

Neighbourhood Forum 5

Wollongong's Heartland

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



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

Agenda of meeting **WEDNESDAY 4th February 2026 at 6.00** **In the Library Theatrette**

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| 1 | Welcome | |
| 2 | Presentation | Given the size of this agenda, there will be no speaker. |
| 3 | Apologies | Harold Hanson, |
| 4 | Minutes | of meeting of 3 rd December and matters arising: see pp. 25-28 |
| 5 | Comments | If you wish to comment on, or object to, any of the recommendations in this agenda please respond before the meeting date. |
| 6 | Caveats | see p.2 |
| 7 | Responses | 7.1 Parking replacement for Bus Layover: see p.2
7.2 City Centre Movement and Place Plan: see p.2
7.3 Pedestrian Safety, Keiraville: see p.2
7.4 UoW Access: see p.3
7.5 Grey Street Footpath: see p.4
7.6 Corrimal St footpath: see p.4
7.7 Managing Flood Risk: see p.4
7.8 Issues awaiting responses: see p.5 |
| 8 | Reports | 8.1 Disability Inclusion Action Plan: see p.5, rec p.6
8.2 Continental Pool: see rec p.7
8.3 Aquatic and Indoor Sports Strategy: see p.8, rec p.9
8.4 Beach Services and Surf Sport Strategy: see p.9, rec p.10
8.5 Play Space Strategy: see rec p.10
8.6 Regional Transport Plan: see p.10, rec p.11 & Attachment
8.7 Cats in urban areas: see p.12, rec p.13
8.8 MacCabe Park Master Plan: see p.13, rec p.14
8.9 Jet Ski on Lake Illawarra: see p. 14, rec p.15
8.10 Diggies Café Lease Update: see p.15
8.11 Council's Community Satisfaction Survey: see p.158.
8.12 Homes NSW Gwynneville Proposal Update: see p.17
8.13 WIN Stadium Upgrade: see p.18 |
| 9 | Planning | 9.1 Planning: see p.19
9.2-7 Development Applications see recs p.19-21
9.5 DA determinations: see p.22 |
| 10 | General Business | see p.23 |
| 11 | Snippets | see p.24 |

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 466 household

6 Caveats Please note that whilst these reports and reviews, together with the recommendations and actions based on them, have been prepared with all due care and objectivity, no legal responsibility is accepted for errors, omissions or inadvertent misrepresentations, nor for any outcomes which might result from them.

7 Responses. 7.1 Parking replacement for CBD Bus Layover

In Nov 2025 NF5 requested advice on provisions to overcome the loss of CBD parking due to relocation of buses from Marine Drive. Council recently advised it has no plans to provide alternatives for the general public following the transition of an off-street car park to the Bus Layover. The mobility spaces that were located within the off-street carpark were relocated on-street onto Atchinson by TfNSW

Transport Manager

7.2 City Centre Movement and Place Plan

The Wollongong Transport Strategy (formerly Integrated Transport Strategy) was endorsed by Council on the 15th of September 2025.. The Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan was endorsed by Council on 15 December 2025. The documents can now be viewed on our key documents page - [Key Documents | City of Wollongong](#).

Transport Manager

Comment

Council's initial Transport Strategy and the Movement and Place Plan (replacing the 2013 one) are welcome. Unfortunately there were minimal opportunities for NF5 involvement with Council's consultants during their development and NF5 requests for a meeting with relevant Council staff before the Plan was finalised were unsuccessful. It is noted the Plan's Action List of 44 items includes 26 (60%) unfunded, which is of some concern.

7.3 Pedestrian Safety, Keiraville

In Feb 2025 NF5 requested Council to commission an independent road safety audit at selected intersections in Keiraville and that the report be publicly available. Council's recent response includes that this is a significant task, one which would require operational funding which needs to be considered against Councils other priorities.

A number of these intersections are identified in the Keiraville – Gwynneville Access and Movement Study and sit within Councils IDP request list for future funding.

As you are aware, each project within the IDP is considered and prioritised based on several factors, these include the type

of road, traffic volumes, speeding concerns, crash data, residential density and proximity to business and retail centres, educational facilities, hospitals, and connection with public transport such as buses and trains. For more information regarding how Council prioritises infrastructure investment is available here: <https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/works-and-projects/future-works-and-projects/how-we-plan-future-works>.

Council is committed to delivering infrastructure improvements across the Wollongong LGA. The program includes over 400 projects, exceeding \$400 million dollars across our 4-year program. This prioritisation ensures that projects with the best public value are selected for our 4-year Infrastructure Delivery Program.

Transport Manager

7.4 UoW Access Road Congestion

NF5 affected residents have often raised concerns about road congestion and safety in the Keiraville and Gwynneville areas. Council's recent response includes:

Traffic congestion on roads surrounding University of Wollongong is not directly monitored on an ongoing basis by Wollongong City Council. Council relies on notification or requests from customers or other authorities in such precincts in order to be aware of such matters. Your request is noted, and Council will monitor for other requests from community members regarding traffic congestion in this precinct. There are a number of routes that residents in Gwynneville and Keiraville can take to access M1 motorway and Princes Highway to reach surrounding destinations. Elevated congestion levels can encourage drivers to seek such alternate routes, and this behavioural change may take some time to occur.

