

2.2.8 Eco-tourism accommodation

Eco-tourism accommodation is not currently permitted in the LGA. Two establishments were approved under the previous Wollongong LEP 1990.

There are very few locations in the LGA where a genuine eco-tourism facility could be established. Council would not support the clearing of bushland to enable a facility to be established, or to satisfy Bush Fire Asset Protection Zone requirements. A large facility would also need to be connected to the reticulated infrastructure networks (power, water, sewerage).

The other accommodation definitions provide a range of options and zones for accommodation uses to be established, which also could be promoted as "eco" friendly.

Standard Instrument clause 5.13 Eco-tourist facilities provides development assessment criteria for eco-tourist facilities so that they maintain the environmental and cultural values of the land, and are designed sensitively with the environment. The clause is not currently included in Wollongong LEP 2009. Given the limited availability of locations that may be appropriate for Eco-tourist facilities in the Wollongong LGA, it is not proposed to introduce clause 5.13 Eco-tourist facilities into the LEP.

Council will consider site specific Planning Proposals for any genuine eco-tourism proposal. If Council supports the preparation of a Planning Proposal, clause 5.13 could be introduced into the LEP through that process.

No LEP or DCP changes are proposed.

2.3 EXISTING ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

The Tourism Accommodation Review found that 13 of the 74 existing tourism establishments are located in land use zones which do not permit the current accommodation use. These establishments would have been approved under older planning legislation, when the use was permitted or pre-date planning legislation.

- A number of motels across the LGA are located in R2 Low Density Residential zones including: Thirroul Beach Motel, Elsinor Motel (Brownsville), the Windmill Motel (Woonona) and Helensburgh Hotel. These motels are older developments approved between the 1960s and 1980s. The current residential zoning is appropriate for these sites given surrounding land uses

are primarily detached housing. In addition, 2 motels are operating in the R1 General Residential zone, one of which may close as the development of a residential flat building has been approved.

It is proposed that the Hotel and Motel Accommodation use be permitted in the R1 General Residential and R2 Low Density Residential zones. The proposed bonus FSR provision is aimed to encourage the retention and expansion of existing premises and allow investment. Alternatively, consideration could be given to rezoning the sites to another zone such as SP3 Tourist, however this option was not supported by representatives at the May 2024 Roundtable.

Proposal: Permit Hotel and Motel accommodation in the R1 General Residential and R2 Low Density Residential zones. Merit based development assessment process will assess site suitability of any proposals.

- Tumbling Waters Retreat is a luxury accommodation provider located at Lot 1 DP 213308 (Stonehaven Road) Stanwell Tops. It has been operating since 2002 and offers conference/function facilities and a licensed restaurant/private dining facility. A number of development applications relating to this use on the site have been approved. The site is currently zoned C2 Environmental Conservation. The C2 zoning does not permit accommodation uses. The site is also listed as containing a local heritage item.

Proposal: Permit Hotel and Motel accommodation as an additional permitted use on the site

- The Tops Conference Centre and Accommodation at Stanwell Tops (Lots 2 and 3 DP 541421) has a split zoning of C2 Environmental Conservation and C3 Environmental Management. The site caters for groups of up to 600 persons, and has a range of educational and recreational (outdoor) facilities. The current zoning does not permit the accommodation development. Most of the accommodation is located on the southern Lot 3 DP 541421 on land zoned C3 Environmental Management.

Proposal: Permit Hotel and Motel accommodation as an additional permitted use on Lot 3 DP 541421 on land zoned C3 Environmental Management.

- The Govinda Valley Spiritual Retreat and accommodation at Otford (Lot 1 DP 190250) is zoned part C2 and part C3. The zoning was reviewed as part of the Review of former 7(d) land in Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops over a number of years, which recommended the retention of the C3 zone.

Proposal: Permit Hotel and Motel accommodation as an additional permitted use on the site on Lot 1 DP 190250 zoned C3 Environmental Management.

The rezoning of sensitive bushland sites in the Illawarra Escarpment, Escarpment Plateau, Sydney Drinking Water Catchment or the Hacking River catchment to SP3 Tourism or to permit new tourist accommodation facilities, including eco-tourism, is not supported. The escarpment and bushland are part of the attraction of Wollongong and should be protected to ensure it can be enjoyed by future generations. The potential economic and employment benefits of tourist accommodation, shouldn't override the existing conservation values.

2.4 SP3 TOURIST ZONE

The Tourism Accommodation Review found that land zoned SP3 Tourism was being used for a variety of purposes, some related to tourism. Some sites have uses inconsistent with the SP3 zone where an alternative zone maybe more appropriate. For example:

- Sites used for residential uses
- Sites used for retail uses
- Sites used for recreational uses
- Sites containing significant bushland

A review of all the existing SP3 Tourist zone sites was undertaken, and for each site a direction regarding the appropriateness of the zone in that area given the current uses and desired future uses has been proposed.

The sites are divided into three (3) tables, based on the principle that sites which already provide accommodation should be encouraged / incentivised to provide additional accommodation, followed by encouraging accommodation to be provided on other sites zoned SP3 Tourist.

- Table 2.1 – sites with existing accommodation. Consider options to retain accommodation or provide additional accommodation.
- Table 2.2 – sites that don't current contain accommodation – and where there may be an opportunity for accommodation.
- Table 2.3 – sites that are currently vacant, – and where there may be an opportunity for accommodation.

The proposed changes are linked to the Accommodation Review or minor housekeeping amendments. Changes have not been proposed relating to other strategies or issues. Landowners can lodge a Scoping Proposal and subsequent Planning Proposal with Council for a more detailed review and assessment.

Table 2.1 Review of existing SP3 Tourist sites – with existing accommodation uses

SP3 Precinct / site	Accommodation opportunity	Constraints, comments	Proposal
Headlands Hotel, Austinmer	Additional accommodation	Reviewed in 2014 as part of Planning Proposal and DCP chapter	No change proposed
Novotel, North Wollongong	Additional accommodation	24m building height limit. Current building has approximated 32m height. Increased overshadowing of North Beach and State Heritage listed items.	Review current 24m building height limit.
19 Carters Lane, Quality Suites at Fairy Meadow 25 Carters Lane, Fairy Meadow - Residential strata development	Developed – no additional opportunity Developed – no additional opportunity	9m Building height Flooding 9m Building height Flooding	No change proposed Rezone to R3 medium Density Residential and review building height to align with existing development. Opportunity to review building height on part of the site to enable a hotel development.
Towradgi Beach Hotel	Hotel or motel accommodation	9m Building height Flooding	
Lake Illawarra hotel, Windang	Developed – no additional opportunity	9m Building height Flooding	No change proposed
Fairways, Golf Place, Primbee	Additional accommodation	9m Building height Flooding	No change proposed
Dandaloo Hotel Motel, Brownsville	Additional accommodation	9m Building height Flooding	No change proposed
Solomon Inn, Figtree	Additional accommodation	9m Building height Flooding	No change proposed
Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort at Fairy Meadow	Hotel or motel to provide additional accommodation	9m Building height Flooding	No change proposed

SP3 Precinct / site	Accommodation opportunity	Constraints, comments	Proposal
Bulli Tourist Park Corrimal Tourist Park Windang Tourist Park	Hotel or motel to provide additional accommodation option. 9m height limit would enable 2 storey development	Crown Land – Additional reserve purpose required. Plan of Management required. 9m Building height. Commercial operator to build and manage	Consider opportunity in the preparation of draft Crown Land PoM.

Table 2.2 Review of existing SP3 Tourist sites – not currently containing accommodation uses

SP3 Precinct / site	Accommodation opportunity	Constraints	Proposal
Symbio Wildlife Park at Helensburgh	Camping, glamping	Infrastructure	No change proposed
Woonona-Bulli RSL club at Woonona, and vacant land (former service station)	Hotel, motel accommodation	9m height limit, flooding	No change proposed
West's Illawarra, Central Rd, Unanderra - Registered club, Fire station	Hotel, motel accommodation.	15m height limit 1.5:1 FSR, Flooding	No change proposed
Hellenic Club, Princes Highway, Figtree	Hotel, motel accommodation.	Flooding	No change proposed
Figtree baby Health Clinic (Council land) - 9 Princes Highway, Figtree	Nil		Rezone to RE1 consistent with adjacent Figtree park
5-7 Princes Highway, Figtree	Strata Residential development		Rezone to R2 Low Density, with 9m height limit and 0.5:1 FSR
Bottle shop, 49 Princes Highway, Figtree (Lots 4,5,6 DP 788652)	No suitable available land, with current development	Flooding	Change western part, adjacent to Highway, to E1 – consistent with land to the north. Considered C3 zone for riparian land
Windang Bowling Club, Judbooley Parade, Windang	Hotel, motel accommodation	9m height limit Flooding	No site specific change proposed
Haywards Bay - Highway Service Centre, developed land (see table 4 for vacant land)	No suitable available land, with current development		No change proposed
Yallah woolshed - Place of worship, Café (used as an event space)	Nil - no available land		No change proposed

SP3 Precinct / site	Accommodation opportunity	Constraints	Proposal
Former Bus depot, Princes Highway, Figtree	Unlikely to be developed for hotel or motel accommodation, adjacent to existing motel	9m height limit Flooding Adjacent to existing motel	No change proposed Scoping proposal required to commence review of planning controls for alternate zone
Mt Keira Summit Park (part of) - Kiosk, car park, lookouts	No available land	Infrastructure, Bush fire, Environmental and cultural values	No change proposed. Reviewed as part of Mt Keira Summit Park Plan of Management
Cliffhanger, Bulli Tops - Cafe	No available land, unless C2 land rezoned	Crown Land – Public recreation purpose – POM needed Infrastructure, Bush fire	No change proposed Review zoning boundaries to better reflect bushland and parkland.
Gateway Centre, Bulli Tops - Visitor centre, parking	Limited available land	Infrastructure, Bush fire	No change proposed
Sublime Point, Maddens Plains - Cafe	Camping, glamping	Crown Land – Public recreation purpose – POM needed Infrastructure, Bush fire, Environmental and cultural values	Rezone bushland area to C2 Review zoning boundaries to better reflect bushland and parkland.
Panorama Hotel, Maddens Plains - Function Centre	Hotel or motel accommodation, glamping	Infrastructure, Bush fire	No change proposed
Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Precinct (Win Entertainment Centre and Football Stadium) and adjacent sites	Nil onsite Hotel on surrounding land	Existing residential development. Adjacent heritage item. Building height limit	Opportunity to increase height limit to 32m on Entertainment Centre and 12-16 Crown St

Table 2.3 Review of existing SP3 Tourist sites – currently vacant sites

SP3 Precinct / site	Accommodation opportunity	Constraints	Proposal
Woodrow Place (road reserve) Figtree	Nil		Rezone to E3 - consistent with land to the north
Haywards Bay - Highway Service Centre, vacant land	Highway motel		No change proposed

SP3 Precinct / site	Accommodation opportunity	Constraints	Proposal
Tallawarra point (Yallah) - Bushland	Identified for future tourism use.	Infrastructure. Height limit	No change proposed.
Kully Bay, King St, Warrawong - Recreation, vacant land Warrawong Parklands	Hotel, motel, camping	NSW Government ownership. Masterplan announced to be prepared Masterplan in preparation	Retain SP3 – review following State's masterplan
Windang Rd / Kruger Ave - Vacant land	Hotel, motel	Contamination, flooding, 9m height limit	No change proposed
15 and 17 Judbooley Parade, Windang	Nil	Crown Land (park)	Change to RE1 (to reflect public recreation status) Zoning change not supported by NSW Crown Lands

2.5 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN CHAPTER

The Wollongong DCP 2009 does not have a Tourism uses chapter. Chapter C4 applies to development applications for Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Manufactured Home Estates.

Given the low number of development applications, a specific development control plan chapter has not been a priority. **Commercial and Mixed use developments in the Wollongong City Centre are assessed against DCP chapter D13 Wollongong City Centre.**

In DCP Chapter C3 Car Parking and Access, the Tourist and Visitor Accommodation rate should be clarified to indicate that it excludes the more specific tourism accommodation rates, such as hotel and motel accommodation.

Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter E3 currently lists parking rates for Tourist and Visitor Accommodation, as well as different rates for the sub-uses of backpacker accommodation, bed and breakfast accommodation and hotel or motel accommodation. This creates some confusion as to which rate should be applied.

Table 2.4 Current car parking rates

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycle Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirement	Delivery / Service Truck Requirement
Backpackers accommodation	<i>City wide:</i> 1 car parking space per 2 staff plus 1 car parking space per 5 beds	1 bicycle space per 5 beds plus 1 car parking space per staff member	1 motor cycle space per 25 car parking spaces	NA
Bed and breakfast accommodation	<i>City wide:</i> As per dwelling house plus 1 car parking space per guest bedroom	NA	1 motor cycle space per 10 guest bedrooms	NA
Tourist and visitor accommodation	<i>City wide:</i> 1 car parking space per 2 staff members plus 1 car parking space per apartment / unit	NA	1 motor cycle space per 10 apartments / units	Small Rigid Vehicle

Land Use	Car Parking Requirements	Bicycle Parking Requirements	Motorcycle Parking Requirement	Delivery / Service Truck Requirement
Hotel or motel accommodation	<p><i>City wide:</i> 1 car parking space per 2 staff members plus 1 car parking space per unit / apartment</p> <p><i>Wollongong City Centre:</i> 1 car parking space per 4 staff plus 1 car parking space per motel unit or 0.5 car parking space per hotel unit / apartment Zones E2 Commercial Core and MU1 Mixed Use in Wollongong city centre (as per WLEP): 1 car parking space per 40m2 GFA, where the hotel or motel accommodation is not strata subdivided If a restaurant is included in the hotel / motel which is available to the general public, then an additional 15 car parking spaces per 100m2 GFA of the restaurant shall be included</p>	NA	1 motor cycle space per 25 car parking spaces	>15 units/ apartments – Large Rigid Vehicle
Caravan park	<p><i>City wide:</i> 1 car parking space per site Note: In accordance with Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005</p>	NA	NA	Large Rigid Vehicle (Waste collection trucks and Coaches)

The specific rates are more appropriate for each use and should be applied.

The following amendments are proposed:

- The Tourist and Visitor Accommodation general rate should be deleted and the specific rates used.
- The motor cycle rate for Bed and Breakfast Accommodation is not required and should be deleted.
- Require electric vehicle charging space to be at least 1 of the spaces, more for larger developments
- Remove City Centre hotel 1/40m2 parking rate, which is higher than 0.5/room rate
- Introduce a Serviced Apartment parking rate consistent with the hotel rate.
- Introduce a parking rate for Farm-stay accommodation of 1 space per bedroom (the same as Bed and Breakfast accommodation)

2.6 WOLLONGONG CITY-WIDE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION PLAN

To incentivise new Hotel accommodation, it is proposed that the Wollongong City-wide Development Contribution Plan 2024 be amended to enable new hotel developments to pay development contributions at Occupation Certificate stage, rather than at Construction Certificate. This will assist the cash flow of hotel developments which don't have pre-sales like residential development.

Council may also consider a reduction to the development contribution for commercial only developments (including hotels) in the City Centre to 1% of the development cost (instead of 2%).

3 IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the recommendations of the Strategy will require amendments to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009, Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009, Wollongong City-Wide Development Contribution Plan 2023 and Plans of Management.

