

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 meeting WEDNESDAY 1ST April 2026 at 6.00 In the Library Theatre

- 1 Presentation No presentation, as yet, due to late unavoidable withdrawal
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of meeting of 4th March and matters arising: see pp.20-22
- 4 Comments If you wish to comment on, or object to, any of the recommendations in this agenda please respond before the meeting date.
- 5 Caveats **See p. 2.**
- 6 Responses
 - 6.1 Council's Code of Meeting Practice: see p.2: **rec p.3**
 - 6.2 Continental Pool: see p.3
 - 6.3 North Wollongong Beach Seawall Stage: see p.4, **rec p.6**
 - 6.4 Cat Containment: see p.6
- 7 Reports
 - 7.1 Our trains: see **rec p.6:**
 - 7.2 V8 Supercar race proposal: see **rec p.7**
 - 7.3 Gwynneville Homes NSW Proposal update: see p.8 **rec p.9**
 - 7.4 E-bikes: see **rec p.9**
 - 7.5 Friends of MacCabe Park: see p.11
 - 7.6 Wollongong Jetty: see **rec. p. 12**
 - 7.7 The Illawarra Mercury Letters to the Editor: see **rec. p. 13**
 - 7.8 Mount Ousley Intersection Project: see p.13
 - 7.9 Draft Community Safety Plan 2026-2031: see p.14
- 8 Planning
 - 8.1 Planning see p.15.
 - 8.2-4 Development Applications: see **recs pp.15-16**
 - 8.5 DA determinations: see p.17
- 9 General Business 9.1
- 10 Snippets see p.19

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 442 households

5 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.

6 Responses 6.1 Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

NF5 Minutes 4 March include: "It was agreed that Council be requested to advise their process for providing timely information to the public re workshops including adequate details to ensure transparency and accountability, and compliance with the requirements of the Minister for Local Government."

Council's response is "Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides that Council may conduct workshops, strategic and discussion forums, induction sessions, and professional development activities for Councillors that are not open to the public. This is subject to the following conditions:

- a. These sessions do not involve briefings on business listed on the agenda for a meeting of the Council or a Committee of the Council, in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the Model Code of Meeting Practice.
- b. The purpose of such sessions is to support strategic planning, policy development, Councillor education, or general information sharing that does not relate to specific agenda items.
- c. These sessions are not decision-making forums.

Details of Councillor Workshops are published on Council's website and can be accessed at the following link: [Councillor Workshops | City of Wollongong](#)

Information relating to each Councillor Workshop is published on the website on the next business day following the workshop.

In relation to compliance with the new requirements in the Model Code of Meeting Practice, each item/topic that is proposed to be subject to a workshop with Councillors is reviewed by Council's Public Officer to ensure that no "briefings" as defined in the Model Code are held. Council's Public Officer remains in regular contact with the Office of Local Government in relation to the rollout of the new requirements."

Governance and Risk Manager

Comments

The Manager's response does not adequately address NF5 concerns particularly re providing adequate details to ensure transparency and accountability.

Recommendation

NF5 executive make further appropriate representations requiring Council to provide timely available details of closed workshops to ensure transparency, accountability and compliance with the requirements of the Minister for Local Government.

6.2 Continental Pool

“Recognition of the Continental Pool Centenary

We recognise the Continental Pool as a unique 1920s facility with a strong and longstanding connection to the community. As the pool approaches its centenary in 2028, I do acknowledge the significance of this milestone and the strong community interest in celebrating it appropriately.

Feedback on how the centenary could be celebrated was received during recent community engagement undertaken as part of the Aquatics and Indoor Sports Strategy. The centenary celebration is something Wollongong City Council will look to progress in 2028, informed by community input and strategic priorities.

Community Concerns and Recent Operational Challenges

I understand the impact that recent maintenance challenges have had on regular pool users and the broader community. To maintain optimal cleanliness, Council's salt-water supervised pools undergo weekly cleaning regimes that require the pool to be fully emptied, cleaned and refilled. The pool's plant systems include large pumps that operate continuously and draw ocean water from 60–80 metres offshore. These assets are exposed to storms, ocean conditions, seaweed blockages, barnacles and other environmental impacts that can affect reliability.

