

<p><b>Neighbourhood Forum 5</b></p> <p><b>Wollongong's Heartland</b></p>		<p><b>Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City.</b></p>
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**Agenda for meeting at 7.00 pm Wed 4th March 2020 in the Town Hall Ocean Room**

- 1      Presentation    Chris Stewart, WCC Manager City Strategy on the City Centre Review
- 2      Apologies
- 3      Minutes          of meeting of 5th February and matters arising; see pp 12-15.
- 4      Comments        4.1 Councillors;  
                             4.2 Council staff - Mark Roebuck on emergency management;  
                             4.2 Residents;  
                             4.3 University.
- 5      Responses        5.1 Neighbourhood Forums' workshop see p. 2 and p. 9  
                             5.2 Traffic Signal Timing: see p.2 and p. 10  
                             5.3 Development up the Escarpment: see p.2 and p. 10  
                             5.4 Trains: see p.3
- 6      Reports            6.1 Bird Strikes: **see rec p.3**  
                             6.2 Conditions of Consent for Park Events: see p.3 & **rec p.4**  
                             6.3 New Parks for Major Events: see **rec p.4**  
                             6.4 Community Engagement: see **rec p.4**  
                             6.5 University: see p.5
- 7      Key Issues        7.1 City Centre: see p.5 & **rec p.4**  
                             7.2 High Rise Residential: see p.6  
                             7.3 Medium Density development: see p.6  
                             7.4 Keiraville-Gwynneville: see p.6  
                             7.5 South Wollongong: see p.6  
                             7.6 Escarpment; see p.6
- 8      Planning          DAs: **see rec p. 7**
- 9      General Business:
- 10     Snippets          see p. 8

**Next Meeting (AGM): 7.00 pm on Wed. 1st April 2020, Town Hall Ocean Room.**

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**Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 402 households**

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## **5 Responses**

### **5.1 Neighbourhood Forums' workshop**

Given that 3 of 8 original Forums are defunct there needed to be an urgent review of the way Council promotes, supports and demonstrates the legitimacy of the Forums, Council was requested to organise a workshop with representatives from the existing Forums, Engagement staff and those Councillors who consistently support their Forums.

The failure of the Community Development + Engagement Section to get support for the continuation of NF 3 is perhaps indicative that there is a perception that Council is not listening to the Forums so why bother to put in the time and effort? Clearly there is a need to debate the situation and it is disappointing that it has so little priority that this can wait until June.

A comprehensive response is on page .

### **5.2 Traffic Signal Timing**

Following concerns about unnecessary delays at traffic lights, Council's traffic committee be requested to review the performance, for both vehicles and pedestrians, of the traffic lights at the intersections of Kembla and Stewart Streets; Kembla and Burelli Streets; and Burelli and Church streets.

A comprehensive response is on page .

### **5.3 Development up the Escarpment**

Following the Cosgrove Avenue proposal the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment was asked to review its Plans and Policies. A reply from the Regional Director suggests changing the zoning in the most appropriate vehicle to do this. Unfortunately a zoning change which reduces residential density is contrary to State Policy and a response has been sent for advice on the best way out.

A comprehensive response is on page .

### **5.4 Trains**

Sharon Bird MP has passed on our query to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development.

Paul Scully MP has made representations to the Minister for Transport and Roads in relation to these matters.

Ryan Park MP responded:

" Thank you for your letter raising the concerns of the forum regarding train upgrades.

- 1- Professor Mc Naughton high speed train report has not been received by the Government . See attached note from when we asked the Department questions in Budget Estimates.
- 2- I have attached some of the questions on notice I have asked the Minister that would be helpful for the forum.

I have been advised there are plans for a four kilometre crossing loop for the south Coast Line at Toolijooa to create capacity for a regular 30 minute service in peak periods. The timetable will be reviewed by the Department as part of these improvements.

Here is a link for the updates on the new intercity fleet :

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/new-intercity-fleet>,

you will find very useful information and a link to the independent review of the new trains.

Please pass onto your group my thanks for raising this issue and I will continue to fight for better services for the Illawarra."