3.1 WOLLONGONG LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2009 AMENDMENTS - PLANNING PROPOSAL

3.1.1 Land Use table amendments

Make the following amendments to the Land Use Tables:

- R1 General Residential zone - make *hotel and motel accommodation* a permissible land use
- R2 Low Density Residential zone - make *hotel and motel accommodation* a permissible land use

3.1.2 Clause amendments

Introduce a new clause that introduces a Floor Space Ratio (FSR) and Height of Building bonus in the following zones for Hotel and Motel Accommodation, and Serviced Apartments:

Zone	No. existing premises	Existing		Proposed increase for Hotel and Motel Accommodation and Serviced Apartments	
		Floor Space Ratio	Height of Buildings (m)	Floor Space Ratio bonus	Height of Buildings (m) bonus
R1 General Residential	8	1.5:1	9, 16, 24, 32	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
R2 Low Density Residential	5	0.5:1	9	0.5:1	4m (1 storey)
R3 Medium Density	0	0.5:1, 0.75:1, 1.2:1	11, 13, 15, 16	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
E1 Local Centre	5	0.75:1, 1.5:1	9, 11, 15, 20, 30	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
E2 Commercial Centre – City Centre	6	Base 1.5:1 Commercial up to 6:1 Residential up to 3.5:1	16, 32, 48, 60, 65, 80, 120	Nil < 50 rooms 0.5:1 for 50 - 100 rooms 1:1 for 101- 200 rooms 1.5:1 for >200 rooms	30%
E3 Productivity Support	2	Base 1.5:1 Commercial up to 3.5:1	6, 16, 24, 32	0.5:1	30%

Zone	No. existing premises	Existing		Proposed increase for Hotel and Motel Accommodation and Serviced Apartments	
		Floor Space Ratio	Height of Buildings (m)	Floor Space Ratio bonus	Height of Buildings (m) bonus
		Residential up to 2.5:1			
MU1 Mixed Use – City Centre	5	Base 1.5:1 Commercial up to 3.5:1 Residential up to 2.5:1	24, 48,	0.5:1	30%
SP3 Tourist	9	Nil, 0.5:1, 1.5:1	9, 11, 15, 24, 32	1:1	12m (3 stories)
RE1 Public Recreation	0	Nil, 0.5:1, 1.5:1	9, 11, 15, 24, 32	0.5:1	8m (2 stories)
RE2 Private Recreation	2	Nil	9	Nil	4m (1 storey)
C2 Environmental Conservation	2	Nil	9	Nil	4m (1 storey)
C3 Environmental Management	1	Nil	9	Nil	Nil

- ~~• R1 General Residential zone – an additional 0.5:1 FSR for existing and proposed hotel and motel accommodation, which would increase FSR to 2:1, with a 4m height increase~~
- ~~• R2 Low Density Residential zone – an additional 0.5:1 FSR for existing and proposed hotel and motel accommodation, which would increase FSR to 1:1, with a 4m height increase.~~
- ~~• E2 Commercial Centre – an additional 2:1 FSR for existing and proposed hotel and motel accommodation, and backpacker accommodation and allowing the maximum building height to be exceeded provided there is no overshadowing of key public spaces~~
- ~~• MU1 Mixed Use – an additional 0.5:1 FSR for existing and proposed hotel and motel accommodation, and backpacker accommodation.~~

Amend clause 4.4A Floor space ratio—Wollongong city centre by deleting “or serviced apartments or a combination of such uses” from subclause (6). This will allow serviced apartments to be considered as commercial developments, rather than residential developments, in terms of floor space ratios.

3.1.3 Schedule 1 - Additional Use sites

Permit Hotel and Motel accommodation as an additional permitted use on the following sites:

- Tumbling Waters Retreat located at Lot 1 DP 213308 (Stonehaven Road) Stanwell Tops
- The Tops Conference Centre and Accommodation at Stanwell Tops (Lot 3 DP 541421) on the C3 Environmental Management zoned land

- The Govinda Valley Retreat and accommodation at Otford (Lot 1 DP 190250) on the C3 Environmental Management zoned land

3.1.4 Map amendments

The zoning and associated development standards for the following sites, currently zoned SP3 Tourist, are proposed to be amended.

Table 3.1 Possible LEP map amendments

Precinct / site	Current land use	Proposal
Kully Bay, King St, Warrawong	Recreation, vacant land	Review following completion of State's masterplan
Figtree	Bottle shop Woodrow Place (road reserve) 131 Princes Highway (former Bus Depot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to E1 – consistent with land to the north • FSR 0.75:1 • Height 11m (no change) • Min Lot Size – Nil (no change) • Change to E3 - consistent with land to the north • FSR nil • Height 9m (no change) • Min Lot Size nil (no change) • Council is open to consider the lodgement of a Planning Proposal request for alternate planning controls, supported by at minimum a flood risk impact assessment, traffic study, contamination assessment, future vision / masterplan
Sublime Point, Maddens Plains	Café & bushland	Review zoning boundaries to better reflect NPWS / Council ownership, the bushland and parkland areas.
Cliffhanger, Bulli Tops - Cafe	Closed Café & bushland	Review zoning boundaries to better reflect bushland and parkland.
15 and 17 Judbooley Parade, Windang	Open space	Change to RE1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSR Nil • Height 9m • Min Lot Size Nil (not supported by NSW Crown Lands)
Fairy Meadow Lot 2 DP 1150670 25 Carters Lane	4 residential flat buildings (existing)	Change to R3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSR 1.5:1 (no change) • Height 12m Min Lot Size Nil (no change)
Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Precinct (Win Entertainment Centre and Football Stadium)	Entertainment Center and residential development	Opportunity to increase height limit to 32m on Entertainment Centre and 12-16 Crown St

3.1.5 Future Key Sites – Wollongong

Council is open to receiving and assessing Scoping Proposals / Planning Proposal requests to nominate a large site as a “key-site” to establish a process to vary LEP and DCP planning controls and development standards to facilitate major hotel developments in the Wollongong City Centre E2, MU1 or SP3 zones, which provide more than 200 rooms, of at least 5 star or equivalent standard. Proposals would need to demonstrate design excellence (LEP clause 7.18) and not be on flood prone land (LEP clauses 5.21 and 5.22). Any amendments would be for the hotel use and would not be transferrable to another permitted use. The hotel accommodation could form part of a mixed use development.

3.2 WOLLONGONG DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2009 AMENDMENTS

Amend the following parking rates in Wollongong DCP 2009 - Chapter C3 - Car Parking and Access:

- The Tourist and Visitor Accommodation general rate should be deleted and the specific rates used.
- The motor cycle rate for Bed and Breakfast Accommodation is not required and should be deleted.
- Require electric vehicle charging space to be at least 1 of the spaces, more for larger developments
- Remove City Centre hotel 1/40m² parking rate, which is higher than 0.5/room rate
- Introduce a Serviced Apartment parking rate consistent with the hotel rate.
- Introduce a parking rate for Farm-stay accommodation of 1 space per bedroom (the same as Bed and Breakfast accommodation)

3.3 WOLLONGONG CITY-WIDE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION PLAN 2024

Amend the Plan to enable new hotel accommodation development applications to pay development contributions at occupation certificate, rather than construction certificate stage.

3.4 PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

As part of the preparation of Plans of Management required for the Crown Reserves that contain the 3 tourist parks consider whether other forms of accommodation should be allowed. An additional Reserve purpose of tourism accommodation may be required. NSW Aboriginal Land Claims and Federal Native Title implications will need to be considered.

As part of the preparation of a Plan of Management required for the Sublime Point, Bulli Tops Crown Reserve consider whether camping / glamping should be an additional Reserve purpose and permitted use.

3.5 INCENTIVES AND BONUSES NOT TRANSFERRABLE

Any concessions, incentives or bonuses offered by Council and approved through the development assessment process are not transferrable to other development proposals. If Council issues development consent for a hotel development with additional floor space, reduced car parking and deferred development contributions, these incentive measures do not transfer to another form of development if the hotel does not proceed or the development is constructed and change is subsequently sought. While the built form may not be able to be modified, extra car parking for residential development will be required. Compliance with the Apartment Design Guide and relevant National Construction Code will also be expected.

ITEM 4 POST EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG DCP 2009 CHAPTER A1 INTRODUCTION

On 28 October 2024, Council resolved to exhibit an updated draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter A1 Introduction to allow community consultation. The draft Chapter was exhibited from 4 November 2024 to 9 December 2024. Two submissions were received.

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the public exhibition process. It is recommended that Council adopt the updated Wollongong Development Control Plan Chapter A1 Introduction.

RECOMMENDATION

The updated Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter A1 Introduction (Attachment 1) be adopted and a notice placed on Council's website.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Exhibited Chapter - with Post Exhibition Changes

BACKGROUND

Chapter A1: Introduction

The Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 commenced on the 3 March 2010. Chapter A1 Introduction is the first chapter of the DCP. This chapter contains various administrative provisions including objectives, details on how to use the DCP, variation request process, site and context analysis requirements, pre-lodgement details, development assessment processes, and submission requirements.

Review of and updates to Chapter A1 have occurred to reflect contemporary legislation and policy, and best practice processes. These amendments have been coordinated with Council's Service Optimisation Review which is now in the implementation phase. Coordination has been ongoing between Council's Land Use Planning and Development Assessment and Certification Division (DAC) to ensure amendments are in alignment and phased concurrently.

On 28 October 2024, Council resolved to exhibit an updated draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter A1 Introduction. The draft chapter and a detailed changes document outlining the proposed amendments to the existing chapter were exhibited from 4 November to 4 December 2024.

PROPOSAL

This report presents the Wollongong Development Control Plan Chapter A1 Introduction for Council's consideration and adoption.

As a result of the exhibition, two submissions were received which are summarised later in this report. One submission was from Illawarra Shoalhaven Area Health District (ISLHD) and the other from a community member.

As a consequence of submissions and further internal feedback, the following minor amendments to the exhibited draft DCP chapter are proposed (highlighted in Attachment 1) –

- **Section 4 – Objectives of this Development Control Plan**

- c) *To ensure development is consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development; is energy, water and waste efficient; and minimises carbon emissions during construction and operation.*

In response to internal staff feedback objective c) relating to Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) has been updated to reference resilience to climate change. These changes align with Council's focus on ESD and resilience outcomes for future development. The draft clause has been separated into individual objectives to ensure

these are not seen as the only and complete way to be consistent with ESD and climate resilient design. This has resulted in subsequent reordering of the remainder of objectives below in Section 4 and reflected in Attachment 1. The updated objectives are as follows (new text in bold font) -

- c) *To demonstrate development is consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development **and is resilient to climate change.***
- d) ***To demonstrate development** is energy, waste and water efficient.*
- e) ***To demonstrate development** minimises carbon emissions during construction and operation.*
- m) *To ensure environmental constraints are satisfactorily considered.*

In response to the submission from the ISLHD and Council Staff a further review has been undertaken regarding acknowledgment of climate change and risk as an important emerging issue for future developments. This recommendation is considered an appropriate addition to the objectives of the development control plan which is also consistent with Council's policy position on addressing climate change and associated risks. Consequently, the following amendment to Objective m) is outlined below -

- m) *To ensure environmental constraints **including climate change impacts** are satisfactorily considered.*
- Objective n) *To protect areas of high scenic and aesthetic value.*

Council staff have further reviewed the proposed changes and recommended the inclusion of 'environmental' as a specific value to be protected. The objective has been updated accordingly as below -

- n) *To protect areas of high scenic, **environmental** and aesthetic value.*

• Section 6 – How to use the Development Control Plan

Based on further evaluation and coordination with the ongoing review of DCP Appendix 4 – Definitions it has been identified that the inclusion of additional guidance referencing the location of DCP definitions is warranted. This will provide clarity on the use and interpretation of the terminology within the DCP and more broadly in relevant legislation. The additional clause to be inserted at Section 6 is as follows -

Interpretation

This Development Control Plan (DCP) uses terms that are defined in other Environmental Planning Instruments including the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009.

The definitions in Appendix 4 are provided in addition to those defined elsewhere, to assist in the interpretation of this DCP. Additional definitions may also be provided throughout the chapters of this DCP.

• Section 8 – Site and Context Analysis

- 8.2(5)i) – Location plan requirements

All proposals are to include site and context analysis documents appropriate to the scale of development and provide clear design strategies to inform various design outcomes. However, it is considered appropriate to provide clarification as to when certain plans are required and that sustainability outcomes are to be considered. The final paragraph in section 8.2(5)i) has been updated to clarify that a location plan, which sets the broad context of the area, is not required for any ancillary residential works such as retaining walls, pools and landscape works which will not benefit from the preparation of a location plan. The proposed update reads as follows -

*'The **location plan** is not an application requirement for single dwellings, dual occupancies **or any ancillary residential works**'*

- 8.2(5)iii) – Plans to reflect existing site conditions

It has been identified that further clarification is required regarding the site and context analysis that informs the design outcomes. To demonstrate what existing site constraints and surrounding context have been considered, the first paragraph of Section 8.2(5)iii) has been amended to include the following clarification -

iii) *The site plans, elevations, sections and 3D-views are to demonstrate the potential amenity impacts from and on neighbouring sites and significant public domain in the area of influence **that must be considered in the design of the development.***

○ 8.2(6)iii) – Site Condition Inclusions

Further review by Council staff has resulted in updates to include consideration of additional site conditions which are coastal hazards, biodiversity and riparian corridors, public transport and cultural features in the preparation of site and context analysis plans and documentation.

- Other minor amendments have also been made to various sections of the chapter to provide clarification and update terminology highlighted in Attachment 1.

It is recommended that Council adopt the updated DCP chapter.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Wollongong DCP Chapter A1 Introduction was exhibited from 4 November to 9 December 2024 in accordance with the Council resolution of 28 October 2024. The public exhibition was advertised on Council's website and a copy of the suite of documents was made available for viewing on Council's Engagement page and at all of Council's Libraries and Customer Service area. This included the changes document outlining the amendments made to the existing A1 Chapter.

Relevant stakeholders were also notified of the public exhibition by email. This included direct notification to the development industry (19) and peak bodies (3).

As a result of the exhibition, the engagement page received 87 visits, with 51 documents downloaded.

A total of two submissions were received -

- One Government Agency – Illawarra Shoalhaven Area Health District (ISLHD); and
- One community member via online feedback form.