In the short term, Council has no plans to manage traffic in this precinct, however Council does keep in regular contact with Transport for NSW regarding any major road works in the area including the Mount Ousley Interchange Project and your concerns will be forwarded to them for their information. With respect to long term measures, the construction of the Mount Ousley interchange will significantly alter traffic patterns in the precinct with provision of additional access points to/from the M1 for university and other local traffic.

Traffic movements will be monitored by Transport for NSW and Wollongong City Council following completion of the interchange project to gauge altered traffic behaviour.

Traffic patterns will take some months to settle following completion of the interchange as drivers familiarise themselves with the new network and adjust their behaviour. Following this time Council and Transport for NSW will ascertain whether any further traffic management.

Additionally, Council is working directly with the University of Wollongong Transport Team to deliver communications via their multiple channels of students, teachers, visitors, and alumni about the various public and active transport routes to access the university, and safe and legal parking and driving practice.

Transport Manager

7.5 Grey Street Footpath

The Asset Team conducted a site inspection of the Grey Street footpath, and the overall condition was deemed satisfactory, and no immediate maintenance is proposed.

Transport Manager

7.6 Corrimal Street Footpath

In Oct 2024 NF5 requested a review of the safety of the Corrimal Street western footpath between Gipps and Kembla Streets. Council's recent response includes: The asset team has conducted a site inspection of the Corrimal Street footpath between Kembla and Gipps Street, Wollongong. Council notes there are some defects that require maintenance, this has been flagged with our maintenance team.

The footpath is not currently programmed for renewal. This footpath segment will be reassessed for renewal in future years after comparing it with other competing priorities for inclusion in the IDP.

7.7 Managing Flood Risk

Information relating to this request can be found in the [Managing flood risk in the Wollongong City catchment | Let's Talk Wollongong](#) (refer to 5.8 Expanded Assessment Post-April 2024 Flood). Please note that the draft report of the study and plan was publicly exhibited recently and waiting for the final report to be adopted by Council.

You may wish to consult with a suitably qualified engineer experienced in floodplain management for advice and further information.

Admin Officer, Floodplain and Stormwater

7.8 Issues awaiting responses

Partial responses/acknowledgements/actions have been made to some of these items but substantial responses are still to come.

1	Community use of Local Parks –	24/10/2024
2	Allotments and Community Gardens -	25/10/2024
3	Road Safety in Stuart Park	06/11/2024
4	Construction activities on Footpaths	24 /11/2024
5	Acceptable Major Event locations	7/2/2025
6	Wiseman Park Playground	2/4/2025
7	Recycling of packaging	2/4/2025
8	Breakwater Public Access	7/5/2025
9	Parking Restrictions adjacent to Stuart Park	9/6/2025
10	Carers parking	08/11/202
11	DA Notifications	08/11/2025
12	Green Apartments	08/11/2025

8 Reports 8.1 Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2026–2030.

This draft Plan has been on exhibition and feedback has been summarised:

- 1 Access to public spaces and facilities:
Uneven footpaths, steep kerbs, missing ramps, and poor signage make it hard to get around. Accessible toilets, parking for wheelchair-accessible vans, and beach access are limited.
- 2 Community activities and social connection:
Inclusive, affordable events and programs are valued. Cost, transport, and inaccessible venues are barriers. People want sensory-friendly programs and intergenerational activities.
- 3 Carers, families, and support networks:
Carers described challenges balancing their own needs with the demands of caring for loved ones. They asked for more support, clearer information, accessible facilities, shaded seating, and inclusive programs. They want practical features like easy-to-find parking and safe drop-off zones to make going out less stressful.
- 4 Inclusive design and sensory needs:
Quiet spaces, calm lighting, and reduced noise are important at libraries, playgrounds, and events. People value fenced playgrounds, shaded seating, and hoists in toilets. Crowded places, loud hand dryers, and unexpected noises or lights can make people feel uncomfortable.
- 5 Information and communication:
Easy Read, Auslan videos, captions, SMS alerts, large print, and plain English summaries are needed.

Information needs to be available in multiple ways. People suggested we add QR codes on signs that link to videos or instructions, and making an “accessible Wollongong” map.

- 6 Transport and mobility:
People described buses that do not pull close to kerbs, limited services at night, difficulty recognising stops, and hazards created by cluttered footpaths. Some said costly taxi fares and long waiting times reduce their independence.
- 7 Employment and workplace inclusion:
People shared their experiences of barriers in recruitment and career development in various workplaces, wanting more flexible options and practical assessments. They would like to see more representation in Council’s workforce. Young people need supports to help them move from school or training into employment.
- 8 Safety and independence:
Lighting, safe crossings, and clear signage help people feel safe. Hazards from e-bikes and scooters were raised. People need privacy and dignity when using accessible toilets, pool hoists and change facilities
- 9 Representation and trust:
People want genuine co-design, transparency, and lived experience in decision-making. Trust is especially important for communities who have experienced exclusion or difficulty accessing services.

Recommendation

That Council be commended on this initiative and that they give consideration on how to relieve these concerns primarily by convening one more community consultative groups of those most able to assist.