Since late October 2025, the Continental Pool has experienced extended Wednesday closures following a major storm event that caused one of the main inlet pipes to break away. While the second inlet pipe remains functional, it also requires repair. During the same period, the submersible pump used to empty the pool failed. This pump has since been replaced, and staff have been trained in updated operating procedures. The facility is also supported by two ditch valves used to empty the pool. One of these valves was scheduled for replacement in November 2025; however, the works require particularly low tides (below 0.2m) and low swell conditions. Unfortunately, suitable weather conditions were not available at that time, necessitating the postponement of these works.

The combined impact of unfavourable weather conditions, inlet pipe damage and the delayed ditch valve works has been the primary reason for the full-day Wednesday closures. As a trial measure, partial Wednesday operations resumed from 4 February 2026, with a delayed opening on Thursday. In addition, Council is planning to blast the intake line in the near term to clear any accumulated debris. This work is intended to improve water flow into the pool, which may allow the pool to be filled more quickly and, in turn, support earlier and more reliable opening times, subject to ongoing monitoring of operational conditions.

Maintenance, Repairs and Future Improvements

Planned concourse painting and maintenance works at the Continental Pool were originally scheduled for November 2025.

However, these works would have required a 3–4 week full closure of the facility and were dependent on suitable tidal conditions. As a result, the works have been rescheduled to winter, when tidal conditions are more favourable and the impact on the community is reduced due to lower patronage. Council is aware of broader community concerns regarding the overall condition and functionality of the Continental Pool facilities. These concerns were also reflected in feedback received through engagement on the Aquatics and Indoor Sports Strategy, which will identify gaps and opportunities across the city’s aquatics network.

The Strategy will provide a structured, sustainable and financially responsible framework to prioritise larger-scale facility improvements and future infrastructure investment, including at sites such as the Continental Pool. Concerns regarding the condition of pool surrounds, showers and other minor infrastructure items can be submitted as Customer Requests (CRs). This process ensures issues are formally recorded, assessed on their merits and prioritised alongside other maintenance needs across the service, based on urgency, safety considerations and competing operational demands.

Lifeguard Services Manager

6.3 North Wollongong Beach Seawall Stage 2

Minutes of Council Meeting 27 Oct 2025 re item 16 include: “4. A report describing the outcome of the procurement process be submitted to the next available Council meeting following the successful engagement of contractor or contractors.”

Council website 16 Jan included: “the Successful contractor will be on site in late February after being awarded the contract for the project in late December following a direct negotiation process.”

However Council's recent response to NF5 query why the outcome has not been submitted to any of the three Council meetings since Dec after awarding the contract includes: "The contract referenced below has not yet been executed by both parties. Once executed, the contract details will be uploaded by the Contract Manager and will be accessible via the contracts register. All details will be visible within 45 days of execution.

For clarity, for a contract to become effective, it is not sufficient for it to be awarded alone; all required information must be provided, and the contract must be signed by both parties under the appropriate delegation.

Once the contract has been fully executed, a report will be presented to the next Council meeting, in accordance with the October 2025 resolution."

Comments

It can be expected that suitably experienced project managers could find it incomprehensible how the contractor has been allowed to commence on site on 23 March, yet apparently from the Manager's response above the contract "has not been executed," which potentially could expose Council and ratepayers to significant risks.

Also unfortunately there has been a dearth of publicly available details of this project and the contract, such as scope, timing, costs and impact on constricted community access and safety in this busiest of coastal locations in Council's area. For example there seems to be some confusion about timeframes for the project, initially 6 months (which a major media outlet is still reporting) to 12 months and now 16 months on Council's website as noted in link:

<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/seawall>

No doubt Council would be aware of community concerns about potential for delays (and additional costs) as experienced for Stage 1 works which took almost 3 years for a shorter length of seawall.

To clear the way for the Seawall construction, popular cafes, Diggies and the North Beach Kiosk have now closed. Large areas have already been fenced off, including a section of the beach and the Blue Mile. A pop up kiosk will be opened shortly on a grassy area on Emma McKeon Promenade.