A summary of the submissions is outlined in the table below -

Agencies & Stakeholder Groups	Issues/Comments	Response
ISLHD	The submission makes recommendations to change the following objectives of the DCP to create a more proactive approach towards healthy built environments -	
	<p><i>Objective c) To ensure development is consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development; is energy, water and waste efficient; and minimise(s) carbon emissions during construction and operation.</i></p> <p><i>No definition of Ecologically Sustainable Development is provided, including what is needed to achieve Ecologically Sustainable Development. The objective could be stronger by referencing an aim to achieve net zero energy buildings.</i></p>	<p>The recommendation to include the definition of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) is noted. The definition is captured in various locations as follows –</p> <p>The ESD definition is proposed to be included in the updates to Chapter A2: Ecologically Sustainable Development which has recently been endorsed for public exhibition (12 December 2024) and is to specifically include the definition.</p> <p>1 Appendix 4 of WDCP 2009 includes a definition of ESD which refers to</p>

Agencies & Stakeholder Groups	Issues/Comments	Response
		<p>the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> and the <i>Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991</i>. Wollongong LEP 2009 Dictionary also refers to ESD in the EP&A Act 1979.</p> <p>2 Ultimately, the definition of ESD, which is relied upon for the purposes of development assessment, is outlined in Section 6(2) of the <i>Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991</i>.</p> <p>Consequently, there is no requirement to include the definition of ESD specifically in Chapter A1.</p>
	<p>Objective j) To ensure environmental constraints are satisfactorily considered.</p> <p><i>While hinted at, this and other objectives do not specifically address climate change and risk. This includes the heat impact of the development and the impact on adjacent properties during construction and operation. As this is an increasingly important and emerging issue, the DCP should include an objective that clearly addresses climate change and risk.</i></p>	<p>Noted - climate change impacts have been included in the updated objective now ordered as objective m) in Attachment 1. See proposed changes above in Section 4.</p>
	<p>Objective l) To ensure new development contributes to safe and liveable environments.</p> <p><i>This does not address improving the health and wellbeing of individuals. This objective could be modified to become "To ensure new development contributes to safe and liveable environments and improves the health and wellbeing of all residents".</i></p>	<p>Whilst a noble objective, it is not considered appropriate to expect individual developments to ensure broad health and wellbeing outcomes for the community. Where relevant for specific Development Applications other objectives may be relied on to consider the wellbeing of residents (i.e. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design provisions)</p>
<p>Community - via online feedback form</p>	<p><i>Have you ever considered adding simple examples of some of the required plans for lodging a DA?</i></p>	<p>The inclusion of sample development application plans in DCP chapters has been considered. However, due to the diversity of different uses, site conditions and built forms the inclusion of such plans would only act to complicate and misrepresent expectations for proposals. DCPs are also not to be for educational purposes but rather provide specific controls to guide development. As such, the inclusion of plans is not considered necessary in this instance.</p>

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan Objectives “We value and protect our environment” and “We have a healthy community in a liveable city”. It specifically delivers on the following –

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment 1.5 Maintain the unique character of the Wollongong Local Government Area, whilst balancing development, population growth and housing needs	Land Use Planning
Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a liveable city 5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community.	Land Use Planning

RISK MANAGEMENT

The revised DCP Chapter A1 will provide improved clarity to Council and the community regarding the lodgement requirements and development assessment process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The work undertaken to review DCP Chapter A1 has been funded using the operational budget for the Land Use Planning team.

CONCLUSION

A review of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter A1 Introduction has been conducted and identified the need for amendments in line with current legislation, State Government guidelines and Council Policy.

The community has been given the opportunity to make submissions on the proposed changes and these submissions have been considered and minor amendments made to the draft document.

This report recommends that Council adopt the updated Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter A1 Introduction (Attachment 1).



Part A Introduction

Chapter A1 Introduction

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Rev No.	Adoption Date	In Force Date	Revision Details
1	21 November	14 December	Update aim resulting from sustainability review
2	Table text	[Comments]	Update legislation, layout and site and context

Chapter A1 Introduction

1. NAME AND COMMENCEMENT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

This document may be cited as Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 (DCP 2009). DCP 2009 was adopted by Council on 15 December 2009 and came into effect on 3 March 2010. Some individual Chapters, including this Chapter, have since been amended.

This DCP 2009 has been prepared in accordance with Section 3.43 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and Section 16 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

2. REVIEW OF THIS DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

Council reviews DCP 2009 on a periodic basis. The Document Control table showing the revision dates for each Chapter is available as part of the Contents page. Council's website contains the current version of the DCP.

3. PURPOSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

The purpose of DCP 2009 is to outline controls to guide development. This DCP supplements the provisions of Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP).

Under Section 4.15 of the EP&A Act, the consent authority is required to take into consideration the relevant provisions of this DCP in determining a Development Application for development in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). The consent authority must also take into consideration relevant provisions of this DCP when determining an application for modification of a consent under section 4.55 of the EP&A Act.

Notification of Development Applications will take place in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THIS DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

- a) To provide detailed development controls within a single document which support the Wollongong LEP.
- b) To ensure relevant information is submitted with Development Applications.
- c) To **demonstrate** development is consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development **and is resilient to climate change.**
- d) **To demonstrate development** is energy, waste and water efficient.
- e) **To demonstrate development—and** minimises carbon emissions during construction and operation.
- f) To ensure that development contributes to the quality of the natural and built environments.
- g) To encourage development that contributes to the quality of the public domain.
- h) To ensure development responds positively to the qualities of the site and the character of the surrounding locality.
- i) To encourage the provision of development that is accessible and adaptable to meet the existing and future needs of all residents, including people with a disability.
- j) To ensure development is of a high design standard and reflects the *Better Placed: An integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales* (2017).
- k) To ensure new development is consistent with the desired future character for the area as articulated in Chapter D1 of this DCP.

Chapter A1 Introduction

- l) To ensure environmental constraints including climate change impacts are satisfactorily considered.
- m) To protect areas of high scenic, environmental and aesthetic value.
- n) To ensure new development contributes to safe and liveable environments.

5. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS AND POLICIES

This plan applies to all lands within the Wollongong LGA.

Wollongong LEP is the principal environmental planning instrument which applies to the majority of land within Wollongong LGA. In the event of any inconsistency between this DCP and the LEP, the Wollongong LEP will prevail.

State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) may also apply to certain land in the Wollongong LGA. The statutory provisions of any SEPP prevail over the Wollongong LEP and this DCP, in the event of any inconsistency.

Different SEPPs cover a range of development types including but not limited to secondary dwellings, boarding houses, education facilities, hospitals, seniors living, infrastructure and complying development.

6. HOW TO USE THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

This DCP is divided into parts as described in Table 1. Each part is then divided into chapters.

Development applications and applications to modify a consent need to comply with the requirements of all relevant chapters of the DCP.

Interpretation

This DCP uses terms that are defined in other environmental planning instruments including the Wollongong LEP 2009.

The definitions in Appendix 4 are provided in addition to those defined elsewhere, to assist in the interpretation of this DCP. Additional definitions may also be provided throughout the chapters of this DCP.

DCP Parts - Table 1

Part	Part Title
A	Introduction
B	Land Use Based Controls (eg Residential Development, Residential Subdivision, Mixed-Use Development, Employment Zones, Rural Zones and Development in the Illawarra Escarpment)
C	Specific Land Use Controls (City Wide)
D	Locality Based DCPs / Precinct Plans
E	General Controls
Appendix	4. Definitions

7. VARIATIONS TO DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS

DCP 2009 aims to allow flexibility in the application of development controls to promote innovation and design excellence. Council may consider variations to the requirements of the DCP in certain

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circumstances.

Variation to a development control will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Proposed variations must be supported by written justification which demonstrates that the objectives of the development control have been achieved.

7.1 Objectives

- a) To ensure variations to development controls are clearly described in applications.
- b) To ensure variations to development controls are supported by thorough supporting documentation in the appropriate format.
- c) To ensure the variation statement addresses the potential impacts of the variation.
- d) To ensure the proposed variation meets the objectives of the relevant development control(s).

7.2 Development Controls

- 1) The variation statement must address the following points:
 - i) The control being varied;
 - ii) The extent of the proposed variation and the unique circumstances as to why the variation is requested;
 - iii) Demonstrate how the objectives are met notwithstanding the proposed variations; and
 - iv) Demonstrate that the development will not have additional adverse impacts as a result of the variation.
- 2) The variation statement should be contained within the Statement of Environmental Effects accompanying a Development Application.
- 3) Any written variation request must be supported by detailed site analysis and other necessary documentation.

The fact that an existing development may not comply with one or more of the development controls, does not necessarily mean that the development control is unreasonable or unnecessary, when applied to other development.

More specific requirements relating to variation statements may be included under the individual chapters of this DCP.

8. SITE AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

‘Good design in the built environment is informed by and derived from its location, context and social setting. It is place-based and relevant to and resonant with local character, and communal aspirations. It also contributes to evolving character and setting.’

Better Placed: An integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales (2017)

Site and context analysis identifies the key elements of the site and its context before the design of a development occurs. By identifying and describing the elements of the locality and the conditions that impact upon the development site, opportunities and constraints for development can be understood and addressed in the design.

Site and context analysis should inform clear strategies and principles about how the design will respond to elements of site and context. These strategies should form part of the Site and Context Analysis document set submitted with a Development Application.

Chapter A1 Introduction

All land, sea and sky in Wollongong LGA was, is, and always will be Aboriginal Country. Wollongong Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our City is built, the Aboriginal people of Dharawal Country. We recognise and appreciate their deep connection to this land, waters and our greater community.

Applicants are encouraged to educate themselves through cultural awareness training and available resources to develop an understanding of the Country they are working on. Attention is drawn to the *GANSW Connecting with Country* framework as a key resource. For Site and Context Analysis, the activities and actions described in the section *Imagining with Country: Design* (pg 45) and expanded in section 4 *Designing with Country* (pgs 56-73) are highlighted as specifically relevant.

8.1 Objectives

- a) To identify requirements for Site and Context Analysis.
- b) To ensure that the design response is informed by the consideration of relevant elements of the site and its context.
- c) To ensure the Site and Context Analysis includes drawings and written information as appropriate to the type, scale and impact of the proposed development.

8.2 Development Controls

- 1) A Site and Context Analysis must accompany all Development Applications, except for internal alterations to existing buildings.
- 2) The Site and Context Analysis must be informed by a separate survey plan prepared by a registered surveyor. This separate survey plan is a lodgment requirement for all Development Applications, except for internal alterations to existing buildings.
- 3) The separate survey plan must:
 - i) Include the Registered Surveyor's name and Surveyor's number.
 - ii) Be less than two (2) years old at the time of Development Application lodgment. Should there be evidence of recent significant change onsite, a new survey plan is to be submitted.
 - iii) Where the proposed works are within one metre of side and rear boundaries, be based on a boundary survey which clearly shows the position of existing fences, walls and buildings in relation to lot boundaries.
 - iv) Include all lot boundaries and associated dimensions.
 - v) Include a true north point.
 - vi) Include a scale which references page size (i.e. 1:200 @ A3).
 - vii) Include spot levels and existing contours related to Australian Height Datum (AHD) with benchmark details and origin of levels shown.
 - viii) Include any easements and rights of way including party walls and common walls, supported by supplementary documentary evidence (Section 88B instrument or dealings) which are to be relied on.
- 4) The survey plan must include the full site and a portion of the adjacent public and private domain sufficient (minimum three metres from boundary) to show the:
 - i) Location of all existing structures, with floor level and ridge heights.
 - ii) Location of existing structures on adjoining land including description, street number, floor

Chapter A1 Introduction

levels, ridge heights, balconies, awnings, and window levels and locations in the walls closest to the side boundaries.

- iii) Location, type and height of boundary fencing and walls.
 - iv) Difference in levels between the site and adjacent properties.
 - v) Locations and levels for road kerbs, road crests, vehicle crossings and footpaths.
 - vi) All visible services within the site and road reserves, including stormwater pits and invert levels, hydrants, sewer manholes, electrical and telecommunications infrastructure etc.
 - vii) Trees – exact position, trunk diameter (if greater than 200mm), level at base, height, spread, and species (if known) – both on the subject site, and on adjoining land within 3 metres of the site boundaries.
- 5) Development Applications must provide a Site and Context Analysis document set. Dependent on the scale of the proposed development, this will consist of a *location plan*, *context plan*, *site plan*, *street elevations*, *sections* and other drawings and written commentary sufficient to demonstrate a clear understanding of the contextual conditions present for the site and reveal clear design strategies to inform a high quality, place-based and sustainable design response. The different requirements of the Site and Context Analysis document set are set out below.

- i) The *location plan* will indicate the site's location in relation to the key features of the broad context including the major landscape elements, urban structure, land use activities and transport networks.

Landscape elements including but not limited to the Illawarra Escarpment - *Merrigong*, Lake Illawarra - *Jubborsay*, rivers – *Dharagang*, beaches – *Marrang*, and the sea – *Garringarrang* have cultural significance for Aboriginal people and should be considered at this scale.

The *location plan* illustrates opportunities and constraints in relation to major views, development activities, and access to transport, open and natural spaces and goods and services.

Depending on the proximity of key features, a scale between 1:5,000 and 1:20,000 (at A3) to reference a radius of around 1km to 5km is recommended.

The *location plan* is not an application requirement for single dwellings, or dual occupancies or any ancillary residential works.

- ii) The *context plan* will indicate the site's relationship to the key features of the local context including the street grid and subdivision pattern, movement networks, open public spaces, heritage places, significant landscape and local climate. At this scale the analysis can also include key planning controls and environmental constraints such as built form envelope restrictions (ie building heights), flood hazard levels, bushfire ratings and the like. The context plan should be supported by context sections where there is a significant topographic variation across the surrounding area.

Depending on the proximity of key features, a scale between 1:2,500 and 1:5,000 (at A3) to reference a radius of around 500m to 1km is recommended.

- iii) The *site plans*, *elevations*, *sections* and *3D-views* are to demonstrate the potential amenity impacts from and on neighbouring sites and significant public domain in the area of influence that must be considered in the design of the development.

The *site plans*, *sections*, *elevations* and *3D-views* must be sufficient to demonstrate that any of council's sun access planes, protected views and proposed pedestrian links have been acknowledged and addressed by design strategies.

The *street elevations* will demonstrate the site's relationship to the lot pattern (grain) and built form (massing) of the street and surrounding lots and illustrate any important aspects

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of existing or future character. *3D-views* may be included to compliment the information presented in the elevations.

These drawings will define what design strategies should be used to ensure the development **considers Ecologically Sustainable Development principles**, is situated and massed to be contextually appropriate, how access to daylight, privacy and views can be shared, and how the different parts of the site should be organised.

Scale as appropriate to show the full site and impacted/impacting neighbouring properties.

- iv) Diagrammatic mapping, photographs, details and sketches of any relevant materials, formal or character elements that should inform the design will support the site and context analysis.
 - v) Photographs, sketches and details of significant landscape features including trees (to be retained or otherwise) and public domain can also be prepared to support the site and context analysis.
- 6) All Site and Context Analysis plans and documents must be prepared to scale and accurately show all relevant information, as follows:
- i) All relevant existing information from the survey plan
 - ii) A visual and written representation of planning controls relevant to the site. At a minimum:
 - LEP: land use zone, height of building limit, floor space ratio, sun access plane or overshadowing requirements, reservations on the land, heritage items, heritage conservation areas.
 - DCP: ground and upper storey setbacks, street wall and heights in storeys, landscape and deep soil requirements, future pedestrian links, view corridors, local character statements.
 - iii) A visual and written representation of site conditions including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Site orientation and local climatic features including wind type and direction.
 - Any endangered ecological community (EEC) or High Conservation Value native vegetation.
 - Flood affected land.
 - **Land affected by coastal hazards.**
 - **Biodiversity and riparian corridors.**
 - Slope instability, contaminated land, landfill areas.
 - Services and utilities including location of drainage infrastructure, sewer mains and connection for utility services.
 - Movement corridors including local streets and pedestrian pathways, public transport, and site access for vehicles and pedestrians.
 - Views to and from the site and the existence of any significant nearby view corridors from public spaces and nearby residences.
 - Location of significant environmental and cultural features adjacent to the site including water courses and environmentally sensitive lands.
 - Pollution sources such as noise and air pollution.
 - Inner and outer bushfire protection zone areas and any trees/vegetation required to be removed for any development or Asset Protection Zones.