8.2 Continental Pool

Serious concerns have been raised about the current condition and ongoing maintenance of the Continental Baths near Belmore Basin popular pool. Built by voluntary labour in the 1920s, these popular baths will celebrate their centenary in 2028. The pool is open year-round and staffed by Wollongong City Council lifeguards. In 2025, there was an unsuccessful request by regulars for the pool’s opening hours to be extended beyond the 2pm closure in the winter months.

It seems that the pool isn’t receiving the care and attention it deserves, especially as it approaches its 100 year milestone. Concerns include:

- * Important maintenance work in 2025 did not go ahead.
- * One of the two pumps required to empty the pool and refill it does not work.
- * One of the two outlet places is inoperable.
- * One of the two inlet places is broken.
- * No annual painting has been undertaken.
- * The pool and its surrounds, including the change rooms, have been neglected and appear outdated.
- * A lack of shade.
- * More often than not the 'hot showers' are cold.

Pool users say the consequence of this neglect is that the pool now needs to be closed for one full day a week as emptying and refilling takes twice as long, depriving swimmers of valuable pool time.

Also, a swimmer at the pool says Council still hasn't responded to concerns raised about bicycle parking at the pool after a bike was stolen from the allocated parking area which is outside the pool with no surveillance.

Another pool user who has a disability says the metal railings which assist people accessing the pool via the ramp are scorching hot and difficult to use on a sunny summer's day. The request is for Council to paint the railings to make them cooler and more accessible. A shade structure above that section of the pool could also provide a solution.

Recommendations

The Forum:

- 1 outlines the concerns raised and to seek urgent investigation and rectification of the problems as appropriate, certainly in good time for the pool's centenary in 2028.
- 2 requests Council build a program of special events in 2028 to mark this significant time in the Continental Pool's history.

8.3 Council consultations on long term strategies for: pools, indoor sports facilities, play spaces, beach services and surf sports

Council's website includes that over the summer months Wollongong City Council has undertaken three significant community consultations designed to help inform and shape its long-term strategies for important community recreational facilities.

Consultation remains open for two of the strategies while the other closed on 28 January 2026. It's disappointing all three couldn't be concluded on the same date (8 February 2026) considering much of the time allowed for community feedback has been over the festive season and school holiday period when many residents may not be as switched on to matters of civic and community importance. Council says it started this conversation with the community over the summer period to catch people who are out and about using its facilities.

8.4 Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy

In recent years it has become apparent that the city has outgrown the indoor sporting facilities currently available. This has been highlighted by the ongoing debate over access to Ted Tobin Hall at Beaton Park where social sports such as badminton, table tennis and pickleball have felt under pressure to make way for basketball and the professional Illawarra Hawks in particular.

In May 2025, Council commissioned a separate consultation specifically to identify the current and future needs of Beaton Park. Council says its "expert consultants are working on a feasibility study to provide Council with future options for this site." That report was due to be completed in Spring 2025, but it remains a work in progress after face-to face consultation with stakeholders during December.

This study is being developed concurrently with the new 20-year *Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy* currently open for feedback. Meantime, progress on the 2018-2038 Beaton Park Master Plan has been slow and is currently under review. Council says its new *Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy* will ensure the city's pools and sports centres can meet the needs of our growing community, now and into the future. "We'd like to hear from you about how you use our pools, leisure and indoor sports centres; what you love about them and where you would like to see improvement," Council says in its consultation documentation.

The Strategy will: plan for the growth in demand and make sure facilities meet the future needs of the community; assess the condition of existing facilities to understand what needs fixing, replacing or adding to, to ensure they meet community and industry standards; ensure participation in sports and recreation are accessible and welcoming to everyone; and support long-term decision making to keep facilities sustainable and beneficial to the community.

City-wide, this strategy will cover nine ocean rock pools, eight supervised community pools, two leisure and indoor sports centres (Beaton Park and Lakeside) and two indoor sports centres (Beaton Park Snakepit and Berkeley Indoor Sports Centre).

Concerns raised over the apparent neglect of the historic Continental Baths at North Wollongong are dealt with in a separate NF5 agenda item, and in late 2025, NF5 supported calls for a review into the feasibility of reopening the swimming pool at West Wollongong Public School which has stood empty for several years, to meet the growing needs of the local community in the central Wollongong area.

Recommendations:

- 1 NF5 members are encouraged to provide their feedback and/or respond to the survey before consultation closes on Sunday 8 February 2026 by emailing NF5 secretary by Friday 30 January and/or Council at engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au, and/or calling 42277111 to speak to the engagement team,
- 2 the executive make a submission on the Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy

8.5 Beach Services and Surf Sport Strategy

Council's website invites community feedback and response to a survey to help develop the Strategy. Link is: <https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/beach-services-and-surf-sports-strategy> .

It includes that Wollongong has 60 kilometres of coastline and 34 beach locations, and Council says this 20-year strategy "will guide how we manage safety, facilities, and activities while balancing costs and community expectations. We'd like to hear from you about how you use our beaches and surf sports facilities, what improvements you' like to see, and what should be a priority for the future."