In a notice to local residents, Council says the Seawall works will take place on weekdays 7am-6pm and Saturdays 8am-5pm on occasion. Works are expected to be completed by mid 2027.

Recommendation

Council be requested to establish a working group comprising key stakeholders (including representatives of the Surf Club, affected businesses and NF5) to meet regularly to share information and monitor progress on the seawall and café/kiosk/annexe refurbishment project.

6.4 Cat Containment

“As you are aware a Notice of Motion was put forward by Councillor Stuart at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 23 February 2026, in relation to support of the *Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025*, and in particular cat containment. In response to Councillor Stuart’s Notice of Motion, Council resolved ‘that Councillors receive an Information Note or Workshop on Council’s capability for cat management’. Notes on the notice of motion can be found on Council’s website at [Microsoft Word - CM_20260223_MIN_2026](#) – being Item 10 of the Ordinary Meeting of Council – 23 February 2026.

I can advise that at this time, Council is currently awaiting the outcome of the review of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and the implementation of any new legislation before consideration of potential changes to our services or approach to cat containment.

Manager Regulation + Enforcement

7 Reports

7.1 Our Trains

A growing number of trains between Wollongong and Sydney have reached capacity with many passengers having to stand for long periods with no seats available. This has been a growing problem in recent times but now, exacerbated by the war in the Middle East and the associated rise in petrol prices, clearly there is an urgent need for more trains and more carriages on existing trains. suggesting a need for more trains. Some 6 or so years ago, former NSW Transport Minister Andrew Constance said that with the new trains, there would be more trains at peak hour and off peak.

Recommendation

That NF5 write to Hon Paul Scully MP asking him to inquire of NSW Transport Minister John Graham as to when Wollongong train users may expect to see more trains on the South Coast line, as promised by the former NSW government, and may they be provided this year. Also to advise whether the new trains will continue to go to Bondi Junction in peak hours and weekends, and to confirm that in any timetable change, trains will continue to stop at North Wollongong, and Wollli Creek.

7.2 V8 Supercar race proposal

Wollongong City Council and Destination Wollongong have confirmed they have been in preliminary, high-level discussions with V8 Supercars and Destination NSW regarding the search for a new venue for V8 racing in NSW.

Previously the city of Newcastle hosted four annual street races before withdrawing in 2023 due to public opposition based on the impacts on residents and businesses and the cost to the city of hosting the event. This has prompted the search for a new host city.

In local media, Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown has given a lukewarm response, saying the race shouldn't take place in Wollongong's CBD. She did say, however, that an approach had come from Destination NSW and so Council would do its due diligence to assess the pros and cons of the city hosting such an event in the future. The Lord Mayor said she wanted to hear the community's views on whether Wollongong should host V8 car races.

It is estimated that the bump in for the event would take approximately four weeks, and the bump out about two weeks, meaning a significant disruption along the race circuit. While it has been suggested in the media that the course would take in the city's landmarks, there has been no formal proposal to date. Race organisers say the event in Newcastle provided a \$40 million windfall for the city with nearly 200,000 spectators attending.

Destination Wollongong said our city has proven it has the capacity to host major events following the UCI World Road Cycling Championships and the World Triathlon Titles and that V8 Supercar races could provide significant positive exposure of the region. Ward Two Councillor Kit Docker has expressed his concern that the first he'd heard of the proposal was via the media.

Recommendation:

NF5 requests that Wollongong City Council and Destination Wollongong consults broadly and early with the community should a formal proposal for V8 Supercar races be received and specifically with Newcastle City Council to better understand lessons learnt from their experience as a host city.

7.3 Gwynneville Homes NSW Proposal update

On 2 Feb 2026 NF5 minutes included “It was agreed that NF5 make further representations to Homes NSW, the NSW Minister for the Illawarra and to Council requesting community representatives be actively involved in identifying the necessary infrastructure requirements and developing a plan to assist in consideration of a Voluntary Planning Agreement.” Responses from Homes NSW and Council are awaited.