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9. PRE-LODGE MEETINGS FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

A formal pre-lodgement meeting is recommended prior to the lodgement of most Development Applications. Generally, development for the purpose of a dwelling house, alterations and additions to dwellings, secondary dwellings, dual occupancies and ancillary structures will not require a pre-lodgement, unless the proposal includes complex built form matters or site constraints. Contact Council to book a pre-lodgement meeting.

The preliminary concept plans required for the formal pre-lodgement meeting should include the following: site analysis, site plan, floor layout plans, elevation plans, sectional plans and a survey plan.

Pre-lodgement meetings will include Council's assessment team and specialist staff as deemed necessary by Council. Relevant consultants and advisors engaged by the applicant should also attend these meetings.

The quality of advice provided by Council staff on a project will be dependent upon the level of information provided to Council by the applicant / applicant's consultant(s) prior to a pre-lodgement meeting.

Further pre-lodgement meetings may be warranted for significant or technically complex projects. In some cases, it may be prudent (but not mandatory) for the applicant to provide Council with the Draft Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) or Draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and other supporting technical studies, especially where the proposal involves very complex environmental assessment matters such as a flood affected site.

Pre-lodgement meeting notes will be prepared by Council after each meeting and provided to the applicant. The meeting notes will reflect the main issues discussed at the pre-lodgement meeting. The pre-lodgement meeting notes will include what supporting information / reports are required, based on the information known at that time, to be submitted with the Development Application.

An assessment officer may seek additional information at Development Application stage where such information is considered necessary to enable the proper assessment of the application, notwithstanding that this may not have been identified at any previous pre-lodgement meeting.

10. WHEN IS A DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REQUIRED

The lodgement of a Development Application is required for any proposed development where the Wollongong LEP or any other environmental planning instrument specifies that a proposed development may only be carried out with development consent upon the land to which the instrument applies.

Certain proposed developments may be classified as either "designated development" or "integrated development" under EP&A Act or the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

Designated development requires the preparation of an EIS which must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Director-General of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Integrated development requires general terms of approval from the relevant authority, which if granted consent, forms part of the conditions of development consent. Separately, *Concurrence* may be required whereby agreement from a referral authority must be obtained before the Council can determine a Development Application.

11. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LODGEMENT OF A DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

The requirements for the lodgement of a Development Application are outlined in the Development Application Lodgement Checklist available on the Submit a Development Application - Checklists and Application Forms page of Council's website:

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http://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/113097/Lodgement-Checklist-for-Development-Applications.pdf

This checklist is designed to provide a brief summary of the minimum information requirements for lodgement with a Development Application for common types of development. However, a full review of the DCP is recommended in order to ensure that all necessary information is lodged in support of a Development Application. Wollongong DCP 2009 requires applications for certain developments, and/or developments on certain land, to be accompanied by specialist or technical reports and plans.

Where a Development Application proposes an exception to a development standard the applicant must clearly identify the proposed exception at lodgement of any application in the NSW Planning Portal and within a written request document pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*. This will enable Council to notify and exhibit the proposed exception to the development standard. Failure on behalf of the applicant to clearly identify a proposed exception at lodgement may result in re-notification of the application.

Further additional documentation may be required for a specific type of development during the assessment process.

All drawings submitted in support of an application are to be coordinated and accurate; utilise standard drawing scales (e.g. 1:10, 1:20, 1:50, 1:100, 1:200, 1:500, 1:750, 1:1000) as appropriate for drawing legibility; and in general accordance with design industry standards (such as Australian Standard AS1100).

Development Application fees are listed on the Development Application Fees and Charges page of Council's website. Development Application fees for registered charities will be waived. Further concessions may be made available through specific policy documents ie Affordable Housing Policy.

<https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/council-documents/fees-and-charges/fees-and-charges?fee=Development%20Application>

ITEM 5 POLICY REVIEW - CIVIC RELATIONS COUNCIL POLICY

Council has a Civic Relations Council Policy that helps prioritise international relations. This Council Policy is due for review and the attached draft policy has been amended taking into account recent changes in federal legislation. The major changes relate to reflecting Australia's *Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020* and removing procedural actions from the Council Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt the revised draft Civic Relations Council Policy.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Sue Savage, Manager Community Culture + Engagement

Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Civic Relations Council Policy

BACKGROUND

The draft Civic Relations Council Policy is designed to guide how Council interacts and prioritises international relations and activity requests.

The policy references Council's long-standing relationships with Longyan China, Ohrid Macedonia and Kawasaki Japan.

It also provides a framework for managing requests to host visitors from around the globe, not all of which can be managed within existing resourcing.

The revised policy deals with formal Sister City and Friendship City relationships as well as less formal exchange relationships.

PROPOSAL

The Civic Relations Council Policy has been reviewed taking into consideration the current political and economic climate, Department of Foreign Affairs policy and legislation and Council resourcing and priorities.

In late 2020, the Foreign Arrangements Scheme commenced. The purpose of this legislation was to ensure that arrangements between state or territory governments (and their entities) and foreign entities do not adversely affect Australia's foreign relations and are consistent with Australia's Foreign Policy. The draft Council Policy has been amended to include reference to the legislation and its requirements.

Other changes largely revolve around adjustments to language for better clarity.

The proposal recommends the draft Civic Relations Council Policy be adopted by Council.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation in the review of these policies occurred with the Events team, Economic Development team and the Office of the Lord Mayor, all of which contributed to the review recommendations.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 - Community Strategic Plan Goal 2 'We have an innovative and sustainable economy'.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Events and Corporate Relations.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Adhering to the *Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020* provides an added level of risk management to this area of operations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommended changes to the policies. There is an existing civic relations and sister city budget that allows for activities undertaken as a result of existing or newly formed relationships.

CONCLUSION

The Civic Relations Council Policy is designed to guide and prioritise international relations and activity requests. These policy updates align both political and economic climates when considering requests and ensures that the activity maintains consistency with other existing national foreign arrangements as well as alignment with Council priorities.

**CIVIC RELATIONS
COUNCIL POLICY**

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

This policy is designed to help Council prioritise international relations and activity requests. The policy outlines the criteria for the establishment and maintenance of the more formal Sister City and Friendship City relationships with the City of Wollongong.

This policy also ensures Council's activities are in keeping with Australia's *Foreign Relations (State And Territory Arrangements) Act 2020*.

Wollongong City Council has formal relationships with three overseas cities and one 'domestic', or Australian based, Inter-Council Friendship Agreement as outlined below:

Sister Cities

- Kawasaki in Japan (established in 1988).

Friendship Cities

- Longyan in China (established in 2001).
- Ohrid in Macedonia (established in 1996).

Other Relationships

- Lifeguard Exchange Program with Nova Scotia
- Inter-Council Friendship Agreement with Carrathool Shire Council.

POLICY INTENT

This policy has been developed to provide a framework for Council's interaction with domestic and international governments.

The main objectives of this policy are to ensure that:

1. Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, international relationships and other agreements are relevant and effective.
2. The activities from these relationships derive economic, social and cultural benefits to each city.
3. Any arrangements or agreements with foreign government entities do not adversely affect Australia's foreign relations and are not inconsistent with Australian Foreign Policy.

WOLLONGONG 2032 OBJECTIVES

This policy contributes to the deliverables within Our Wollongong 2032 - Community Strategic Plan – Goal 2 'We have an innovative and sustainable economy'.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the **Events and Corporate Relations CSP Strategy and DP Services**

CIVIC RELATIONS

COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY**Sister City relationships**

Council may establish Sister City relationships with carefully selected cities in accordance with this policy and explore opportunities for positive links with other cities as they arise. Care must be taken to manage expectations and avoid commitments which can be complicated in a cultural exchange.

Council's Civic Relations Framework Management Policy provides a framework for assessment to support this decision making process.

Establishment of a formal relationship requires approval of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and a Council resolution.

Friendship City relationship

A Friendship City relationship is less formal than a Sister City relationship and exists primarily through a 'paper link' (ie through written communications).

Inter-Council Friendship Agreement

An Inter-Council Friendship Agreement exists primarily to promote greater awareness and understanding between respective regions and cultures within NSW and other Australian states.

Civic Relations

Civic Relations relates to all Council activities, both international and national, which involve formal relationship building activities for the benefit of the city be it via economic, cultural or information exchange.

Industry and Investment

Economic development business and investment enquiries are facilitated through the Invest Wollongong partnership between Council, the NSW Government and the University of Wollongong with oversight of the Office of the General Manager. This long term strategic partnership has the goal of attracting new businesses, investment and jobs by promoting Wollongong as a superior business location in key target sectors.

International investment related enquiries received through Council and facilitated through the Invest Wollongong partnership are done so in consultation with relevant state and federal government agencies, such as Investment NSW and AusTrade.

DEFINITIONS**Sister City and Friendship City**

For the purpose of this policy, a Sister City or Friendship City is a formal link between cities to bring economic, social and cultural benefits to each city. Sister City and Friendship City relationships allow communities to:

- Promote economic growth
- Build reliable business and other contacts
- Increase tourism
- Exchange cultural and educational experiences and values
- Exchange ideas
- Gain valuable international, national, state or local government perspectives and increase the understanding of global, national, state and local government issues
- Generate harmony, tolerance and goodwill.

CIVIC RELATIONS

COUNCIL POLICY

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

[Australia's Foreign Relations \(State And Territory Arrangements\) Act 2020](#)

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three years from the date of each adoption of the policy, or more frequently as required.

REPORTING

Reporting requirements are in line with the type of activity as noted within this Policy. The following reports may be required:

- Annual Report requirements
- Council report
- External reporting to other agencies, etc required under this policy.

Notification to the Minister of Foreign Affairs is required on each instance.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Initial requests are received via:

- Office of the Lord Mayor or General Manager
- Customer requests
- Events Team.

The initial enquiry is reviewed by Events and Visual Strategy Manager and Events Team Leader. This includes a notification to the Minister for Foreign Affairs for review in line with the Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangement) Act 2020.

Recommendation is reviewed by Manager Community, Culture and Engagement.

Determination of recommendation by General Manager and endorsed by Council resolution.

Any civic events to be delivered are done so by the Events team in consultation with the Office of the Lord Mayor, Office of the General Manager or Economic Development.

RELATED STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029

CIVIC RELATIONS

COUNCIL POLICY

APPROVAL AND REVIEW	
Responsible Division	Community, Culture and Engagement
Date adopted by Council	[To be inserted by Corporate Governance]
Date/s of previous adoptions	9 September 2013 (previously titled Sister City and Friendship City Relationships); EMC 3 March 2010; Council 12 February 1996; 28 November 2005; 13 August 2018;
Date of next review	[Not more than two years from last adoption]

ITEM 6 REVISED RISK APPETITE STATEMENT

The community's priorities and aspirations for the future form the basis of our Community Strategic Plan. Council regularly reviews its risk management arrangements and processes to ensure that they remain best practice and provide a framework that allows decisions to be made with an understanding of Council's risk environment to support the achievement of community priorities identified in the Community Strategic Plan.

As part of the current review, the Risk Appetite Statement first adopted by Council in 2020 has been reviewed and is now presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Wollongong City Council Risk Appetite Statement be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer and Business Integrity
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Risk Appetite Statement

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and the Risk Management and Internal Audit Guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government require each council in NSW to have an audit, risk and improvement committee, a robust risk management framework, and an effective internal audit function. Wollongong City Council has had each of these elements in place for many years and well before the Guidelines made these requirements mandatory in 2023.

Council's approach to risk management is guided by the adopted Risk Management Framework, and the identification and management of Council's strategic risks is overseen by an internal Enterprise Risk Management Committee that meets monthly. As required by the Guidelines, risk management activities are also monitored and reported to Council's Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

The Risk Appetite Statement is the cornerstone of Council's Enterprise Risk Management Framework, setting the scene for how Council manages risk and informs decision-making processes throughout Council. Council first adopted a Risk Appetite Statement in 2020. The Risk Appetite Statement has now been reviewed and updated in consultation with the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

PROPOSAL

The revised Risk Appetite Statement is presented to Council for adoption. It sets out the amount of risk Council is willing to accept in pursuit of its strategic goals. It considers the most significant categories of potential risks to Council and provides an outline as to how much risk Council is willing to accept in each key area. It empowers Council to act with confidence and foresight, and ensures decisions are made with the right balance of ambition and caution. Ultimately the Risk Appetite Statement supports council's objectives while protecting its reputation, resources and community.

The community's priorities and aspirations for the future form the basis of our Community Strategic Plan. The needs of our community are front of mind in the development of our risk appetite as we balance the achievement of the goals set by our community with the risks inherent in the environments in which we deliver those outcomes.

Overall, Council has a balanced approach to its risk appetite aligned to its strategic objectives. Council's approach to risk appetite is to minimise our exposure to risks to our people and their safety, our reputation and corporate governance whilst accepting and encouraging an increased degree of risk in pursuit of our key strategic directives. The key challenges in achieving this balance are to ensure:

- ethical and effective governance practices including responsible stewardship of resources
- realisation of opportunities and allowing growth, transformation and innovation while avoiding unnecessary negative impacts
- avoidance of an inappropriately risk averse culture which may stifle growth, transformation and innovation

The Risk Appetite Statement is an essential governance tool that supports councillors as well as council staff in their decision-making processes, aligning them with Council's overall goals whilst managing risk appropriately. By adopting a clear Risk Appetite Statement, Council ensures that risk is managed effectively enabling better outcomes for Council and our stakeholders and community.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The revised Risk Appetite Statement has been subject to consultation with Councillors, Council's Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), Enterprise Risk Management Committee and Executive, with a number of workshops held to seek guidance on both the format/content of the document as well as the risk settings defined.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 objective *"Our council is accountable, financially sustainable and has the trust of the community"*.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Customer and Business Integrity Division Plan 2024-25.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The adoption and implementation of an effective risk appetite statement is a critical component of Council achieving its sustainability goals. Effective risk management practices will ensure that Council is efficient and innovative in achieving its strategic objectives while preserving and protecting its people, financial security and the built and natural environment in which we operate.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is a fundamental component of decision making in all Council activities. All decisions made by Council and its officers need to consider the risks involved in taking those decisions and the impact those decisions will have on the achievement of Council's objectives. Successful implementation of the risk management framework will enhance the delivery of all six of our interconnected Community Goals outlined in Wollongong 2032.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council finances are an area of significant risk for Council, which is appropriately reflected in the Risk Appetite Statement. There are no additional financial implications from the development and implementation of the Risk Appetite Statement.

CONCLUSION

Council operates in uncertain and changing economic, social, political, legal and business environments. Risk management is not about being risk averse and it is not a guaranteed way to eliminate all the risks Council faces altogether. The Risk Appetite Statement provides direction and guidance to the management of Council in a way that allows the reduction of negative impacts of risks to a level that is acceptable and allows the decision to take calculated and appropriate risks that will help Council achieve its strategic goals and deal positively with opportunities.