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Bird Strikes**

Window collisions kill more birds than any other human-related factor except habitat destruction. Estimates suggest the number of birds killed like this globally each year could be in the billions. Building design can reduce the risk of bird strikes which are mostly caused by birds trying to reach habitat they can either see through a window or reflected in it.

One key to reducing bird–window collisions is the development of bird-friendly glass products, which has been gathering pace in recent years. These include acid-etching to mark the outside surface of glass, silk-screen then fire a ceramic compound onto glass to create patterns, or coating the glass with a mesh of UV-reflecting lines (birds can see them, we can't).

#### **Recommendation**

Council be requested to amend the Development Control Plan to require building over two stories high with external glass surfaces which could result in bird strike to use bird-friendly glass products and encourage its use elsewhere.

### **6.2 Conditions of Consent for Park Events**

Council is proposing to change some of the conditions of consent for Events in a number of major parks. These include: Stuart Park, Performing Arts Precinct, Lang Park, McCabe Park, Belmore Basin Foreshore and Osborne Park.

The major point of contention is the extension of the time for "bump-in and bump out" for events. These are already far too generous and should not be extended. There is also a suggestion that camping be permitted in Dalton Park in association with an event.

## Recommendations

Council be advised of:

- i objection to the proposal to extend the time allowed for the park to be alienated from general community use for "bump-in bump out" purposes;
- ii of support for all the other changed conditions of consent for major events in public parks;
- iii objection to camping being permitted in public parks other than via a specific Development Application.

### **6.3 New Parks for Major Events**

Council is proposing 7 new parks for major events using standard conditions of consent. These include JJ Kelly Park and Greenhouse Park. The first seems quite suitable provided the events are held well away from residents. The community is currently unable to access Greenhouse Park at all - the front gate is locked most of the time and the cyclepath along the creek closed. Presumably events would not be allowed to interfere with the on-going rehabilitation work.

## Recommendation

that no objection be made.

### **6.4 Community Engagement:**

The draft Wollongong Community Engagement Policy set out the levels of engagement for various Council proposals and activities. Specifically : Involvement:

"The community will be given an opportunity to be involved in all critical planning processes such as strategic management plans, budget and major planning policies. The level of involvement the community can have in these planning processes will vary. Involvement may include having input into the creation of a draft plan, as well as commenting on exhibited plans and attending public hearings".

The current Policy maintains the four levels of engagement (the third being involvement) but waters down the specifics to the point of meaningless general principles. The series of failures or refusals to engage with the community set out in this agenda highlight major concerns about the commitment of Council to honour its pledge in relation to good governance.

Worse, Council have specifically rejected any suggestion of a broad based Reference Committee to advise and assist on City Centre issues and even a working party on discussing priorities for the Keiraville-Gwynneville Access projects.

## Recommendation

that a meeting with the General Manager be sought to explore ways and means that communication and engagement with Council can be radically improved.

## **6.5 University**

The next campus tour explores iAccelerate on the UOW Innovation Campus, the award-winning business accelerator and incubator. Hear from cutting-edge researchers at the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM) and discover the Science Space, the only dedicated immersive science experience in NSW.

9.45am – 12.30pm Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Meet at The Central, Building 230, Innovation Campus, Squires Way  
Register on UoW website.

# **7 Key Issues**

## **7.1.1 City Centre Design and Economic Review:**

The City Centre Planning Review is the subject of a presentation to this meeting. The Review covers the Design and Economic components but the Access issues and changes to the rest of the City Centre (as defined by Council) dealing primarily with High Rise development and amenity, presumably will come with the Housing Strategy, which are apparently are being developed.

The findings by Council's consultants re-iterate in more detail what NF 5 and a number of previous consultants engaged over the past 20 years. Whilst one might quibble with some of the details nevertheless the broad thrust of the proposed Strategies can be supported. The Design component includes a good number of specific proposals which need to be examined, the most controversial of which is the proposed curbs on parking.

The economic strategy is based on trends but it seems it does not attempt to influence the employment mix, nor provide suggestions for getting jobs by direct action, as was done in the 1980's. It seems to rely instead on infrastructure (eg upgrade the cycleway to the University!) and improving viability by, for example, reducing parking requirements (at the expense of existing businesses and customers).