On 6 March 2026 a meeting was held with Ryan MP, Minister for the Illawarra and representatives of KRAG and NF5, to seek assistance in addressing what affected residents view as serious problems with the management of the Gwynneville redevelopment project. Comparison was made with the Bellambi redevelopment project managed by Homes NSW, which appears to address key issues thoroughly, in conjunction with the affected community.

It was agreed that opportunities for improvement at Gwynneville particularly include re communication with affected persons and the community, and it was suggested that aspects of the manner in which the Bellambi project is being developed provides a model which should be applied in Gwynneville. The Minister advised he would arrange a meeting in the near future with senior representatives of Homes NSW, WCC, KRAG and NF5

In June 2024 the Minister for Homes announced that Bellambi Estate had been identified for renewal. On 23 March 2026 Council considered a report on a Planning Proposal Submission for Bellambi Point rezoning.

The Planning Proposal only applies to the northern part of Bellambi Estate, north of Rothery Street and Bott Drive comprising an area of 26 hectares and currently contains 498 dwellings, of which 474 (95%) are owned by public authorities (mainly by Homes NSW) and 24 (5%) are privately owned.

During 2025 Homes NSW undertook community engagement activities, and NSW DPH&I released the Planning Proposal for public exhibition closing 13 March 2026. Homes NSW propose a minimum of 30% social housing, which will represent an increase in the number of social housing dwellings (474 to 600–750), but a decrease in the percentage due to the increased number of proposed private housing (93% to 30%).

Council's submission is comprehensive and includes that overall Council is generally supportive of the Planning Proposal and the redevelopment of Bellambi Point, and supports the proposed increase in social housing, but encourages Homes NSW to consider delivering a higher proportion of social housing, and to include a clear commitment to Affordable Housing, and a mechanism for delivery.

Council welcomed the commitment from Homes NSW to invest in infrastructure to support the precinct's future population and will work with Homes NSW to identify appropriate open space, recreation/sports, community facilities that best support the needs of existing and future residents. And also the local service centre.

Council recognised that appropriate investment in active transport infrastructure and public transport services (buses through the precinct and train services at nearby train stations) will also be required.

Council highlighted the need for Homes NSW to consider the programs, partnerships and approaches necessary to support the community through the scale of change proposed, including measures that strengthen social cohesion.

Council's website notes the Lord Mayor states: "We are generally supportive of the proposal and the positive impact it can have, but we want to ensure that the desired outcomes support our existing housing strategies and include plans for new and improved infrastructure to support a growing community."

Recommendation

Council be requested, in its chosen role in managing the Gwynneville housing project, to provide similar rigor to Homes NSW Bellambi project in providing comprehensive expert reports and particularly re developing comprehensive costed plans for essential infrastructure and services investment and to strengthen social cohesion.

7.4 E-bikes

On 5 March 2025 NF5 Agenda included: "A NSW Parliamentary Committee released a comprehensive Report titled: Use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options. The Chair's foreword includes: "In just a few years, e-scooters, e-bikes and other e-mobility options have transformed the way we get around our towns and cities."... "Yet, their rapid uptake has meant that our laws and infrastructure haven't kept pace".

”The issues we are seeing with e-mobility devices are not so much about the devices themselves – they are signs that the rules and the way we enforce them are outdated or ineffective. Action is needed now.

”The committee was unanimous in supporting the expansion and integration of both private and shared e-bikes and e-scooters in the state’s transport system through a comprehensive regulatory framework that prioritises safety and accessibility.” ” Local councils have borne the brunt of the current fragmented approach and regulatory gaps.”

The Report has 34 recommendations for the Government to consider including:

- 1 That the NSW Government develop a comprehensive framework to integrate private and shared e-mobility into the state’s transport system which supports the use of both private and shared e-scooters, e-bikes and other e-mobility devices as legitimate forms of transport;
- 2 Clearly defines the responsibilities of state and local governments;
- 3 Sets consistent safety, operational and accessibility standards; and
- 4 Provides targeted support to help councils effectively manage services and usage within their local contexts.”