The strategy covers: patrolled beaches such as North Wollongong, Thirroul, Bulli, Port Kembla and Windang; unpatrolled beaches and coastal locations like Sharkey's Beach, McCauley's Beach and Puckey's Beach; and surf sports and recreational activities, including surf lifesaving clubs, nippers' programs, board rider clubs, learn-to-surf operators, paddle boarding, beach sports, and fitness groups.

Council says this new strategy will:

- 1 Make beaches welcoming for everyone;
- 2 Check the condition of all beach facilities (including surf clubs, patrol towers and amenities) to see what condition they're in and whether they meet community and industry expectations and standards;

- 3 Plan for future upgrades and improvements so Council knows which facilities need fixing, replacing, or adding, and how to prioritise resources; and
- 4 Keep services sustainable by balancing what community wants with the costs of running and maintaining facilities

Recommendations:

- 1 NF5 members are encouraged to provide their feedback and/or respond to the survey before consultation closes on Sunday 8 February 2026 by emailing NF5 secretary by Friday 30 January and/or Council at engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au, or calling 42277111 to speak to the Council engagement team,.
- 2 the executive make a submission on the Beach Services and Surf Sport Strategy

8.6 Play Space Strategy

Council's website invites community feedback and response to a survey to help develop the Strategy. Link is: <https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/play-strategy>. It includes that Wollongong Council currently manages around 149 playgrounds and play spaces and with our population growing and communities evolving, Council asked how it can better deliver play opportunities that are fun, inclusive, safe and accessible for everyone.

This is another 20-year strategy which will assist Council to:

- 1 Understand community needs and aspirations for play;
- 2 Plan for future growth, especially in areas like West Dapto;
- 3 Improve the quality, location and design of play spaces; and
- 4 Make sure its investments deliver the best value and outcomes,

While the consultation for this strategy closed on 28 January 2026, Council is now using community responses received over summer to write its *Draft Play Space Strategy* and will seek further community feedback once that is completed.

Recommendations

- 1 the Forum endorse the submission on the Play Space Strategy
- 2 NF5 members are encouraged to provide their feedback and/or respond to the survey before consultation closes on Wednesday 28th January 2026 by emailing NF5 secretary and/or Council at engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au, or calling 42277111 to speak to the Council engagement team,

8.6 Regional Transport Plan

The TfNSW on exhibition a draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan with comments invited up to 9 February 2026. Link is:

<https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/sritp/illawarra-shoalhaven> . It's Transport Vision is: "The Illawarra Shoalhaven benefits from a safe, connected, sustainable, and resilient road and transport network that seamlessly links communities by supporting the efficient movement of people and freight."

A response could include:

"supporting better public transport options between Wollongong and Sydney and also the Southern Tablelands and Canberra; with consideration of completion of the Maldon Dombarton rail link for passengers as well as freight with a new station at Wilton; more local train services, consideration of light rail from Wollongong Station to South Beach (that could use the option of a trackless tram) via the new development bounded by Crown, Keira, Burelli and Aitchison Streets and the Mall; and, for real measures that will allow for more freight moving to and from Port Kembla to be moved by rail "

An encouraging Short /Medium Term (hopefully urgent) initiative is: Road space reallocation of Princes Highway in North Wollongong and Wollongong city centre: Commence investigations to best utilise the existing road corridor, including Crown and Flinders streets, through North Wollongong and Wollongong city centre to meet future transport needs with improved active and public transport connectivity and supporting emerging land uses. Active Transport initiatives are mentioned but could be given higher priority.

The TfNSW Road User Space Allocation Policy July 2024 should be high priority for progressive implementation in the region. It includes that Transport must allocate road user space based on the following principles, one of which is to:

allocate road user space based on the network vision and road functions, considering all road users in order of:

1. walking (including equitable access for people of all abilities)
2. cycling (including legal micro-mobility devices)
3. public transport
4. freight and servicing
5. point to point transport
6. general traffic and on-street parking for private motorised vehicles. "

Recommendations

- 1 NF5 make a submission on the draft Regional Transport Plan
- 2 Residents be encouraged to upload their submissions or email to: engage.sritps@transport.nsw.gov.au to TfNSW by Monday 9 Feb 2026.

8.7 Cats in Urban Areas

While feral cats kill billions of animals annually, roaming pet cats are estimated to add another 340 million native mammals, birds and reptiles to that toll. The average individual pet cat allowed out to roam is estimated to kill 110 of those native animals every year.

The reality is all cats are born hunters, and roaming pet cats do more hunting than most of us believe. While many cat owners feel confident their pet cat does not kill wildlife, studies involving video-tracking collars and scat analysis have found pet cats very rarely bring their kills home. One study found that pet cats only bring home 15% of the animals they kill.

Preventing pet cats from freely roaming not only helps reduce the impact on local biodiversity, it also helps protect pets from:

- diseases,
- injury (through fighting and vehicle collisions), and
- accidental breeding.

Pet cats allowed out to roam also transmit diseases to other cats, animals and, in the case of toxoplasmosis, even people. We can't change the nature of pet cats but we can keep them and our native wildlife safe through responsible cat ownership.