What is most disappointing is it appears that all the draft concrete provisions - changes to the LEP and DCP were prepared by Council staff without the benefit of co-operation or involvement of the community, nor findings from this Strategy, and presented to the Wollongong Local Planning Panel in June 2019. The agenda and minutes of that meeting cannot be found on the WCC web site.

It seems that the Strategic Planning Division does not intend to involve the community constructively in the development of the controls - the Report states that to assist in the finalisation of the draft Plans it is proposed to get feedback on the Strategy!

As stated in the Report to Council, in 2007 the NSW Government's Department of Planning imposed on Council their City Centre Plan, including a Vision, LEP, DCP and Improvement Plan. However it is clear from reports by many separate consultants since then that a reform process is essential, involving representatives of local key stakeholders and the community to develop achievable options for overcoming the obvious problems with the City Centre.

#### Recommendations

- 1 that Council be:
  - i advised of our extreme disappointment at the lack of consultation in developing plans for the City Centre particularly in the light of the proposals NF5 provided eight years ago;
  - ii advised of regret at its refusal to form a broad based a Reference Committee to investigate and advise on the re-invigoration of the City Centre and improving Council's credibility for openness and transparency;
  - iii requested to hold a workshop as soon as possible to include commercial, developer, landowner and community representatives to discuss proposed changes to the LEP and DCP and hopefully agree amendments before they go on exhibition;
- 2 that a sub-committee prepare a submission for the agenda of the April meeting.

#### **7.1.2 City Centre Access and Movement Review:**

Council is calling for any ideas and suggestions to contribute to this review, including specific details of site-specific problems.

#### Recommendation

that a sub-committee prepare a submission for the agenda of the April meeting.

#### **7.2 High Rise Residential:**

It had been expected that, given that all this type of development is within the Council defined City Centre, these issues would form part of the City Centre design review. Sadly it is not and the issue remains to be assessed by Council.

#### **7.3 Medium Density development:**

There has been no feedback from the Neighbourhood Alliance submission on this, nor the Housing Strategy which will presumably underpin it. Another sadness.

The Director of Planning and Environment has been asked to highlight this issue in her broader presentation to the April meeting.

#### **7.4 Keiraville-Gwynneville:**

The Access and Parking Strategy is now to go to exhibition until 7th April and a full report will come to the April meeting. It is of concern that Council have not responded to our proposal for a working party or steering committee to develop priorities for short term projects.

#### **7.5 South Wollongong**

The flooding and zoning issues remain with no indication of any movement on them in Council.

#### **7.6 Escarpment**

A key test for the escarpment will be the decision on the Cosgrove Avenue development proposal. KRAG got around 80 people to turn up for their meeting last Saturday, re-iterated all the arguments we have made, albeit with a different emphasis, and moved to approach all the politicians that we have. We continue to liaise.

## **8 Planning**

### **8.1 DA 2020/80 6 storey mixed use 290-294 Keira St W'gong**

4th March

This is a proposal for a 6 storey building with 34 residential and 4 commercial units on the NW corner of Keira and Ellen Streets. It complies with height, floorspace and parking requirements but not side setback or building separation and the landscaping is virtually non-existent. The setback issue is minor and can be overcome by screening and building separation continues to be a nonsense.



#### **Recommendation**

that the proposal be supported subject to a requirement for at least 50% of the roof area being landscaped