Other recommendations relate to:

- 1 riding on footpaths and shared paths,
- 2 maximum speeds,
- 3 reducing on-road speed limits where appropriate,
- 4 updating Road Rules,
- 5 non-compliant e-mobility devices,
- 6 unsafe behaviours,
- 7 battery standards,
- 8 knowledge tests for users,
- 9 point-of-sale safety and legal advice,
- 10 the need for Government support funding and
- 11 to investigate insurance models.

Over the past year there have been many media reports throughout Australia about safety concerns re e-mobility devices. A recent media release from local MP Paul Scully includes: “The Minns Labor Government is rolling out staged reforms to strengthen e-bike safety in NSW, including enhanced police powers to seize and crush illegal high-powered devices, the trial of portable dyno units for roadside compliance testing, the introduction of a minimum rider age subject to expert review, and adoption of the European EN15194 standard to ensure e-bikes function as pedal-assist bicycles rather than motorbikes.

Under the new standard, power will be capped at 250 watts, motor assistance must cut out at 25km/h, throttle-only riding will not be permitted above 6km/h, and stricter battery and anti-tampering requirements will apply to help remove non-compliant devices from roads and footpaths.”

“With an estimated 760,000 e-bikes already in use across NSW, a three-year transition period to 2029 will give riders, retailers and manufacturers time to adjust, striking a balance between improved safety and maintaining e-bikes as an accessible and practical transport option. We want people to be active and have this transport option available to them but it also has to be used responsibly.”

More information is available on the link: [E-bikes | Transport for NSW](#)

7.5 Friends of MacCabe Park

As reported to the last NF5 meeting, concerns over the loss of green space in and around Wollongong's CBD with the rapid densification of the city have resulted in the creation of a Friends of MacCabe Park group. The 10-year vision of the Friends is to see "the creation of the coolest, most beautiful regional park in Australia."

Friends of MacCabe Park Convenor, Patricia O'Brien met recently with Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown, to outline the aims and aspirations of the group. Patricia told the Lord Mayor that while new housing in the city was important, so too was every square metre of green space in and around the CBD, and MacCabe Park provided the 'green lungs' for our city.

Updating Friends of MacCabe Park following her meeting with the Lord Mayor, Patricia said she was heartened by Cr Brown's response, as they discussed the challenges facing our city centre, where thousands of new units are being built creating greater demand for accessible parks and garden spaces.

Patricia said the Lord Mayor shared the concerns of the Friends and was keen to work together to create something special in the heart of the city "to create the most useable and beautiful urban park in Australia," In the months ahead the Friends of MacCabe Park will work on a grassroots concept plan with the hope it can positively inform the master planning process that Wollongong City Council will undertake next year.

The Friends are keen to hear the community's views, including members of NF5, about their long-term vision for MacCabe Park. They have listed some thought-starters about the sort of things that might be included in the park in future to ensure it reaches its full potential. They include:

- 1 More seating
- 2 More shade trees
- 3 BBQ areas
- 4 More public art (sculptures)
- 5 A water fountain
- 6 Water bubblers
- 7 A walking/jogging track
- 8 A larger, accessible kids' playground
- 9 A kiosk
- 10 Tourist information centre
- 11 Stage area for community events
- 12 An outdoor gym/fitness area
- 13 Improved lighting
- 14 Landscaped quiet reflective spaces

These are just a starting point, and the Friends would like to get the views of more people. What will make MacCabe Park more attractive to you? NF5 members are encouraged to send their thoughts via email to obrienpatricia447@gmail.com by Friday 4 April 2026.

7.6 Wollongong Harbour Jetty Closure

Recent damage, discovered during a routine inspection by Transport for NSW (Maritime) staff has seen the immediate closure of the timber jetty at the centre of Wollongong Harbour. T4NSW said it had fenced off access to the jetty after identifying structural concerns, including a damaged pylon and areas of missing timber decking.

T4NSW said it would engage a qualified engineering team to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the jetty. The timeline for repairs will be determined based on the results of the assessment. In thanking the public for its understanding and patience, T4NSW said it was committed to addressing the problems "promptly and responsibly...to ensure the Wollongong Harbour jetty meets the Highest safety standards.