Wollongong City Council

Risk Appetite Statement

Adopted XX February 2025

Risk Appetite Statement

GUIDELINE

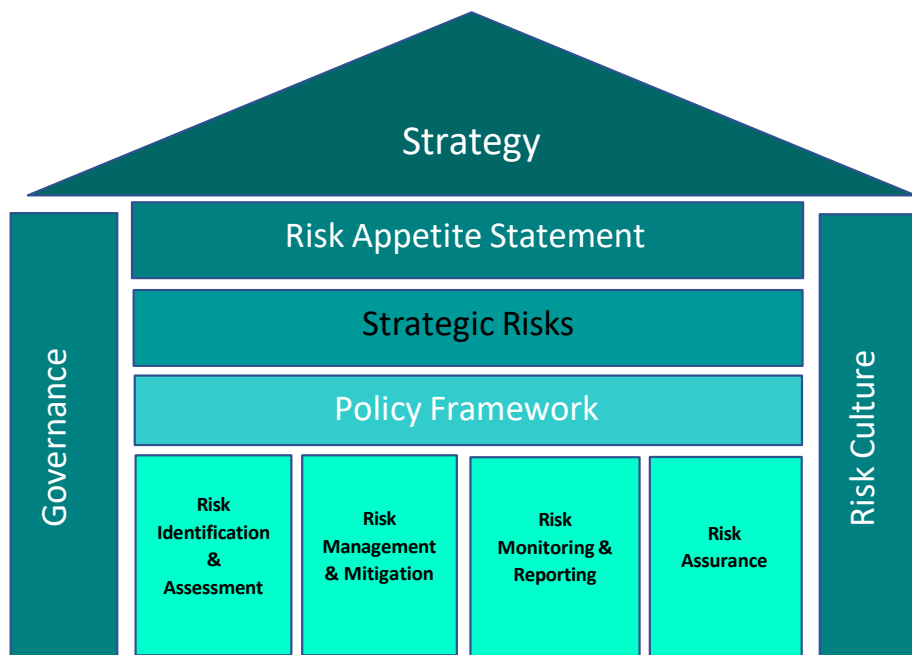
Introduction

Risk Management is an essential component of Council's governance framework and supports the achievement of Council's goals and objectives. Effective risk management increases the probability of successful outcomes whilst protecting the reputation and sustainability of Council.

Risk appetite is the amount of risk Council is willing to accept in pursuit of its strategic goals. The Risk Appetite Statement (RAS) considers the most significant categories of potential risks to Council and provides an outline as to how much risk Council is willing to accept in this area.

How risk appetite fits within Council

The risk appetite of Council informs the strategic decision-making process. The diagram below shows how the Risk Appetite Statement fits into the organisation and informs risk management.



Our community is at the centre of everything we do. The community's priorities and aspirations for the future as well as its wellbeing form the basis of our Community Strategic Plan. The needs of our community are front of mind in the development of our risk appetite as we balance the achievement of the goals set by our community with the risks inherent in the environments in which we deliver those outcomes.

Risk Management Framework

Council's Risk Management Framework aims to identify and manage risk across the organisation effectively. The framework sets the requirements and responsibilities for staff and emphasises that the management of risk and risk reporting is everyone's responsibility and that they must have appropriate controls in place and ensure the effectiveness of these controls.

Risks are identified, analysed, evaluated and monitored at both an organisational (top-down) and operational (bottom up) level.

Risk Appetite Statement

GUIDELINE

Council has ultimate accountability for this process. The Enterprise Risk discussed and reported at the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee on a quarterly basis.

Risk Appetite

Overall, Council has a balanced approach to its risk appetite aligned to its strategic objectives. Council's approach to risk appetite is to minimise our exposure to risks to our people and their safety, our reputation and corporate governance whilst accepting and encouraging an increased degree of risk in pursuit of our key strategic directives.

The key challenges in achieving this balance are to ensure:

- ethical and effective governance practices including responsible stewardship of resources.
- realisation of opportunities and allowing growth, transformation and innovation while avoiding unnecessary negative impacts
- avoidance of a risk averse culture which stifles growth, transformation and innovation rather than supporting it through the correct assessment and management of risks.

Council may at times undertake activities that inherently carry higher risks. As a result, Council's risk appetite in a particular risk category may on occasion be different to the risk level of particular activity or project within that category. The Risk Management Plan will detail requirements for identifying and managing risks at activity or project level.

Risk Appetite Ratings

Council categorises its level of risk appetite into four categories as can be seen below:



NOTE: For specific projects, topics or components of Council's wider strategic risks Council may take a zero-tolerance approach to risk, however at the Strategic Risk level, 'minimal' is the lowest level of risk appetite.

Risk Tolerances

Risk tolerances are the boundaries set for risk taking. The risk appetite statement informs the development of risk tolerances for Council and provides guidance on how the Risk Appetite Statement is to be applied to everyday business actions and decisions.

While risk appetite is qualitative, risk tolerances operationalise the statement by using quantitative measures where possible to better enable monitoring and review.

Risk Appetite Statement**GUIDELINE**

The Risk Appetite will set the tone for risk taking in general, whilst the tolerance informs:

- Expectations for mitigating, accepting and pursuing certain types of risk.
- Boundaries and thresholds for acceptable risk taking.
- Actions to be taken or consequences for acting beyond appropriate tolerances.

Implementation of the Risk Appetite Statement

Council's appetite for and tolerance of risk as outlined in this Risk Appetite Statement (RAS) forms the basis of our approach to managing risk in our day-to-day activities. The RAS informs the Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Framework which provide the structure for our risk management processes.

Staff are responsible for managing their risk environment. This includes having appropriate controls in place and monitoring the effectiveness of these controls. Risks are identified, assessed and managed at both enterprise level ('top-down') and at operational level ('bottom-up'). Risk registers are used to document the risks. Risks outside the appetite or agreed tolerance levels should be managed in line with this RAS and should be reported to the Executive Management Committee. The Executive Management Committee is accountable for compliance with this RAS. Risk appetite also needs to be articulated clearly at Council meetings and at the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meetings.

Risk Assessments

The Customer and Business Integrity Division maintains a register of Strategic Risks that Council faces in its day-to-day operations and the control framework which is in place to mitigate risks. These Registers consider risks from within Council and external sources and are reviewed regularly. Risk Registers are also updated where necessary when there are key changes in policies, structures or functions and in response to incidents.

All risks which are judged as unacceptable at Divisional level are reported to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and remedial action plans to reduce these risks to acceptable levels are reported, where appropriate, to the Executive Management Committee.

Divisions are required to manage their specific operational risks in a manner which is consistent with this Statement, and to manage and address any risks outside appetite or agreed tolerance levels. Departmental risk appetite settings in their Risk Registers for groups of risks with a similar nature must also be consistent with this Statement.

Review

This Risk Appetite Statement is reviewed on a continuous basis to consider and adapt to changes in the Council's operating environment. This review is coordinated by the Governance and Risk Manager. Changes to the Risk Appetite Statement must be approved by the Executive Management Committee and are presented to the ARIC for review and comment before being provided to Council for endorsement. The Risk Appetite Statement is to be presented to Council for review and endorsement at least once a Council Term.

Risk Appetite Statement

GUIDELINE

Wollongong City Council's Risk Appetite Statement

Below are the risk appetites and tolerance levels determined for Wollongong City Council's Strategic Risks. Our risk appetite and our risk management framework support our decision making and ensures Council makes appropriate and informed decisions.

Strategic Risk	Context	Risk Appetite Rating	Risk Tolerance Levels	
			Council will tolerate	Council will not tolerate
Service Delivery	<p><i>Council delivers a range of community services, events and facilities which contribute to our City.</i></p> <p><i>Council is open to creativity and innovation and is willing to take some level of risk to deliver efficiencies, enhance capabilities and provide a service to be proud of to our community.</i></p> <p><i>Council is open to taking moderate risk to enhance service delivery.</i></p>	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unforeseen interruptions of up to 2 days to critical business functions from uncontrollable events where Council responds and communicates promptly to impacted stakeholders. • Unforeseen interruptions of up to 7 days for non-critical business functions from uncontrollable events where Council responds and communicates promptly to impacted stakeholders. • Moderate reputational impact from community complaints relating to service quality or new initiatives to deliver enduring benefits to our community. • Moderate impacts to service delivery due to implementation of new technology, innovation initiatives or projects. • Moderate impacts arising from innovations and ideas that contribute and encourage creating a flexible workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant failure in meeting our service commitments and community expectations. • Failure to demonstrate a commitment to delivering quality services to our Community, Councillors, Customers and Employees. • Failure to document and follow policies and procedures that impairs the quality-of-service delivery or results in service interruptions. • Failure to develop plans to respond to a disruption and ensure continuity of critical business functions. • Failure to escalate a critical business function outage within 2 hours. • Unreasonable conduct of customers towards our staff and/or other customers.
Brand and Reputation	<p><i>Council recognises the importance of protecting its brand and reputation and will work strongly to generate a positive image of Council.</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate adverse local media and social media scrutiny or a number of complaints relating to action which delivers longer term benefits to the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper, unethical, corrupt, unprofessional behaviour or failure to exercise respect and duty of care in accordance with our Council values and policies. • Material breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
	<p><i>Council does however understand that negative publicity may occur where there are competing priorities and interests in the Community.</i></p> <p><i>Council has a cautious appetite for significant impacts on Council's reputation.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated minor incidents, concerns and complaints that can be resolved by management. Failure to uphold the probity of council decision-making. Any failure to avoid or appropriately manage conflicts of interest. Failure to act in a fair, honest, transparent, and accountable manner. Decision-making that is not open, honest and transparent and reflects the long-term interests of the community. Failure to notify Executive of significant incidents that may impact Council reputation in less than 24hrs of the incident occurring. Complaints that are not responded to in a prompt and professional manner within 10 days.
Climate Change	<p><i>Council recognises the urgent need to respond to the impacts of Climate Change.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst we do not want to see climate change impacts, we will take innovation and project risks to achieve our desired climate change objectives.</i></p> <p><i>Council is committed to addressing the climate emergency and recognising our responsibility to support residents and local businesses, in a whole of community approach to reducing emissions in Wollongong.</i></p>	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to procedures and practices to reduce emissions from general council operations. Increased cost impacts in the selection of products and services that provide a demonstrated lower emissions profile than traditional alternatives. Minor impacts on resourcing for programs and projects that assist community organisations, and the wider community achieve emission reductions. Embrace new or emerging technologies to assist Council in achieving its climate objectives. Will accept some risks to product or project failure if a pre-determined decision is made for the early adoption of innovative products or techniques. Seek grant opportunities or community partnerships to expedite implementation of Council's climate initiatives. Decisions that do not appropriately allow for, or directly impede the ability of, Council to meet its emissions reduction targets. Procurement of fossil fuel internal combustion engine vehicles if an alternative fuel vehicle or electric vehicle is available at a similar cost across the lifecycle of the vehicle. Decisions, activities and practices that result in negative climate impacts unless there is no viable or appropriate alternative action. Failure to plan for emissions reduction, in accordance with the publicly stated targets for the organisation.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
Compliance	<p><i>Council is committed to good governance and meeting legislated and regulatory requirements in a consistent and fair manner.</i></p> <p><i>Council has minimal appetite for significant breaches of legal obligations or contractual agreements that result in fines, penalties or reputational damage.</i></p> <p><i>Council will seek innovative approaches to governance practices subject to compliance with legislation and protection of our interests.</i></p>	Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decisions that are not in line with professional advice, subject to being merit-based decisions in accordance with Council values. Minor technical breaches that have been considered by Council. Temporary non-compliance due to unrealistic regulatory timeframes. Risks which may give rise to isolated complaints that are incidental to normal business activities despite best efforts to avoid or mitigate. Streamlined governance processes relative to level of identified risk, subject to effective controls remaining in place.
Cyber Security	<p><i>Our digital assets (including information) are vital in maintaining our business practices and therefore Council has a cautious approach to safeguarding from both external and internal threats, misuse, modification and unintended damage.</i></p> <p><i>Council's aim is to protect our ICT systems, services and information held. We will be successful through the application of appropriate</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrupt or fraudulent conduct by staff, councillors or contractors. Unreasonable delays when reporting, investigating or correcting any fraudulent, improper, unethical or corrupt conduct. Any instances where Council Officials knowingly break the law, fail to comply with legal obligations or recklessly breach internal policies. Material breaches of legislation or the Code of Conduct. Failure to consider expert / professional legal advice. Unauthorised release of confidential information. Any behaviour which could give rise to extensive litigation and indictable offences. Failure to comply with Government directions or orders.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cybersecurity threats that could have been prevented through judicious application of technical and behavioural controls. An unprepared response in the event of an external cyber-attack. Significant threats to assets arising from external malicious attacks. Misuse, inappropriate distribution or loss of sensitive or confidential council information due to the actions of staff. Prolonged unplanned outages (caused by cyber security control issues) of critical Council systems and services.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
	<i>internal controls, a cyber aware workforce, effective governance, timely remediation of identified control weaknesses, persistent review of the external threat landscape and consistent management of our third-party providers.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of cyber security resources and efforts towards protection of the Council's "Crown Jewels." • Failure to maintain cyber security control systems and services which adequately protect Councils data and information. • Failure to maintain adequate audit trails. • A lack of diligence in relation to procurement and implementation of cyber systems and services. • Data loss due to inappropriate data loss protection practices and processes. • Failure to adhere to information governance processes. • Failure to maintain a cyber incident response plan and test the plan on a regular basis.
Environment	<p><i>Council recognises the importance of conserving and enhancing our environment and understands that sustainability considerations in all council decisions is important.</i></p> <p><i>Council has a cautious appetite for environmental impacts arising from normal business activities, however, is open to innovative practices for the betterment of the environment.</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental impacts offset by other conservation or mitigation activity resulting in a net environmental benefit. • Minor environmental impacts from uncontrollable or unforeseen events or in order to deliver enduring benefits to our community well into the future. • Changes to procedures and practices to accommodate improved environmental outcomes. • Increased cost impacts in the selection of products, services that have a significant positive impact on the environment. • Minor and short-term negative community reactions to development assessment and land use planning decisions of Council. • Decisions that do not appropriately consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development or the Council value of Sustainability. • Council activities that do not follow established proper processes, and in turn damage cultural or Aboriginal heritage items or environments. • Failure to minimise significant impacts on biodiversity and reduce our ecological footprint. • Decisions, activities and practices that result in long term or irrevocable environmental damage or negative climate impacts, threatens biodiversity, including extinction of flora and fauna, or is hazardous to human life. • Activities and practices that knowingly compromise the environment, are reasonably foreseeable and preventable. • Failure to meet environmental commitments, conditions or legal requirements resulting in EPA fines or penalties. • Failure to have environmental pollution response plans in place.