To foster responsible pet ownership in New South Wales a fact sheet developed by the Invasive Species Council, WIRES, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Birdlife Australia and the Australian Wildlife Society has recommended:

- Amend the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats at a local level.
- Allocate a minimum of \$9 million to fund compliance, education, desexing, identification and registration programs.
- Encourage local governments to develop companion animal management plans.
- Develop a state-wide web resource for pet owners.
- Streamline pet identification and registration processes.
- Make desexing mandatory state-wide.

Recommendation:

That Council be urged to request the State Government to implement these recommendations and seek the support of the NSW Local Government Association to do likewise.

8.8 MacCabe Park Land Classification

Forty-six years ago, in June 1979 Council resolved to acquire properties on Keira St eastern side between Burelli and Ellen Streets to expand MacCabe Park, as per Council's policy adopted in October 1978. On 28 July 2025, after discussions including re the need to develop a Master Plan for MacCabe Park, Council adopted a report recommending Council acquire Lot 1 DP 779479 for the extension of MacCabe park, it be leased initially for 6-months with two options to extend for 5-years each, and upon acquisition the land become classified as Operational Land. The report identifies the lot as RE1 Public Recreation, the LEP applies, and it is the second last of the properties to be acquired.

On 14 Jan 2026 as required by the NSW Local Government (LG) Act section 34, Council's public notice seeks submissions by 10 Feb 2026 re this proposal for the recently acquired land, stating "for the purposes of facilitating ongoing property management strategies and for the future development of MacCabe Park."

The LG Act requires Council to classify its land as either Community (which most Council land is), or Operational. The Government's Public Land Management Practice note includes that Community land is intended for public access and use, cannot be sold, must have a plan of management, and cannot be leased for more than 21 years. It then has to be classified depending on its intended use. Whereas Operational land can be sold.

MacCabe Park land bounded by Burelli, Church, Ellen and Keira Streets is intended for public access and use and is included in Council's Community Land Plan of Management for Council land dated March 2022. It is predominantly classified as Community land, and several smaller lots on the western side adjoining Keira St as Operational. The Community land is categorised as mainly Park, with small amounts General Community Use (eg the southern end and north-eastern corner building) and a few parcels Cultural Significance.

Unfortunately the report July 2025 does not mention the option of classifying the relatively small lot being acquired as Community land.

For many years Council has been requested to develop a Master Plan for MacCabe Park as Wollongong's "Central Park." There have been copious reports, including since 2011 by the Government Architect (Analysis + Design Principles), relevant references in 2016 by Gehl Architects (A City for People, Wollongong Public Spaces Public Life), and in 2020 by Architectus (Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework). The good news is that recently it is understood there has been a commitment to draft a Management Plan by June 2026.

Therefore it seems most unwise to compromise flexibility and Council's options for future development of MacCabe Park if this acquired land is to be classified as Operational.

Whereas if it is classified now as Community land and a subsequent Master Plan deems it needs to become Operational land then the LG Act includes provision for a process to change the classification.

Recommendation

Council be requested the classify the acquired land Lot 1 DP 779479 for the extension of MacCabe Park as Community Land.

8.9 Jet Ski on Lake Illawarra

Advice has been received that the director of NSW Maritime, Mark Scali, has given approval for a six month trial of commercial jet skiing on Lake Illawarra. NF 5 previously expressed concern about how Wollongong City Council had dealt with the initial application that raised questions at the Wollongong Local Planning Panel.

Amazingly, whilst the Lake Illawarra Group has a whole raft of issues to be considered as part of its Terms of Reference, these do not include human activities such as fishing or boating, etc. The Group normally meets quarterly but has not met since September 2025.

The existing Lake Illawarra Group needs to have its terms of reference and roles and responsibilities urgently reviewed and updated to ensure this group is appropriately consulted about any developments or proposal which will impact on the lake, its users and the lake's ecosystem.

Recommendation

That:

- 1 Paul Scully MP, Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils be requested to support an urgent review of the terms of reference of the Lake Illawarra Group to ensure this group (or its executive if time does not permit) is appropriately consulted about any developments or proposals which will impact on the lake, its users and the lake's ecosystem;
- 2 Lake Illawarra Group and Local Councils be requested to ensure that there is community consultation before any consideration is given to extending commercial jet skiing on Lake Illawarra past its six month trial;
- 3 Lake Illawarra Group be tasked with monitoring the impact of the six month jet ski trial.

8.10 Diggies Café Lease Update

At NF5 meeting 3 Dec 2025 it was noted that in accordance with the NSW LG Act Council had re-advertised a proposed agreement to lease and licence the North Beach Café and Kiosk (Diggies), and to extend the period to 15 years. Submissions by 23 Dec were invited including re the effect of granting the agreement would have on the existing and future use of Crown Land. It was agreed the Executive be delegated to make appropriate submission, which was forwarded to Council on 23 Dec.

On 16 Jan 2026 the relevant Manager responded, and on 22 Jan NF5 replied after considerations by the Executive. The Manager's acknowledgment included that a response will be provided in the coming weeks.