Recommendation

NF5 expresses its concerns to Member for Wollongong Paul Scully about the deteriorating condition of Wollongong Harbour's ageing infrastructure, and request a presentation from Transport for NSW (Maritime) about the ongoing maintenance program at Belmore Basin, and to provide a progress report on the implementation of the 2019 Wollongong Harbour Masterplan.

7.7 **Future of The Illawarra Mercury Letters to the Editor**

With no explanation, NF5 members have observed, over the past month, the sudden removal of letters to the editor and local daily editorials from the pages of our local newspaper, *The Illawarra Mercury*. The popular letters and editorial page appears to have been replaced by a daily opinion piece which is often written for a national, rather than a local audience.

Newspaper letters to the editor are a vital democratic tool, providing a platform for public discourse, community voices, and accountability. They allow citizens to express opinions, react to news, and influence policy makers, who often monitor this section of the newspaper to gauge the views of constituents. These letters also educate the public and spark local debate. Newspaper editorials, especially for a local audience, are essential for shaping public opinion, setting the agenda on key social and community issues, and providing reasoned analysis to explain complex events. They offer an authoritative voice that interprets news, influences policymakers, and encourages civic engagement, essentially functioning as the "heart" or conscience of a newspaper.

Recommendations:

That the Forum:

- 1 expresses its disappointment at the apparent decision by *The Illawarra Mercury* to no longer carry its daily editorial and letters to the editor.
- 2 seeks the reinstatement of the letter/editorial page for the reasons outlined above and to give the local community an opportunity to comment publicly on issues of importance to it.
- 3 requests support from WCC representations and local State & Fed MPs

7.8 **Mount Ousley Intersection Project**

A meeting with reps of TfNSW, Fulton Hogan, nearby residents, KRAG and NF5 was held on 24 March at the site office to discuss concerns raised about safety aspects of the eastern Shared Path adjacent TAFE, for about 400m towards Helen Street.

TfNSW advised that a concrete safety barrier would be constructed to provide separation of southbound vehicles proceeding on the roadway to the University Avenue roundabout. But concerns were raised that the barrier height needs to be about twice the 650mm proposed (such as exists for the 1300mm high steel mesh fencing on Springhill Road eastern path) to avoid cyclists falling into the path of vehicles on the roadway in the event of an accident on the shared path. TfNSW were requested to investigate options for solutions.

Also the lack of shade protection for pedestrians and cyclists using the path was discussed. TfNSW advised constraints due to relocated major electrical cabling between the path and inside TAFE boundary (which took many years to negotiate) prevents planting substantial trees, and providing shade structures would not be practical. It was suggested some shrubs could be planted on the eastern side of the fence. TfNSW will investigate the feasibility.

The potential for glare for users of the proposed concrete path was discussed and options discussed included painted or coloured concrete. TfNSW will investigate. TfNSW advised that the path will be adequately lit from proposed adjacent roadway lighting. Concerns were raised about the safety of the path during peak flooding events due to the velocity of flow experienced downstream of the structures under the motorway.

TfNSW advised that has been considered in the design, but will check again. The lack of consideration of providing adequate infrastructure for active transport to and from UoW for many years was raised. TfNSW advised there has been significant consideration in this project, particularly since various interventions in the detailed design stage, such as evidenced by the restoration of the bridge and approaches over Mt Ousley Road, which is greatly appreciated by the community. It was mentioned thus path is part of a major walking route between Mt Ousley and Mt Keira.

TfNSW and Fulton Hogan were thanked for the opportunity to discuss these matters and in anticipation of further advice re issues raised.

7.9 Draft Community Safety Plan 2026-2031

Wollongong City Council has placed on public exhibition its latest draft Community Safety Plan 2026-2031 <https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/draft-community-safety-plan-2026-2031> and is seeking community feedback before the deadline of Tuesday 3 May 2026.

In preparation for this draft plan, 12 months ago Council invited the community to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas about safety. There were more than 500 responses via surveys, workshops and pop-ups.

The key takeaways included:

- 1 People feel less safe at night, in the city's CBD and their own area.