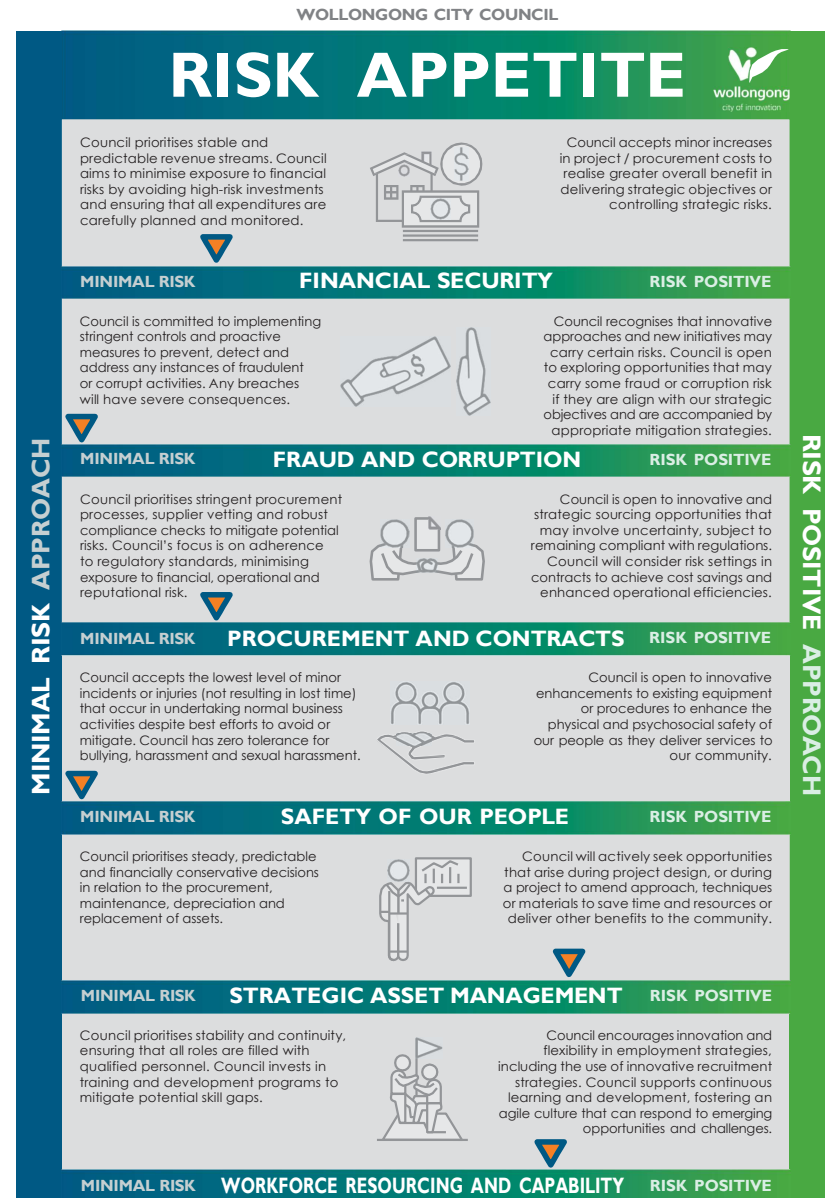
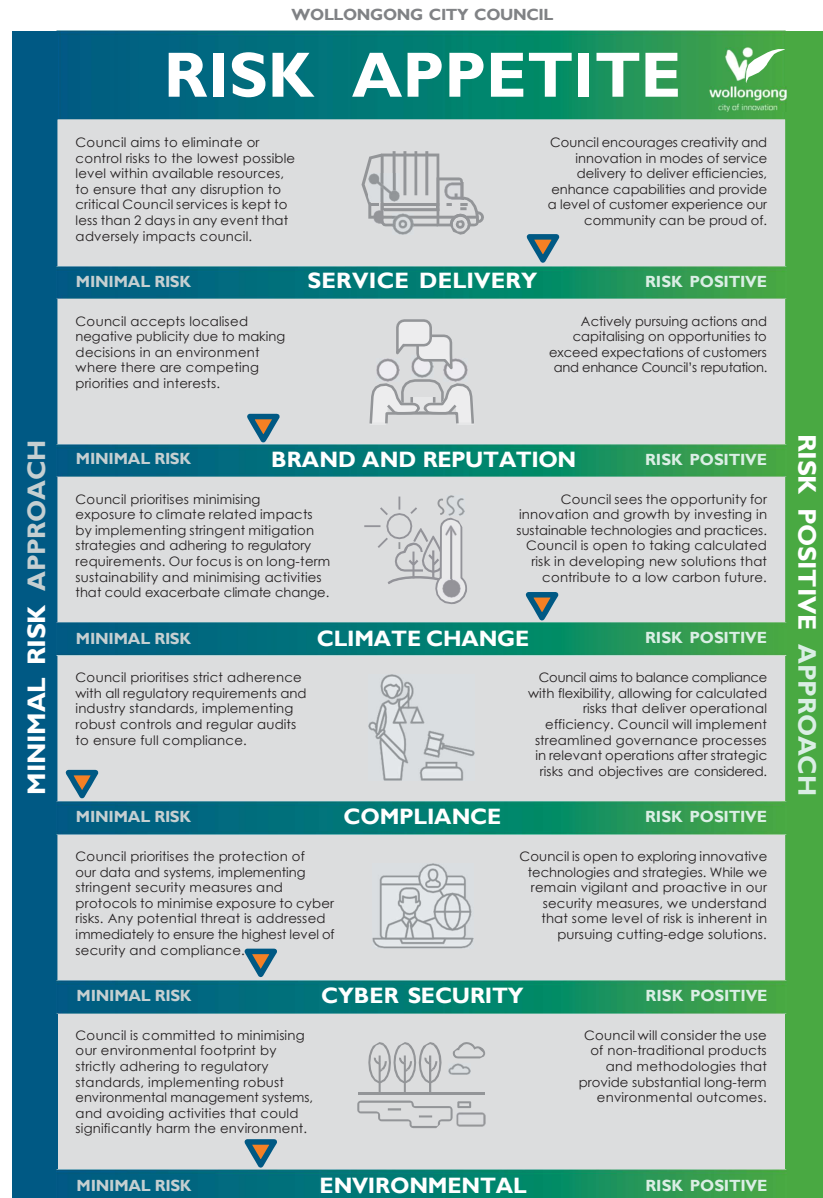
Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
Financial Security	<p><i>Council recognises the financial risks involved in delivering a wide range of services, programs and capital projects.</i></p> <p><i>Council has a cautious appetite for variation in financial performance as long as long-term financial sustainability is not threatened.</i></p> <p><i>Council recognises the opportunity to build a dynamic and sustainable organisation by maximising existing income and generation of sustainable new income streams.</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor unforeseen and unavoidable budget variations within stated parameters for divisional budgets. • Minor unforeseen and unavoidable cost variations in capital projects within the established contingency allocated to each project. • Short Term (less than 12 months) negative performance from commercial business aspects if core services are not affected. • Minor losses, or capital outlays, attributable to new processes or innovation to improve services to meet community needs. • Calculated financial risks to deliver infrastructure, improve service delivery or promote ecological sustainability. • Council will take a more "open" approach to risks associated with investment decisions relating to the commercial property development strategy. • Minor cost impacts of the implementation of weighted scoring in procurement to benefit local competent suppliers. • Capital expenditure budget delivered within stated parameters.
	<p><i>Council is committed to an operating environment that is resistant to fraud and corruption and is dedicated to implementing effective measures to minimise fraud and corruption risks.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial activities and/or investment practices that contravene legislated or policy requirements. • Failure to maintain or implement effective systems, processes and controls which adequately protect Council from fraudulent activity. • Significant lack of relevant financial and commercial acumen in key financial and senior management roles. • Fraudulent or corrupt financial transactions. • Actions that have a significant negative impact on long term financial sustainability. • Available funds below target over a five-year period. • A three-year average operating deficit.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor unforeseen and unavoidable budget variations within stated parameters for divisional budgets. • Minor unforeseen and unavoidable cost variations in capital projects within the established contingency allocated to each project. • Short Term (less than 12 months) negative performance from commercial business aspects if core services are not affected. • Minor losses, or capital outlays, attributable to new processes or innovation to improve services to meet community needs. • Calculated financial risks to deliver infrastructure, improve service delivery or promote ecological sustainability. • Council will take a more "open" approach to risks associated with investment decisions relating to the commercial property development strategy. • Minor cost impacts of the implementation of weighted scoring in procurement to benefit local competent suppliers. • Capital expenditure budget delivered within stated parameters.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of Councillors or staff to declare known personal interests, or known interests of those associated with them, in a matter they are required to make a decision about. • Acceptance of gifts, benefits or hospitality in contravention of Part 6 of the Code of Conduct.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
Fraud and Corruption	<i>Council does not tolerate fraudulent or corrupt behaviour and will take appropriate action against employees and contractors who have participated in such behaviour, and those who allowed it to occur.</i>	Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance of gifts and benefits in accordance with Part 6 of the Code of Conduct • Acceptance by Councillors or staff of any inducement or benefit aimed at influencing their official duties. • Manipulation, exploitation or inappropriate application of administration processes (e.g. procurement, recruitment, application approval) for the benefit of the council official or any other person. • Unauthorised access or misuse of Council technology systems, software and cloud service • Unauthorised release of information and/or data held by Council relating to Council, customers, residents, suppliers or any other party. • Knowingly including false information or misrepresent facts in a Council record or a report to a statutory authority or oversight agency. • Establishing without approval, false or illegitimate employee or supplier records in council systems.
Procurement and Contracts	<p><i>Council is aware that procurement activities are a function that is high risk in terms of corruption and therefore Council implements strict oversight and defined processes.</i></p> <p><i>Council is committed to providing a procurement function that manages risk and ensures that acquisition planning and supplier evaluation is clearly linked to Council's strategic directions; and supported by efficient and</i></p>	Cautious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor cost impacts arising from implementation of weighted scoring in procurement to benefit competent local suppliers and social procurement and/or promotion of a circular economy. • Elevated risk profiles from participating in unsolicited proposals, subject to strict adherence with the Unsolicited Proposal Policy. • Occasional deviations from processes in the Procurement Framework where an approved exemption from process would achieve best value for Council. • Minor cost impacts and/or elevated risk profile attributable to new processes or innovation to meet community needs, • Failure of Councillors or staff to declare known personal interests, or known interests of those associated with them, in relation to a procurement they are involved in. • Acceptance by Councillors or staff of any inducement or benefit aimed at influencing their official duties, particularly from current or prospective suppliers. • Current or potential suppliers contacting and lobbying procurement panels or Councillors prior to a decision being made on a procurement. • Staff authorising procurements/contracts outside the limits of their approved delegations.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
	<i>effective contract management and evaluation.</i>		<p>provide better outcomes and increased value for money through the procurement and contract management process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers and/or staff order splitting or invoice splitting to avoid stricter probity and policy requirements at higher values of procurement. Failure to comply with OLG Capital Expenditure Guidelines for capital projects over \$10m. Failure to adequately manage and monitor contractors in accordance with the Contract Management Framework.
Safety of Our People	<p><i>Council aims to create workplaces that have no work-related injuries.</i></p> <p><i>Council has minimal appetite for work practices, actions or inactions that compromise the wellbeing and safety of people including staff, councillors, contractors, volunteers and community.</i></p> <p><i>Council has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of bullying and harassment and is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive work environment that is free from any forms of intimidation or harassment.</i></p>	Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor unforeseen incidents or injuries that arise from time to time while undertaking normal activities. Employees terminating a customer interaction if their safety or wellbeing is placed at risk. Our employees applying "Stop and Take 5" when undertaking tasks and seeking further advice / guidance before proceeding if significant risks are identified Actions or behaviours that are deliberate and willingly contravene the Code of Conduct and WHS policies and procedures. Actions which do not align to WCC values of respect, sustainability, courage, integrity and one team. Practices that knowingly compromise staff wellbeing, workplace or community safety (including discrimination, harassment or bullying). Activities that result in reasonably foreseeable and preventable fatalities, harm, serious injuries or illnesses to our community, customers, Councillors or employees. Events that occur arising from untrained (or uncertified) employees or failed internal processes. Unsafe infrastructure and work environments Failure to identify and respond to workplace psychosocial hazards. Failure to adequately address Council's positive duty obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act. Unreasonable conduct of customers towards our staff and/or other customers.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE
Strategic Asset Management	<p><i>Council is committed to continuous improvement in order to provide excellent infrastructure services that provide benefits to our community.</i></p> <p><i>Council is open to taking moderate levels of risk to enhance our City's assets and infrastructure.</i></p>	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate financial and reputational impacts arising from the implementation of new of innovative technologies. • Impacts leading to short term disruption to community due to implementation of construction procedures which provide value for money provided community has been informed. • Increased short-term financial impact on costs of projects where there are demonstrated long term sustainable gains. • Moderate impacts to infrastructure due to implementation of new technology, innovation initiatives or projects. • Unforeseen interruptions of up to 2 days to critical infrastructure from uncontrollable events where Council responds and communicates promptly to impacted stakeholders. • Unforeseen and unavoidable cost variations in capital projects within the established contingency at both project and capital budget. • Accepting increased levels of contract risk on certain projects if significant cost efficiencies may be achieved as a result. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that result in reasonably foreseeable and preventable fatalities, harm, serious injuries or illnesses to our Community, Customers, Councillors or Employees. • Failure of third-party contractors to provide services within budget and agreed timeframes. • Non-completion of a significant portion of new or renewal infrastructure projects beyond financial year (or scheduled completion period if project runs across multiple years), or significant delays to projects due to issues within Council control. • Asset failure significantly earlier than the projected lifespan of the asset • Failure to administer and manage contracts appropriately. • Significant foreseeable variations in contract price due to aspects of the project within the control of Council • Failure to escalate critical infrastructure damage or issue within 2 hours of the relevant site being made safe. • Failure to develop plans to respond to a disruption and ensure continuity of operational infrastructure.
Workforce Resourcing and Capability	<p><i>Council is committed to strategically identifying, allocating, managing and developing its workforce resources to support the efficient delivery of Council services.</i></p>	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor staff grievances that can be dealt with through normal internal mechanisms. • Minor morale and staff grievances due to change within the organisation due to innovation or change management processes leading to more efficient and effective outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions or behaviours by staff that are deliberate and willingly contravene the Code of Conduct and policies and procedures within the ethical framework. • Actions which do not align to WCC values of respect, sustainability, courage, integrity and one team. • Events that occur arising from inadequately trained employees or failed internal processes.

Risk Appetite Statement			GUIDELINE	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor inconsistencies in application of flexible / hybrid working arrangements to ensure most benefit can be achieved. • Increased levels of risk arising from the implementation of innovative recruitment and attraction practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to implement adequate business continuity plans resulting in the inability of the workforce to return to work as soon as possible after a business interruption event. • Failure to identify and implement a comprehensive employee experience framework.



ITEM 7

SUBMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - DRAFT MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has released a consultation draft of the new Model Code of Meeting Practice with a view to facilitate and support local decision making and is seeking feedback from the community, key stakeholders, and the local government sector about the proposed changes.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Discussion Paper and Consultation Draft for the Model Code of Meeting Practice be noted
- 2 The General Manager be authorised to finalise the draft submission (Attachment 1) and forward to the Office of Local Government for their consideration.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer and Business Integrity
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Wollongong City Council Submission - OLG Discussion Paper - A New Model Code of Meeting Practice

BACKGROUND

The OLG has advised that a key focus of the Government's reform agenda for the regulation of council meetings, is to promote community confidence in councils' decision making by ensuring that the forum in which decisions are made is conducted in a democratic way.

The OLG have advised that the amendments to the Model Meeting Code are designed to deliver the following outcomes:

- Promoting transparency, integrity and public participation
- Promoting the dignity of the council chamber
- Depoliticising the role of the general manager
- Simplifying the Model Meeting Code
- Restricting Councils from holding briefing sessions

PROPOSAL

The OLG Discussion Paper and Consultation Draft provides an overview of the proposed revisions to the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

Overall, most of the proposals and suggestions in the Discussion Paper have been reflected in the updated draft Model Code of Meeting Practice, and Council's submission addresses the proposed amendments of the Model Meeting Code.

