

# **Welcome to the Wollongong Business Community**

We would like to welcome you to the 16,000 businesses who already call the Wollongong Local Government Area home. Council's Economic Development team is passionate about supporting our local business community and is always here to help. We have compiled the key resources and networks that Wollongong offers for small businesses. If you would like to contact us, please reach out to <a href="mailto:economicdevelopment@wollongong.nsw.gov.au">economicdevelopment@wollongong.nsw.gov.au</a>.

# **Economic Insights Report**

Looking for economic data? Check out our Economic Insights Reports to be up to date on the latest for the Wollongong economy.

You can find a list of the reports here here.

You can also find more economic data on our Economy.id profile.

# Wollongong Business News - sign up to stay up to date

Sign up to our monthly newsletter to get up to date business information, including resources and services available to local businesses in the Wollongong LGA.

Sign up and stay up to date with relevant information here.

# Service NSW Business Bureau Business Concierge

Lorraine Fenech is Wollongong's dedicated Business Concierge from the Service NSW Business Bureau. She can provide free ongoing one-on-one guidance and support at every stage of your business journey. You can connect with her over the phone, online or face-to-face.

Request a callback from Lorraine by calling 13 77 88 or using this link: <u>Book a call here</u>.

#### **Business Connect Business Health Checks**

Council collaborates with the Service NSW Business Bureau and Enterprise Plus to deliver the Business Connect 'Business Health Checks'. These health checks are free **45 minute** sessions for businesses to come and speak to <u>Gabrielle Browne</u>, a local business advisor about advice, upskilling, resources and more.

Find out more information and book here.

#### **Further Business Connect Support**

The Service NSW Business Bureau Business Connect program also provides online resources you can access at any time and attend in-person and online events for practical tips.

There are also up to eight hours of free additional business support per financial year that you can access through the <u>Service NSW Business Bureau Business</u> Connect program.

#### **Local Business Networks**

Wollongong is home to several local business and industry networks:

- Business Illawarra
- i3net
- iAccelerate
- Illawarra Women in Business
- ITeC Wollongong Business Connections
- Property Council of Australia
- Screen Illawarra
- Siligong Valley
- Urban Development Institute of Australia Illawarra

#### **Local Chambers**

There are three active local chambers in the LGA:

- Business Dapto
- Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce
- Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce

## Wollongong City Council Small Business Planning Team

Did you know Council has a Small Business Planning Team that offers clear specialist advice and assistance to small businesses regarding topics such as development approvals and licensing processes?

Find out more information here.

## **Small Business Commissioner**

The <u>NSW Small Business Commissioner</u> is an independent authority which advocates for the interests of small businesses. They provide several support services for small businesses which include:

- Advocacy
- Guides and training
- Factsheets
- Mediation
- Small Business Reference Group
- Submissions and Reviews
- Surveys and Engagement

<u>Sign up to the Commissioner's newsletter</u> to get up to date on news and services you can access as a small business.