## **9 General Business**



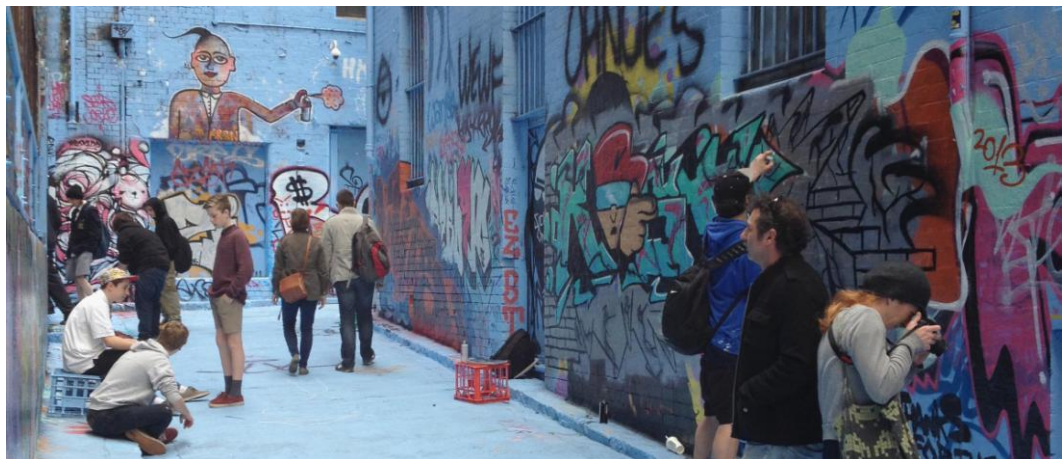
## 10 Snippets

### City Character

A city doesn't get its character from brassy new hotels with space capsule elevators gliding up the walls. Nor does character come from Astrodomes or from phallic monuments to architectural egos. Character comes from people, from the past, from tradition, from the interplay of human forces and emotions in the process of daily life. It springs from the bazaars and marketplaces, the why and how cities began, where people could meet, buy, exchange, communicate, work, carouse, steal, fight, love, relax, be entertained and learn.

Ian Menzies

### Street Art





## Response on Neighbourhood Forums

We value the role Neighbourhood Forums have in providing opportunities for people to connect and influence what happens in their community. Forums provide feedback to Council on local aspirations, needs and concerns, as well as providing feedback on Council plans, projects and policies.

Throughout 2019 Engagement staff actively supported the continuation of the inactive Neighbourhood Forums. At the convenors meeting held in June 2019, Neighbourhood Forum convenors recommended that we meet with stakeholder groups and individuals in the Neighbourhood Forum 3 area to discuss the situation and determine interest in operating the forum. A meeting was offered to groups including Thirroul Village Committee, Northern Illawarra Residents Action Group (NIRAG), Thirroul Traffic Committee and Illawarra Rail Fail. There was no interest in taking on the convenor role.

At the convenors meeting in December 2019 we presented the additional promotion and support provided to Neighbourhood Forum 3 in attempt to see its continuation. Engagement staff developed and delivered a communication strategy to promote Neighbourhood Forum 3. The strategy, reviewed by the Acting Convenor, included:

- § Emails to community groups in the area
- § Posters throughout suburbs
- § Media release
- § Social media posts
- § Community Updates in The Advertiser
- § Frequently Asked Questions to provide more details about the forum and the convenor's role
- § Information on Council's Engagement HQ site

The opportunity continues for a new individual or group to approach Council to reinstate the inactive Neighbourhood Forums. The Engagement team has provided information to community members who have contacted Council seeking advice on how to re-establish inactive Forums. It is important to acknowledge that Neighbourhood Forums act as one point of contact for Council's broader engagement with the community and require a strong and ongoing commitment from a group of community members to be successful. They do not meet the needs of all communities and as such a range of engagement methods are offered by Council.

In response to your request to hold a workshop, we will include promotion and support of Neighbourhood Forums on the agenda for the next convenors meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17 June 3-5pm. An invitation will be extended to Councillors to attend for this section of the meeting.

Community Development + Engagement Manager (Acting)

## **Response on Traffic Signal Timing**

I am pleased to advise that staff from Council's Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning Division have been actively monitoring the performance of the new traffic signals at Stewart and Kembla Streets since they were commissioned late in 2019. There was a need in the first weeks of operation to ask Transport for NSW to adjust the phasing to give a little more priority to Stewart Street. Since then it has been noted that queues for all traffic directions which occur at the red signal are cleared with time to spare on most cycles of the next green signal. I understand there is a computer system which makes automatic adjustments to the green phases depending on traffic volumes in each street.

The background to these signals is that they were primarily installed to improve pedestrian safety now that the new retirement complex has been completed for the Illawarra Retirement Trust on the south east corner of the above intersection. There are also a number of new unit complexes recently completed or nearing completion to the south of Stewart Street, where additional pedestrian movements into the Wollongong CBD are likely to be generated. In these circumstances there may be short delays for drivers making turning movements as pedestrians are given priority in the signal phasing.