However, the most significant and potentially impactful proposal in the discussion, the intention to restrict Councils from holding briefing sessions with Councillors, only has minimal details provided. The discussion paper states that the OLG is proposing to amend the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* to restrict councils from holding briefing sessions. The amendments will also establish the appropriate ways councillors are to make decisions and receive information.

It is noted that the OLG has not provided the proposed wording of regulation amendments and as such, Council and the wider local government sector, have been unable to undertake a full and robust consideration of this especially important topic, with all relevant information available prior to comment.

Whilst Council will make a detailed submission based on all available information in the discussion paper and draft Model Meeting Code, the submission will also request that if any proposal proceeds to amend the Regulations, that the wording of any amendments and a clear definition of what a briefing is needs to be provided. Council would prefer that the proposed wording for regulations to bring this prohibition into effect be circulated to the industry for comment prior to consideration of final implementation.

Council has prepared a detailed submission on the proposals as they are outlined in the Consultation Draft and associated Discussion Paper. That submission is attached to this report for consideration and endorsement by Council.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy		Service
4.7	Demonstrate responsible decision-making based on our values, collaboration, and transparent and accountable leadership	Governance and Administration

RISK MANAGEMENT

Wollongong City Council believes that the NSW local government sector in general is operating well, and any concerns that the OLG may have with meeting practices only relate to a small proportion of the activities of Mayors and Councillors across the state and indeed those concerns may not be evident at all at some councils.

Wollongong City Council has a cohesive and collaborative approach and relationship between Councillors and between the elected council and the Council staff. In addition, Council believes that its approach to transparency, meeting practices and the conduct of the Lord Mayor and Councillors during Council meetings uphold the standards expected of local government.

If the proposals in Draft Model Code of Meeting Practice and associated Discussion Paper are implemented in whole or in part, Council may be required to implement significant changes to the operation of meetings and how it provides information to Councillors. There is a risk that such changes to process may have impacts on resourcing and the efficient administration of the Council meeting and briefing process, with additional risks relating to the efficient operation of the elected Council when considering information relevant to decision making.

CONCLUSION

The Code of Meeting Practice has a significant bearing on the application and delivery of the roles of the Lord Mayor and Councillors, as such changes to the document can have significant impacts on how Councillors perform their role and how the elected Council undertakes its combined functions. The submission on the Consultation Draft ensures that Council's views on the proposed changes are taken into consideration before the revised Model Code of Meeting Practice is implemented by the Office of Local Government.

Wollongong City Council Submission

To the Discussion Paper on a New Model Code of Meeting Practice

Consultation draft

The OLG Discussion paper and accompanying draft Model Code of Meeting Practice (Model Meeting Code) outlines a proposed new approach to Council meeting practices. In summary the Office of Local Government (OLG) is proposing to update the Model Meeting Code to deliver the following outcomes:

- promoting transparency, integrity and public participation
- promoting the dignity of the council chamber
- depoliticising the role of the general manager
- simplifying the Model Meeting Code
- restricting Councils from holding briefing sessions

The discussion paper provides a brief overview of the proposed changes under each of the five above mentioned broad objectives. The draft Model Meeting Code provides a more complete and detailed description of the proposed changes.

Council's response to the proposed changes are provided below and have been grouped together in the five objective categories specified by the discussion paper.

Submission

Wollongong City Council believes that the NSW local government sector in general is operating well, and any concerns that the Office of Local Government (OLG) may have with meeting practices only relate to a small proportion of the activities of Mayors and Councillors across the state and indeed those concerns may not be evident at all at some councils.

Wollongong City Council has a cohesive and collaborative approach and relationship between Councillors and between the elected council and the Council staff. In addition, Council believes that its approach to transparency, meeting practices and the conduct of the Lord Mayor and Councillors during Council meetings uphold the standards expected of local government. This is evidenced by the fact that the training program that Local Government NSW provide on a regular basis to Council staff in relation to meeting practices and minute taking use Wollongong City Council as an example of best practice.

There would be many other Councils that are in a similar position to Wollongong City Council. As such, whilst the meeting procedures and Model Meeting Code are always worthy of review and refinement, Council believes that the Model Meeting Code needs enhancements and fine tuning rather than comprehensive and wide-ranging changes. It is also noted that for many of the proposed amendments, the rationale behind the change or the driver for the proposed amendment is not known, making it difficult to respond or to provide alternate solutions.

Promoting transparency, integrity and public participation

Details:

The OLG has proposed the following amendments to promote greater transparency and public participation:

- Requiring information considered at closed meetings to be made public after it ceases to be confidential.
- Requiring recordings of meetings to be published on council websites for the balance of the council term, or, in the case of an election year, for at least 12 months.
- Providing that councils must not make final planning decisions without a staff report containing an assessment and recommendation.

Council submission:

Council submits that the requirement for information considered at closed meetings to be made public after it ceases to be confidential may have administrative burdens and impacts that outweigh the perceived transparency improvements due to already existing methods for the public to seek access to this information.

All councils are bound by the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act). Under the GIPA Act members of the public can apply to Council to seek access to any information held by Council, including information relating to confidential Council reports. Under the GIPA Act Council cannot refuse access simply because a report was considered in confidential session, it must determine access in accordance with the GIPA Act and can only refuse access for reasons specified in s14 of the GIPA Act. Wollongong City Council, like all other councils, does receive GIPA applications that include requests to access confidential information.

In these circumstances if an assessment under the GIPA Act determines that the confidential Council report should be released to the GIPA applicant, Council does so in accordance with the Act. Council believes that this mechanism sufficiently allows the public to seek access to formally confidential information. To assist in the OLG's intent to increase transparency in this area, Council proposes that an amendment to the GIPA Act should be made to require councils that release a formerly confidential Council report in response to a GIPA application to have the Council publish that report in its GIPA Disclosure Log that is required to be published on every government and council website.

Having this decision to publish formerly confidential reports be triggered by release in response to a GIPA application has the following advantages over the proposed approach in the discussion paper:

- Assessment of confidentiality occurs under the existing legislated framework established by the GIPA Act
- Expert staff make the assessment in accordance with the GIPA Act
- Refusal to provide requested information is subject to established legal appeal avenues to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the NSW Information Commissioner
- Removes the potential for a report to be maintained as confidential by the elected Council for reasons not related to the confidentiality status of the information.

Notwithstanding the above, if the OLG proposes to implement these requirements as stated in the discussion paper Council requests that to minimise the administrative burden of constant review, Council's should be required to conduct such a review no more frequently than every 12 months.

Council commentary on specific draft Model Meeting Code changes:

Section	Details of Change	Council Submission
Amendment of Clause 5.37	Amendment of rules of how long webcasts of council meetings must be on the council website. Now a minimum of 12 months or for the balance of the council term, whichever is longer	Council is supportive of the proposed change as a minimum approach. Wollongong City Council publishes recordings back to 2013.
New clause 11.12 - planning decisions	New clause stating a Council cannot make a final planning decision without receiving a staff report with an assessment and a recommendation	This is a standard practice and Wollongong City Council and Council has no objection to this being a mandated requirement.
New clause 11.13 - planning decisions	New clause stating a Council that makes a planning decision contrary to a staff recommendation, must provide reasons for not adopting the staff recommendation	Subject to appropriate guidance of required content and level of detail required to outline Council's reasoning for such a decision, Council has no objection to this being a mandated requirement.

Promoting the dignity of the Council chamber

Details:

The OLG has proposed the following amendments to promote the dignity of the Council chamber:

- The mayor will be permitted to call extraordinary meetings without a request and the restrictions on mayoral minutes will be removed.
- Requiring councillors to stand when addressing the meeting, or when the mayor enters the chamber.
- Removing the option for councils to reduce the duration of speeches
- Refining the definitions of disorder to remove phrases that could be weaponised to impede debate.
- Providing as a default that councillors are to attend meetings in person. Councillors will only be permitted to attend meetings by audio visual link where they are prevented from attending a meeting in person because of ill health or another medical reason or unforeseen caring responsibilities.
- Restricting the circumstances in which the council may withhold a leave of absence.
- Removing the option for staff to attend meetings by audio visual link.
- Strengthening the deterrence against disorder by codifying the common law position that allows councillors to be expelled from successive meetings where they fail to apologise for an act of disorder at an earlier meeting.

Council submission:

Whilst it is reasonable to expect that the default attendance mode for Councillors to attend meetings is in person, Council strongly opposes the proposal that Councillors will only be permitted to attend meetings by audio visual link where they are prevented from attending a meeting because of ill health/medical reasons or unforeseen caring responsibilities.

The proposed alteration to cl5.19 to restrict the reasons Councillors may remotely attend a Council or Committee meeting provide only a very narrow range of reasons that are unreasonably restrictive. The OLG has stated on many occasions that it would like to see a wider diversity in the candidates that stand for office and become Councillors, so they genuinely reflect the communities that they serve. Most Councillors have a range of commitments, both personal and work related, that they must balance with their significant time requirements of the role of Councillor. If unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances arising from a Councillor's personal or work life make the ineligible to attend a meeting remotely it may be a disincentive for people to stand for election as a Councillor.

In addition, there may be very genuine situations where remote attendance is required, and appropriate, for example, where a Councillor's personal safety is threatened (eg. travel to attend a meeting during severe adverse weather conditions) and in person attendance may escalate those risks, or in situations where a Councillor is undertaking Army reserve deployment, SES and RFS deployment or undertaking jury duty. The proposed provisions in the Model Meeting Code would not allow remote attendance by a Councillor in any of the above scenarios. Council strongly encourages the maintenance of the current provisions in the Model Meeting Code relating to remote attendance of Councillors at meetings, which is simply that each Council will determine its own approach in relation to these matters to ensure Councillors can best represent the community they serve.

Similar to the above, Council is also strongly opposed to the deletion of clause 5.44 of the Model Meeting Code that permits the General Manager and other staff to attend meetings by audio visual link. Council proposes that the attendance of the General Manager at a meeting remotely should be at the discretion of the Council and the attendance of staff at a meeting remotely should be at the discretion of the General Manager. It is important to note that staff who may be required to attend a Council meeting to speak to a report or be available for questions on a report may only be required for a single item and requiring that staff member to attend for an entire meeting that could be very lengthy is impractical and would have unnecessary impacts on the staff member. This could be exacerbated by the fact that some Council staff live well outside

the Council area and very long travel times are required, often at night after meetings. Given these circumstances will be unique to each staff member, the General Manager is the person in the best position to decide on such matters.

The draft Model Meeting code proposes a change to clause 15.10, amending what constitutes an act of disorder. The first amendment is to remove the restriction that states Councillors commit an act of disorder if they make an allegation of a code of conduct breach against a Council official in a Council meeting. Council does not support this change as it will allow Councillors to allege other Councillors, the General Manager or Council staff have breached the code of conduct. Permitting any person to make such allegations in an open council meeting, particularly in circumstances when such allegations are made maliciously or without evidence or could be defamatory in nature creates significant risk of personal harm to any person subject to such allegations.

In addition, a further change to clause 15.10 is proposed to add a new requirement that a Councillor commits an act of disorder if they use language, words or gestures that would be disorderly in the NSW Legislative Assembly. Council is not supportive of this change as Councillors are already bound by the standards of conduct and behaviour in the Model Code of Conduct and requiring Councillors to understand and comply with a second set of behavioural standards creates potential confusion and conflicting standards of behaviour. Council believes that clarity in standards and a single source of truth can only be achieved by having a single Code of Conduct that applies to Councillors.

The draft Model Meeting code proposes a range of new clauses relating to disorder that:

- Where a Councillor does not comply with a direction of the chair after committing an act of disorder, the chairperson may require them to do that action at each subsequent meeting until they do so. If they refuse it will constitute another act of disorder
- Allow Councils to grant authority to the Mayor to expel a Councillor from a meeting without the need for a Council resolution.

Council believes the authority to expel a Councillor from a meeting should remain a power that resides with the Council and should require a resolution of Council to implement.

Whilst the OLG has not proposed in this series of changes to address the issue of gender identity in the modes of address section (Part 7 of the Model Meeting Code), Council believes that adjustments are required to reflect current community expectations in relation to gender identity and gender referencing. Council suggests the below amendments to this section to remove the need for any gender identification when addressing another person in the chamber, with titles and surnames being sufficient descriptors.

- 7.2 *If the chairperson is the Lord Mayor or mayor, they are to be addressed as 'Lord Mayor' or 'Mayor' ~~'Mr Mayor' or 'Madam Mayor'~~.*
- 7.3 *Where the chairperson is not the mayor, they are to be addressed as ~~either 'Mr Chairperson' or 'Madam Chairperson' or~~ 'Chair'.*
- 7.4 *A councillor is to be addressed as 'Councillor [surname]'.*

Council commentary on specific draft Model Meeting Code changes:

Section	Details of Change	Council Submission
New Clause 3.3	Mayor may call an extraordinary meeting without the need to obtain signature of 2 councillors.	Council does not support the addition of this clause. At present this area of the Model Meeting Code does not appear to be overly burdensome or restrictive as only two signatures are required, and the Mayor is permitted to be one of those signatories. In addition, as the Mayor has the authority to place any item on a business paper without notice via Mayoral Minute this clause appears unnecessary
New clause 7.1	New clause requiring councillors and staff to stand when the mayor enters the chamber and when addressing the meeting	Council has no objection to the introduction of such a clause; however, Council suggests that this should be a non-mandatory clause. For some Council's technology issues with microphones and cameras for webcasting may make remaining seated more practical and a non-mandatory clause will allow flexibility in how this is applied locally.
Deletion of clause 10.24	Deletion of clause permitting the Council to shorten the duration of Councillors speeches to expedite a particular meeting	Council notes that the standard approach for most councils is to allow 5 minutes for speeches, plus an extension period determined by each Council. Council has no objections to removing this clause.

Depoliticising the role of the General Manager

Details:

The OLG has proposed the following amendments to depoliticise the role of the General Manager:

- Removing the requirement for general managers to prepare reports for notices of motion.
- Providing that the mayor, not the general manager, has discretion on whether council staff should respond to questions with notice. It will be open to the mayor to rule a question with notice out of order at the meeting if it breaches the disorder provisions of the council's code of meeting practice.
- Conferring responsibility on the council to determine staff attendance at meetings. It will be a matter for the council to determine which staff attend meetings.

Council submission:

Council is not supportive of the change to move responsibility for determining which staff are to attend a Council meeting from the General Manager to the Council, as it considers the General Manager is best placed to determine which staff member has the necessary background, skills and knowledge for a particular item of business. Removing this responsibility from the General Manager presents real risk that the business of Council may have to be deferred if the appropriate staff member is not in attendance to address questions. In addition, the proposed change would seem to be inconsistent with the role of the General Manager as specified in s335 of the Local Government Act 1993, which is outlined below:

335 Functions of general manager

The general manager of a council has the following functions—

- to conduct the day-to-day management of the council in accordance with the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,*
- to implement, without undue delay, lawful decisions of the council,*
- to advise the mayor and the governing body on the development and implementation of the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,*
- to advise the mayor and the governing body on the appropriate form of community consultation on the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council and other matters related to the council,*

- (e) to prepare, in consultation with the mayor and the governing body, the council's community strategic plan, community engagement strategy, resourcing strategy, delivery program, operational plan and annual report,*
- (f) to ensure that the mayor and other councillors are given timely information and advice and the administrative and professional support necessary to effectively discharge their functions,*
- (g) to exercise any of the functions of the council that are delegated by the council to the general manager,*
- (h) to appoint staff in accordance with the organisation structure determined under this Chapter and the resources approved by the council,*
- (i) to direct and dismiss staff,*
- (j) to implement the council's workforce management strategy,*
- (k) any other functions that are conferred or imposed on the general manager by or under this or any other Act.*

Of note to this issue are two subsections. Firstly subsection 335(f) states that it is the role of the General Manager to ensure that the mayor and other councillors are given timely information and advice and the administrative and professional support necessary to effectively discharge their functions. The subsection clearly articulates that the General Manager is to determine the provision of administrative and professional support. The determination of which professional staff should attend a Council meeting to provide advice to Councillors is clearly a legislated role of the General Manager.