8.11 Council Community Satisfaction Survey

WCC are complimented on conducting Community Satisfaction Surveys every 2 years for over 30 years by phone and recently also by on-line. Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025 Report is on Council's website. The surveys provide statistically reliable measures of community perceptions and trends of Council's performance including Overall Satisfaction, its 18 Facilities & 29 Services (some changes from 2023 survey), Organisation Skills, Customer Services and Communications.

In Sep 2025 there were almost 1,000 respondents, of which 600 were a representative sample of residents over 18 years old, and 391 replied to the online "opt-in" survey. A five-point scale is used, ie 1 not at all satisfied, 2 not satisfied, 3 neutral, 4 satisfied and 5 very satisfied.

There are many positives in the 2025 report by consultants including the highest satisfaction ratings for Facilities are consistently the Botanic Garden (88%), Patrolled Beaches, Parks & Open Spaces, Ocean Pools and Libraries, whereas Crown Street Mall is lowest (40%).

For Services the Waste collection services are consistently over 80%. However, the 2025 results show declines since the 2023 survey, which was conducted before the 2024 council elections. For example Council's overall Performance satisfaction is lower than the average for comparable NSW councils, and main significant increases in reasons for dissatisfaction are the Quality/level of service provision (51% v 36% in 2023) and poor Town Planning (36% 21% in 2023). Satisfaction with Council's Overall Performance continues to decline to 50% in 2025, compared with 52% in 2023 and 64% in 2021.

The Survey reports consistently include a Quadrant Analysis, which plots the Services & Facilities on scales of Satisfaction versus Importance, and state "the upper left quadrant (high importance but low satisfaction) denotes services/facilities where satisfaction should be improved ("Priorities for Council"). These are services/facilities which have an important impact on creating overall satisfaction but are performing below average. These should be regarded as Council's foremost priorities to address improvements.

The 2025 report shows "Priorities for Council" for Facilities include for Crown Street Mall, Community Halls/centres, Sports fields & facilities, Children's Playgrounds, Leisure centres, Whytes Waste depot, and Heated Pools.

"Priorities for Council" for Services are: Town Planning - Development Application Assessment process, Parking Compliance & Regulation. But Planning Controls for Development in the city centre and in local area/town centres have not been included in the 2025 survey report.

Extensive planning changes by the NSW Government could have the potential to create significant disruptions. Engineering - maintenance of local Roads, Footpaths, Cycleways & Shared Paths in the city centre & local areas, management of Traffic in the city centre & local areas, provision of Parking in high demand areas (incl city centre & foreshore), Street Cleaning, Public Toilets availability and cleanliness.

Other services - Environmental programs & education, protection of the Natural Environment management & preservation of Heritage. These services are similar to previous surveys but for more services, and provide urgent opportunities for improvements, which the community would expect to be effectively addressed in the near future.

8.12 Homes NSW Gwynneville Proposal Update

On 16 Dec 2025 the Minister for Housing's response to KRAG letter re community concerns included that "Homes NSW takes these matters very seriously. The Gwynneville proposal represents a collaborative effort between Homes NSW and Wollongong City Council (WCC) to address housing needs, including social and affordable housing, while renewing ageing housing stock in a way that benefits the community.

Homes NSW is negotiating a VPA with WCC to contribute toward new or upgraded open space, stormwater improvements, footpaths, cycleways, and an expansion of Spearing Reserve, ensuring local amenities and services meet community needs. Looking ahead, there will be further opportunities for meaningful input when Council publicly exhibits the draft DCP and Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) in early-2026."

"The planning process for the Gwynneville Precinct has been underway for about three years and is now nearing its final stages. Your concerns about proposed density, traffic, and open space provision are noted and are being carefully considered as the proposal, DCP, and VPA are refined. Our commitment is to balance growth with quality of life for current and future residents."

Residents are most concerned to learn they will not be involved in collaborative development of the DCP, nor VPA nor a Master Plan. In September at a public meeting Council rep advised Council does not intend to prepare a Master Plan for the proposed high-density infill development, which is expected to house approximately 2,500 new residents on publicly and privately owned land. KRAG advised Council it supports the need for social and affordable housing but believes the current proposal is fundamentally flawed in its scale, planning, and approach.

Without a robust master plan, comprehensive transport solutions, and meaningful community engagement, the proposal risks creating long-term problems for Gwynneville residents and the wider Wollongong community.

In May 2025 NF5 submission included requested Council to reject a R4 Rezoning but consider R3, and establish a Steering Committee to guide master planning, including representatives from Homes NSW, WCC, UoW, TfNSW, Healthy Cities Illawarra, NF 5 and other local community and advocacy groups. This has not occurred. NF5 Minutes 1 Oct included that Council, and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be urged not to proceed with any re-zoning of the land until such time as, amongst other things, a Master Plan for area has developed in association with affected communities, and adopted. This seem fundamental for the development and it is not understood why Council and Homes NSW refuse.

Recommendation

That NF5 make further representations to Homes NSW, the NSW Minister for the Illawarra and Council.

8.13 WIN Stadium Upgrade

Long-awaited plans for a revamp of the Wollongong sports and entertainment precinct have moved to the next stage with the NSW premier announcing \$17 million in funding and unveiling new detailed plans. The Wollongong Entertainment Centre will be rebuilt and branded WIN Arena, with capacity nearly doubling to 9,500 people.