The west bound carriageway of Stewart Street is restricted by the fig tree on the south western corner of the intersection. While there is space for two lanes in the west bound approach to Kembla Street, the tree has limited the width of the carriageway to a single lane the departure side. Therefore only one through lane west bound is possible, and the kerb lane is marked as a left only lane. Fortunately the right turn movements from the west bound side of Stewart Street into Kembla Street are a small proportion of traffic flows compared to left and straight through traffic movements. Observations are that delays are minimal, and do not result in drivers needing to wait for a second cycle of signals.

It is desirable for Council to maintain the stock of on-street parking within the Wollongong CBD as far as possible for safe traffic movements. Accordingly the No Stopping area in the west bound kerb lane of Stewart Street on the approach side has been reduced. As noted above it is only the occasional vehicle which turns right, and delays to west bound traffic on Stewart Street are minimal.

Senior Traffic Engineer

## **Response on Development up the Escarpment.**

Thank you for your email on behalf of Neighbourhood Forum 5 expressing concerns with the development application for 47 dwellings at Keiraville that is being assessed by Wollongong City Council. I note the position of the Forum that state/regional plans and policies should be introduced or amended to prevent intensification of development on land outside of centres, particularly in areas with significant environmental values.

As you know, each layer in the planning system has a different role to play in guiding appropriate development and protecting our environment. State and regional plans typically set broad planning principles that are then applied at a local level through Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) and local environmental plans (LEP).

The *Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan* (ISRP) guides land use planning decisions for the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Region. The plan sets high-level goals and directions across themes such as housing, community and the natural environment; and operates as a broad framework for local planning decisions.

The ISRP does address the appropriate location of housing through a number of directions and actions. Specifically, the plan includes Direction 2.2 to ‘support housing opportunities close to existing services, jobs and infrastructure’. The plan also recognises the environmental significance of the Illawarra Escarpment and includes Direction 5.1 to ‘protect the region’s environmental values by focusing development in locations with the capacity to absorb development’. You may be interested to know that the ISRP is due for its first five yearly review so there is an opportunity for this issue to be further explored as part of the review. The process will include opportunities for community feedback and involvement.

Another option for addressing this type of issue is through the Council’s LSPS. In 2018, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* introduced a requirement for all councils in NSW to prepare an LSPS to set a 20-year vision for land use planning including identification of special character and values that should be preserved and how change will be managed. The statements are intended to shape how the development controls in the LEP will evolve over time to meet the community’s needs. Wollongong Council is required to have its LSPS completed by 1 July 2020 and will be consulting with the community as part of developing the statement.

Of the various layers though, the LEP the most appropriate vehicle for identifying the appropriate location of housing and development, and areas that need to be protected from development. This occurs through the application of zones, permissible uses and development controls. Land that is identified as having particular environmental values or constraints or as being unsuitable for development may be zoned to prevent more intensive development. In relation to the current development application, I understand that the subject land is zoned R2 Low Density Residential so was identified as being suitable for residential development under the Wollongong LEP 2009.

I am aware there is significant community interest and concern about the impacts of the proposed development. However, this is a local development application that the Department does not have a role in. This is a local matter for Council as the consent authority. Council is required to consider the environmental and social impacts of the proposed development and all issues raised by the community during the exhibition period when assessing the merits of the proposal. I suggest you contact Council for advice on when the application will be exhibited and then make a submission to ensure the views of the forum are taken into account.

Sarah Lees, Director, Southern Region.



## **6.2 Bushfire Protection**

It was agreed that Council be requested as a matter of urgency to amend its planning policies and controls to prohibit any new dwellings on land shown as on their map as Bush Fire Prone (ie within Categories 1 or 2 Vegetation and their buffers) if it abuts the Illawarra Escarpment.

## **6.3 Boarding House Notification**

It was agreed that Council be requested to amend their current policy such that all proposals for boarding houses be publically advertised to neighbourhoods rather than just to adjacent properties.

## **6.4 Traffic lights**

It was agreed that Council's traffic committee be requested to review the performance, for both vehicles and pedestrians, of the traffic lights at the intersections of Kembla and Stewart Streets; Kembla and Burelli Streets; and Burelli and Church streets.