Subsection 335(i) states that it is the role of the General Manager to direct and dismiss staff. The responsibility for directing staff in their duties, including any required attendance at a Council meeting is clearly a legislated role of the General Manager.

The draft Model Meeting Code proposes to delete clause 3.15 which prohibits a Councillor from asking a question with notice that comprises a complaint against or implies wrongdoing of the General Manager or Council staff. Council does not support this change as it will allow Councillors to make allegations or impugn the reputation of the General Manager or Council staff. Permitting any person to make such allegations in an open council meeting, particularly in circumstances when such allegations are made maliciously or without evidence or could be defamatory in nature creates significant risk of personal harm to any person subject to such allegations. In addition, allowing a question of that nature would appear to be in contravention of cl7.6(h) of the Model Code of Conduct which states that Councillors cannot make personal attacks on council staff or engage in conduct towards staff that would be contrary to the general conduct provisions of Part 3 of the Code in public forums.

Council commentary on specific draft Model Meeting Code changes:

Section	Details of Change	Council Submission
Deletion of Clauses 3.12 and 3.13	Deletion of previous "non-mandatory" clauses: 3.12 – GM can make comment or prepare a report on a notice of motion 3.13 – Notice of Motion voting funds outside budget process, GM must prepare a report on funding options 10.9 -	Council has no objection to the deletion of these clauses, noting that these were non-mandatory clauses previously. Councils would still be free to resolve their own approach in this regard.

Simplifying the Model Meeting Code

Details:

The OLG has proposed the following amendments to simplify the Model Meeting Code:

- Streamlining the code by removing unnecessary provisions.
- Removing the non-mandatory rules governing public forums, and public representations to the council on the closure of meetings to the public. Councils will be free to determine their own rules on both topics.
- Simplifying the rules for dealing with urgent business without notice at meetings.
- Simplifying the rules of debate by removing the provisions allowing motions to be foreshadowed.
- Mandating some current non-mandatory provisions including those allowing meetings to be cancelled or held by audio visual link in the event of natural disasters and public health emergencies and those governing councillors' attendance at meetings by audio visual link.

Council submission:

Council does not support the amendment of the Model Meeting Code to require that answers to Questions with Notice must be provided in writing, and published in the Business Papers and that verbal answers will not be permitted. Given business paper publishing requirements at most Councils require the papers to be prepared between 7-10 days prior to a meeting and the timeframe for Councillors to lodge a Question with Notice, may result in the General Manager only having one or two days to prepare the answer. For complex matters, or matters that require research to produce an answer, this may not be sufficient time to allow development of an appropriately comprehensive response. By allowing a verbal answer at a meeting in such circumstances, a detailed response can be provided. Council suggests that in lieu of the proposed amendment the Model Meeting Code could be amended to require the full transcript of a verbal answer to a Question with Notice to be tabled to the meeting and provided in the minutes of the relevant meeting.

Council is not supportive of the proposal to remove the ability to foreshadow a motion for debate. The discussion paper states the aim of this change is to allow a simplification of the rules of debate, to only have a motion and amendments as items for debate. Council is concerned that the removal of this option may limit some types of motions/amendments being moved by Councillors since the Model Meeting Code does not permit an amendment that is a direct negative of the original motion. The intent of that provision is based on the principle that if a Council is not supportive of a motion and no amendments are proposed the Council can simply vote down and defeat the motion. However, there are foreseeable circumstances where a Councillor wishes to move a motion that may be considered a direct negative by the chairperson but should still be permitted to be moved. Having the ability to foreshadow motions permits this to occur.

The most obvious scenarios where this could occur, are scenarios where the report recommendation or original motion are drafted in the negative, i.e. "that Council does not purchase the property" or an example based another proposal in the discussion paper "that Council does not publish the listed prior confidential reports". In the scenario of releasing formerly confidential reports it would be a reasonable motion for a Councillor to move "that Council publish the listed prior confidential reports". This would be a direct negative of the original motion, and under the current rules for amendments could be ruled out of order by the Mayor/Chairperson as a direct negative of the original motion. If the current clauses of the Model Meeting Code were retained, a Councillor could flag that they wished to move the above as a foreshadowed motion.

The draft Model Meeting Code proposes to delete the clause that requires business papers to include a reminder to Councillors of obligations under their oath or affirmation of office. Council notes that one of the stated purposes of the suite of changes proposed is as follows:

As observed in the September discussion paper, council meetings can be conducted without the appropriate level of dignity or reverence that suggests the importance of the debate and the need for civility. Councillors are not expected to agree with each other. In fact, debate is encouraged, but the debate should be fair and respectful.

Reducing the prominence of the oath or affirmation of office could be seen as reducing the focus of Councillors on the purpose of their role and the expected behavioural standards.

The draft Model Meeting Code proposes to make a range of amendments to the provisions around the use of Mayoral Minutes. The changes remove all subject guidance and limitations for Mayoral Minutes and the Mayor will have full discretion to bring any topic of their choosing to be considered by the meeting. Council notes that the current provisions that restrict Mayoral Minutes to topics within the jurisdiction of the Council, or of which the Council has official knowledge already allows a sufficiently broad range of topics to be brought forward under a Mayoral Minute.

Council commentary on specific draft Model Meeting Code changes:

Section	Details of Change	Council Submission
Urgent Business	A range of changes to allow for situations where all Councillors are present at a meeting, and council resolves to consider urgent business, the Mayor/ chairperson will not be required to agree as well	Council is supportive of the proposed change as it simplifies the process and removes a step when all Councillors are in attendance
Public Forum	Deletion of previous “non-mandatory” clauses 4.2 – 4.24 about how forums are run.	Council is supportive of the removal of these clauses, that in the current version of the Model Meeting Code were non-mandatory clauses. Council is supportive of the proposal to allow each Council to make their own determination of how this part of meeting should operate.
Amendment to clause 10.3	Amending clause on withdrawing Notices of Motion after publishing, to state that can be withdrawn any time, and the Mayor will note the withdrawal at the meeting	Council is supportive of the proposal to allow a Councillor to withdraw their Notice of Motion at their discretion without the need to “request” its withdrawal at the Council Meeting
New clause 14.11	New clause stating that Council can go into closed session to hear representations from the public about whether a report should be dealt with in closed session, if the representations themselves relate to confidential matters	Council supports this proposal. Previously all representations had to be made in open session, which potentially risked disclosure of potentially sensitive information. The new clause allows Council more flexibility to appropriately handle confidential matters
Deletion of clauses 14.12 – 14.17	Deletion of clauses relating to procedure for public to object to a matter being considered in closed session.	Council is supportive of the removal of these clauses. Council is supportive of the proposal to allow each Council to make their own determination of how this part of meeting should operate.

Restricting Councils from holding briefing sessions

Details:

The OLG has proposed amendments to the Regulation that will restrict councils from holding briefing sessions. The amendments will establish the appropriate ways councillors are to make decisions and receive information.

Council submission:

It is noted that the OLG has not provided the proposed wording of regulation amendments to allow the sector a full and robust consideration of this especially important topic, with all relevant information available prior to comment.

Wollongong City Council takes pride in the transparency that it provides in its decision making. This is evidenced by the very infrequent use of confidential reports to Council meetings. This transparency helps

mitigate corruption risks and supports good decision making. However, Council is not supportive of any proposal to ban briefings to Councillors as outlined in the Discussion Paper and in the Model Meeting Code.

Council does not make decisions in briefings, as required by the Code of Meeting Practice.

It is important to note that the General Manager and senior staff of a Council may hold a variety of workshops, facilitated discussions and briefings with Councillors about a range of matters, which may or may not be before the council for imminent consideration. Councillor workshops are often held with Councillors to plan initial drafts of a range of documents in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, or to discuss other concepts that are still in the development phase. If these discussions were made available to the public, it could lead to misinterpretation of concepts and ideas that have not been fully explored by the Council and may lead to community distrust and dissatisfaction with Council.

Council is not supportive of prohibiting the holding of briefings for Councillors due to the following:

- Removes the ability to discuss scenarios and ideas in a safe environment. Councillors may be less likely to ask “the silly question” in a public forum leading to less information informing decisions
- Committees are inefficient and create a resource burden on Council to present required information in that forum. This will make the operations of Council less efficient. Administrative staff would need to attend and minutes to be documented
- If questions cannot be answered in the Committee format, a higher rate of deferral of reports is likely to occur. Again, this would impact on the timeliness and efficiency of Council decision making

Council submits that Council business papers should contain sufficient detail and information to inform recommendations made, including an overview of any information provided to councillors regarding the matter under consideration. This practice is undertaken by many councils, including Wollongong, and would be a practical solution to improve transparency in decision making for all councils whilst still allowing councillors to effectively undertake the role they have been voted by the community to perform.

The proposal that such limitations would not apply to the Mayor is problematic for several reasons:

- Providing the Mayor with more information than other Councillors about a matter before Council would empower the Mayor over Councillors in a way that is undemocratic.
- The rationale for this change in this, and the prior, Discussion Paper is to ensure that members of the public impacted by the council’s decision are aware of what the councillors have been told or what has been discussed. The public would similarly expect to be made aware of such information provided to the Mayor.
- The Mayor may, for political or other reasons, then provide that information only to a portion of the elected Councillors and not others, creating an uneven and likely eventually distrusting and ineffective Council.

Whilst not supportive of the proposal, Council submits that if such a proposal proceeds, that a clear definition of what a briefing is needs to be provided. Council would prefer that the proposed wording for regulations to bring this prohibition into effect be circulated to the industry for comment prior to consideration of final implementation.

ITEM 8

2025 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS AND COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

This report seeks approval for Councillor attendance at the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 For Councillor attendance at the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025 -
 - a the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown is authorised to attend as Council's voting delegate
 - b Councillors Linda Campbell, Jess Whittaker, Richard Martin and Thomas Quinn are authorised to attend, and
 - c The General Manager is delegated the authority to determine requests by any other Councillor to attend.
- 2 Councillors to liaise with the Lord Mayor's Office on submitting Motions for consideration at the conference.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer and Business Integrity
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

Convened annually by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) attracts more than 800 attendees each year.

The 2025 NGA is an opportunity for attending Councillors to deliver the views and concerns of Council as well as contribute their own experiences and knowledge to debate on a broad set of national issues, influencing the national policy agenda. The conference's theme this year is National Priorities Need Local Solutions.

ALGA has released a Discussion Paper to provide guidance to councils for the development of Motions for debate at the NGA. The paper provides an overview of policy areas in which the NGA has well-established positions and identifies potential new and emerging policy areas which are being developed by ALGA and require detailed consideration. Acceptance of motions closes on 31 March 2025.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council support the attendance of the Lord Mayor and Councillors Linda Campbell, Jess Whittaker, Richard Martin and Thomas Quinn at the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government, with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown as the authorised voting delegate.

It is proposed that Councillors liaise with the Lord Mayor on submissions to the 2025 National General Assembly, including a motion suggested by Cr Whittaker for the Federal Government to significantly increase funding allocated to the newly established National Active Transport Fund.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4 "We are a connected and engaged city." It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Customer and Business Integrity Divisional Plan 2024-2025.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Councillors are encouraged to utilise the digital conference papers available, to minimise the use of paper.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are available within the relevant budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet costs associated with attendance at the NGA.

The estimated total cost of attendance at the 2025 NGA and Regional Forum for each delegate, if participating in all available sessions, functions and events is \$3,000 (includes registration, travel and accommodation).

All costs are estimates based on costs at the time the report was written. The costs for travel and accommodation may change at the time of booking after approval of attendance.

Accommodation will be booked, and travel is to be undertaken in accordance with the Councillors Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy.

CONCLUSION

Representation at the National General Assembly presents an opportunity for Council to submit and vote on motions relevant to local government issues at a national level.

ITEM 9

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT 2025 NSW AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ALGWA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This report seeks approval for Councillor attendance at the 2025 NSW Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Annual Conference.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That the Lord Mayor Cr Tania Brown and Councillors Ann Martin and Jess Whittaker be authorised to attend the ALGWA Annual Conference in Griffith between 1 May and 4 May 2025.
- 2 The General Manager be delegated the authority to determine requests from any other Councillor to attend the 2025 ALGWA Annual Conference.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer and Business Integrity
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) is the peak body for women in local government. A voluntary-run organisation, ALGWA supports both employees and elected representatives.

The 2025 ALGWA NSW Annual Conference is designed to provide training and support for councillors and staff, whether they are new to local government or have been around for a long time. It's an opportunity to learn and gain valuable insights from our guest speakers along with networking with other delegates from across NSW. The 2025 conference is to be held in Griffith, NSW.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal "We are a connected and engaged community". It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Customer + Business Integrity Divisional Plan 2024-25.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Councillors are encouraged to utilise digital conference papers where available, to minimise the use of paper.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated total cost of attendance in person at the 2025 ALGWA conference for each attendee, inclusive of available sessions, functions and events is \$2,850 inclusive of GST.

Travel is undertaken and expenses reimbursed in accordance with the Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy.

A breakdown of estimated costs is shown below:

Estimated Expenses	Amount (incl GST)
Conference registration	\$1,300
Accommodation (3 nights)	\$850 approx.
Flights	\$700 approx.
TOTAL	\$2,850

All costs are estimates based on costs at the time the report was written. The costs for airfares and accommodation may change at the time of booking after approval of attendance.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 ALGWA Conference is directly related to the business of Council and this report presents the anticipated cost of councillor attendance.

ITEM 10 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR ANDREW ANTHONY - WILDLIFE FENCING

Councillor Andrew Anthony has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Council –

- 1 Write to the NSW Minister for Transport, calling on the State Government to urgently repair the damaged wildlife fencing along Picton Road and Appin Road.
- 2 Request the NSW Minister for Transport establish a regular maintenance program for the wildlife fencing on these roads to ensure their long-term effectiveness.
- 3 Advocate for the inclusion of wildlife crossings in all future road upgrade designs for Picton Road, Appin Road, and other regional roads in the Illawarra to reduce wildlife fatalities and improve motorist safety.”

Background provided by Councillor Andrew Anthony:

Wildlife fencing installed along Picton Road and Appin Road has been severely damaged in multiple locations, rendering it ineffective in preventing wildlife from accessing the roads.

Recent media reports highlighted a distressing incident where a koala was struck by a truck on Picton Road:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-12/picton-road-koala-fence-maintenance-concerns/104718726>

Not only are koalas and other wildlife at risk, but damaged fencing also endangers motorists who may swerve or collide with animals, increasing the risk of serious accidents.

Incorporating wildlife crossings, such as underpasses and overpasses, in future road designs has been proven to reduce wildlife fatalities and improve motorist safety.