- 2 Train stations, bus stops and parks were mentioned as places where people feel unsafe in their neighbourhoods. In the CBD, the train station and upper Crown Street towards the hospital were where people felt most vulnerable.
- 3 People said a stronger police presence would make them feel safer.
- 4 More than one in three people (35%) who completed the survey said they had experienced or seen a crime in the past year, but less than half (46%) reported it to police.
- 5 Most people get their safety information from social media.

Council says the new Plan is based on current crime data, research into safety trends and feedback from the community. Over the next five years, Council will take practical steps to reduce opportunities for crime, improve perceptions of safety, and respond to emerging safety issues.

Council says it will regularly review and report on the Plan's progress to ensure it is responding to the needs of the community. NF5 members are encouraged to provide their feedback by: Completing the [online feedback form](#).

- 1 Emailing engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
- 2 Writing to The General Manager, Wollongong City Council, Locked Bag 8821 Wollongong DC NSW 2500.
- 3 Phoning Community Engagement on 4227 7111.

8 Planning

8.1 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 before the closing date if possible.

8.2 DA-2026/141 Dual occ 199 Church St Wollongong

26 March

This is a proposal for an attached dual occupancy between row houses and a vacant lot. It seems to comply with all Council requirements save side setbacks. Where because the parapet wall is greater than 7m in height to obviate flood levels it is 1.945m instead of 3m. It would not appear to affect adjoining properties.



Recommendation:

That the submission of support be endorsed subject to Council being satisfied that the impact on 201 Church Street is acceptable.

8.3 SSD 6789 5459 Smith and Charlotte Sts W’gong

1st April

This is a proposal to modify an approved State Significant Development on part of the old gas works site by increasing the height of the lower of two towers by 3 stories. This would allow an additional 28 units – 4 affordable. It seems that the design is consistent with existing height and other relevant controls and will have little or no additional adverse impact.



View from Smith St

Recommendation:

That a submission of support be submitted subject to adequate planting of appropriately large street trees spaced to create a joined up shade canopy along all the development’s street frontages. This would contribute to the aspirations of Council’s Urban Heat Strategy and its objective to significantly increase the City’s tree canopy.

8.4 DA-2026/102 12 units 26-30 Ajax Ave North Wollongong

8th April

A similar proposal for this site, which the Forum supported, was refused by Council. This proposal comprises 6 x two storey dwellings and 6 x single storey dwellings each with attached garage/carport. The site adjoins a major floodway to the north and a small section on Ajax Avenue is to be dedicated for road widening. It seems to comply with all Council requirements including flood.



Recommendation:

That a submission of support be submitted subject to Council being satisfied that it contributes to its Flinders Street Strategy Plan and will not constrain unduly the future alignment of Ajax Avenue.

9.5 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

General Business

Next Meeting

6 pm Wednesday 6th May 2026

Library Theatrette

10 Snippets

Community Representatives on Local Planning Panels

Mandatory Local Planning Panels ('LPPs') were introduced in New South Wales ('NSW') to build public confidence in the development approval process. Prior to LPPs' introduction in 2018, the Independent Commission Against Corruption aired a string of corruption scandals within the council development approval process, including instances of bribery and inappropriate personal relationships between developers and council staff. This misconduct drew public attention to the issues that can be caused by councils approving developments. In response, the mandate of independent planning panels was expanded and responsibility for approving sensitive developments was shifted from local councils to LPPs, which are comprised of three expert members and one community representative

Independent expert panels now proliferate in the New South Wales planning system, the role of the planning panel's community representative remains oblique. A recent study undertook the first empirical analysis of the professional backgrounds of community representatives on mandatory Local Planning Panels ('LPPs') in New South Wales to understand who is selected to participate on communities' behalf. It argued that the LPP community representative role neutralises public participation in the planning system. Structurally, the community representative sits as a minority on LPPs, and the role of the community representative is ill-defined in relevant statutory and policy documents.

The management of community representatives' conflicts of interest is inconsistent across local governments and the State Government. The study found preliminary evidence indicating a preference amongst some councils for appointing built environment professionals to community representative positions and, to a lesser extent, former politicians. The majority of LPPs in New South Wales appear to appoint at least one planning professional to the community representative pool. The professional makeup of community representatives indicates the prioritisation of technical expertise over non-expert public participation on LPPs.