## **6.5 South Coast Trains**

It was agreed that local State and Federal Members be asked to obtain advice as to the release of Professor McNaughton's report on upgrading regional NSW trains lines.

# **7 Activities**

## **7.1 Keiraville/Gwynneville Access Study:**

It was agreed that:

- i that the preliminary submission be endorsed;
- ii that a group be formed to prepare a detailed response to the Report, the projects selected, their priority and time frames.

## **7.2 Neighbourhood Forums Alliance:**

It was agreed that;

- i Council be request to organise a workshop with representatives from the existing Forums, Engagement staff and those Councillors who consistently support their Forums;
- ii a report come to the March meeting on changes to the condition of consent for generic applications for events on public land.

## **7.3 University Liaison: noted**

## **7.4 Keiraville Residents Action Group (KRAG)**

It was agreed that the Forum welcomes the re-formation of KRAG and look forward to co-operating on issues in Keiraville as they arise.

# **8 Planning**

## **8.1 DA/2019/1356, 15 units 9-11 Park St Wollongong**

It was agreed that the submission of objection be endorsed with a supplementary submission

**8.2 DA/2019/1397 Attached dual occupancy, 30 Keira St. W'gong**  
It was agreed to endorse that no submission be made.

**8.3 DA/2019/1395 Dual Occ, 24 Abercrombie St W, W'gong**  
It was agreed that the submission of objection be endorsed.

**8.4 DA/2019/1288 14 townhouses, 2A Phillips Ave W. W'gong**  
It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.

**8.5 DA/2019/1455 Dual Occ, 24 Mangerton Road, Wollongong**  
It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.

**8.6 DA/2019/1459 Dual Occ, 360 Gipps Rd Keiraville**

It was agreed that:

- i the submission of objection, based on the premise that no addition to bushfire risk is acceptable, be endorsed, provided it conforms to the Bushfire Protection Policy adopted at 6.2 above;
- ii Council be asked to investigate whether or not neighbours were notified of the proposal in accordance with Council Policy and, if not, why not?

**8.7 DA/2020/21 Dual Occupancy 12 Hoskins St Gwynneville**  
It was agreed that the submission of support be endorsed.

**8.8 DA/2019/1375 2, Market Place Wollongong**  
It was agreed that a submission of objection be lodged.

**8.9 DA/2019/1008 1 Smith St Wollongong**  
It was agreed that the submission of objection be re-lodged.

**8.10 DA 2020/4, 14 Cosgrove Ave Keiraville**

It was agreed:

- 1 that a strong objection to the proposal be lodged and that Ward Councillors be requested to support our objection;
- 2 in association with the Neighbourhood Forums' Alliance and KRAG, the Forum make representations to:
  - i Council, Councillors and the Regional Director of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to revise as a matter of extreme urgency all statutory plans and policies to ensure the prevention of the intensification of development in areas remote from centres generally (on sustainability grounds) and in particular in vulnerable, environmentally sensitive areas (on safety and conservation grounds);
  - ii Council to amend immediately its Development Control Plan to make it crystal clear that this type of development in remote and/or sensitive locations is totally unacceptable;
  - iii local Parliamentarians to raise the issue with the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

- 9      General/Late Business      The Chair indicated that the executive had met and suggest that there be a number of key issues raised at every Forum meeting reporting initiatives taken, progress and responses from Council about information sought on data and other matters..      The key issues are:
- 1          City centre - empty shops, economic initiatives, activities, markets, public places.
  - 2          High Rise Residential - population growth, census data, income generation, lack of new facilities, streetscape, reception areas, parks and events.
  - 3          Medium Density - location, design, certification.
  - 4          Keiraville-Gwynneville - access, parking, boarding houses, development.
  - 5          South Wollongong - flooding, design, free bus, development and job retention.
  - 6          Escarpment - preservation, development, bushfires, trails.

It was agreed to support the proposal in principle, for a group to be formed for each issue to follow through and that members wishing to contribute to one or more groups to advise the secretary.

10      Snippets          noted

**Next Meeting: 7.00 pm on Wed. 4th March 2020, Town Hall Ocean Room.**