The Wollongong showground, widely known as WIN Stadium, will be significantly redesigned to include a new northern grandstand and an extended, reconfigured southern grandstand with improved player facilities. The concept plan also includes a new Southern Plaza to be built on the training oval and a beach promenade behind the famous eastern hill spectator area.

9 Planning

9.1 Please note that whilst this review, and the recommendation based on it has been prepared with all due care and objectivity, no legal responsibility is accepted for errors, omissions or inadvertent misrepresentations, nor for any outcomes which might result from the assessments. As these reviews have only been made with the information available, members are encouraged to make their own submissions with any additional comments to the Secretary well before the closing date.

9.2 DA-2025/875 Dual Occupancy, 7 Parsons St West W’gong

15th January

This is a proposal for a single storey house behind one existing to form a dual occupancy. It complies with all Council requirements and with our Keiraville Locality Plan save for a very minor, and acceptable, variation to the floorspace ratio.



Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed.

9.3 DA-2025/871 6 & 7 stories, 36 units 1-9 Wilson St W’gong

9th February

The site is in an R1 High Residential Density Zone and adjoins Osborne Park. The proposal is to demolish a house and the Boat Harbour Motel and construct two buildings containing 36 units (8 affordable) with a café and neighbourhood shop on the ground floor and basement parking. It seems to comply with all Council requirements although setbacks do not seem to have been addressed directly.



However potentially affected residents have raised major concerns about vehicle access to the two level of basement parking is proposed on Council land about 4.5m wide at the south-east corner to facilitate construction rather, than off Wilson St which provides access to existing parking for the motel.

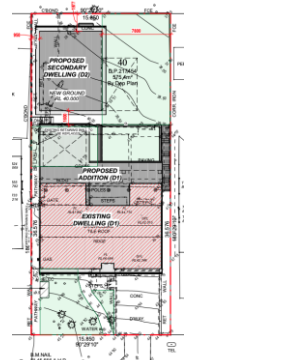
This would significantly compromise pedestrian safety on the Council land, which is used as a pedestrian link between the foreshore and west of Corrimal St, and along the adjoining approx 3m marked pathway, on which vehicles are parked daily by some café customers.

Also there seem to be contraventions of Council’s DCP 2009 by the proposed so-called mixed development (of which the café is a minimal area), thus primarily residential, including to enable change from a motel, which is important for tourism and an employment-generating restaurant, and it is not in public interest

Recommendation

That a submission of objection be lodged.

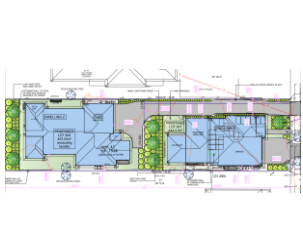
9.4 DA-2025/896 Second dwelling 10 Keira Mine Rd Keiravill
26^h January

<p>This is a proposal to add an addition to an existing house on a very steep slope, and construct a secondary house behind it. It seems to comply with all Council requirements save the height of a retaining wall and a minor height of building. It marginally does not quite comply with our Locality Plan for Keiraville.</p>	
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Recommendation

That a submission of support be lodged.


9.5 DA-2025/931 Dual Occ 12 Berkeley Rd Gwynneville
2nd February

<p>This is a proposal for a single storey house behind one existing to form a dual occupancy. It complies with all Council requirements and with our Keiraville Locality Plan save for two very minor, and acceptable, variations.</p>	
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Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed

9.6 DA-2025/472 – Two dual Occs 79 Bellevue Road Figtree
2nd February

<p>The Forum originally supported this proposal but withdrew support following representations from residents on traffic, heritage and asbestos grounds. This is an amended proposal with supplementary information traffic but not addressing the heritage nor asbestos issues. It is understood the existing building has now been gutted.</p>	
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Comment

This proposal has raised a number of general legal and procedural issues which will be discussed at the March meeting.

Recommendation

That Council be requested to review in detail the heritage and asbestos issues before determining the revised proposals.

9.7 DA-2026/13 Dual Occ 31 Catherine St Gwynneville

<p>This is a proposal for a single storey house behind one existing to form a dual occupancy. It complies with all Council requirements, save being very marginally below lot width. and with our Keiraville Locality Plan save for two very minor, and acceptable, variations.</p>	
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Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed

9.8 DA Determinations

24/96 complies	Keiraville	74 Grey St.	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
24/162 complies	W. W'gong	473 Crown St	7 affordable units + facility	Support	Approved
24/181 complies	Mt Keira	Mt Keira Road	Archery clubhouse	Support	Approved
24/207 faulty	N. W'gong	26-30 Ajax Ave	12 houses	Support	Refused
24/210 faulty	W'gong	41-47 Denison St	17 stories, 75 units	Support	Refused
24/290 complies	W'gong	2 Auburn St	Dog day care	Support	Approved
24/436 complies	W'gong	55 Corrimal St 5 Georges Place	6 stories 11 units	Support	Approved Panel
24/476 faulty	W'gong	264-6 Kenny St	19 stories, 113 units	Object	Deemed refusal
24/477 faulty	W. W'gong	33 Parsons St.	3 houses	Object	Refused
24/538 complies	W'gong	65 Gladstone Ave	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
24/599 faulty	W'gong	109-115 Church St	9 stories, 45 units	Object	Approved
24/574 complies	Coniston	47 Robertson St	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
24/608 faulty	W'gong	Keira and Kenny Sts	14 stories, 116 units	Object	Withdrawn
24/776 faulty	W'gong	14 Finlayson St	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
24/788 faulty	Keiraville	19 Rose St	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
24/860 faulty	Keiraville	13 Braeside Ave	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
24/722 faulty	W'gong	49 Mangerton Rd	Dual Occ	Not to object	Approved
24/796 faulty	Figtree	14 Mallangong Close	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
24/803 faulty	W'gong	34 Evans St	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
24/812 faulty	Gwynneville	26 Crawford Ave	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
25/131 faulty	W'gong	89 Evans St	Dual Occ	Noted	Refused
25/594 complies	W'gong	60 McKenzie Ave	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
25/787 faulty	Coniston	15 Heaslip St	10 townhouses	Support	Approved

Not yet determined

23/765 faulty	W'gong	1-3 Stewart St	13 stories, 27 units	Object
23/945 complies	W'gong	98-104 Gipps St	5 storey commercial	Support
24/510 faulty	W'gong	17-19 Gladstone Ave	47 units, 12 stories	Object
24/708 faulty	W.W'gong	93 Robsons Rd	10 Co-living rooms	Support
24/875 faulty	W'gong	94-102 Kembla St	58 units,7 stories	Support
25/79 complies	Keiraville	35 Bulwarra St	Dual Occ	Support
25/139 faulty	W'gong	15 Marr St	Extra 6 units, 2 stories	Object
25/162 complies	Gwynneville	222 Gipps Road	Dual Occ	Support
25/454 complies	Coniston	57 Robertson St.	Dual Occ	Support
25/466 complies	W'gong	23 Finlayson St.	Warehouse	Object
25/472 complies	Figtree	79 Belleview Rd,	Dual Occ	Object
25/477 complies	Gwynneville	5 Acacia Ave	Dual Occ	Support
25/510 faulty	W'gong	17-19 Gladstone Ave	Extra 3 stories, 12units, 8 affordable	Object
25/1226 faulty	W'gong	37-39 Burelli St,	Extra 19 units, 4 stories	None
25/664 faulty	Mangerton	1, Gorrell Cres	Dual Occ	Object

10 General 10.1

Business

Next Meeting
6.00pm Wednesday 4th March 2026
Library Theatre

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 464 households

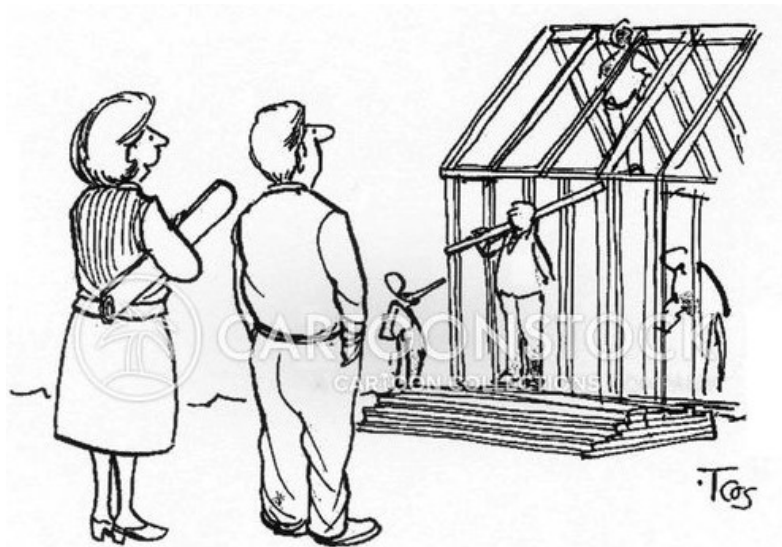
11 Snippets Rebuilding the Dream: Unlocking Builder Potential

State governments are scrambling to solve housing shortages, but the real cause of the shortages will continue to sabotage any strategies designed to accelerate home building. While future generations will be deprived from building and owning sustainable homes, it's a mistake to blame the situation simply on population growth. This is not a crisis of fewer homes being built due to our population size. This is a crisis of the complex regulation sector and its impact on suppressing builder numbers.

The history of Australian home building sits proudly with immigrants, those small and medium business owners who contributed to our post WWII building supply. But now for over twenty years we've made it incredibly difficult for this group to participate in an industry they played a significant role in. The current rate at which regulatory measures are developed and implemented has overwhelmed builders. The builder's rule book has grown from 90 pages in the 1980s, to an implausible 500 today.

eComply was a moonshot to make it possible to obtain planning approval within under a minute. The outcome not only proved it was possible but helped highlight the vast opportunity of the global digital landscape for home building. eComply, is one of the hottest digital products within the North American property market. It wasn't designed to stop regulation evolving but making it easier to apply by everyday Small Medium Enterprises wanting to build a home. Unfortunately, Australia's regulatory bodies aren't ready yet.

Robert Stopajnik



"I went from homemaker to home maker."