



Image: Sunrise at Lake Illawarra

Wollongong City Council

Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan Summary

Adopted 27 June 2022



Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Summary

From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and will be leaders in building an educated, creative, sustainable and connected community.



Goal 1 We value and protect our environment



1.1 The community is actively involved in the expansion, improvement and preservation of our waterways, green corridors and other natural areas connecting the escarpment to the sea.

1.2 Manage and effectively improve the cleanliness, health, biodiversity of land and water including creeks, lakes, waterways and oceans.

1.3 Increase our resilience to natural disasters and a changing climate to protect life, property and the environment.

1.4 Work together to achieve net zero carbon emissions and reduce waste going to landfill.

1.5 Maintain the unique character of the Wollongong Local Government Area, whilst balancing development, population growth and housing needs.

1.6 West Dapto urban growth is effectively managed with facilities and spaces to support the future community.

1.7 Develop and implement programs and projects that achieve proactive heritage management, education and promotion.

Goal 2 We have an innovative and sustainable economy



2.1 Support educational and employment opportunities that retain young people and local talent, attract new workers and provide opportunities for the unemployed.

2.2 Continue to diversify and grow Metro Wollongong economy as the Illawarra's regional capital and employment centre.

2.3 Increase and attract new business investment and enterprise to Wollongong while supporting and growing existing local businesses.

2.4 Encourage an innovative economy, which drives entrepreneurship and research capability in the Wollongong Local Government Area.

2.5 Work with partners to facilitate sustainable and green industries.

2.6 Support growth sectors to assist in the ongoing transition of Wollongong's economy.

2.7 Promote the Wollongong Local Government Area as an event, conference and visitor destination.

2.8 Continue to build Wollongong as a vibrant, modern city with a revitalised city centre and an active evening economy.

Goal 3 Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city



3.1 Using community art and cultural development practices, our places and spaces reflect the creativity, history and identity of our people.

3.2 We encourage innovation and creativity.

3.3 Museums and galleries are promoted as part of the cultural landscape.

3.4 We work in partnership to reduce inequity and build on opportunities to strengthen vulnerable communities.

3.5 Provide communities with access to quality local spaces and places to meet, share and celebrate.

3.6 Enable signature events and festivals where communities and visitors can gather and celebrate.

Image: Lake Illawarra
Photo Liam Pozz (Unsplash)

How will we get there?

Goal 4 We are a connected and engaged community



4.1 Provide our community with equitable access to information and opportunities to inform decision-making.

4.2 Improve digital access and participation across all communities.

4.3 Partner with First Nations People and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities on programs and projects.

4.4 Build awareness and understanding of Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, heritage and histories.

4.5 Our community strives for social harmony and values and respects differences.

4.6 Support and strengthen the local community services sector.

4.7 Demonstrate responsible decision-making based on our values, collaboration, and transparent and accountable leadership.

4.8 Council's resources are managed effectively to ensure long term financial sustainability.

4.9 Excellent customer service is core business.

4.10 Wollongong's role as a Learning City is supported by lifelong learning initiatives.

4.11 Quality services, libraries and facilities are available to communities to access and gather.

4.12 Technology is used to enhance urban planning and service provision for our community.

Goal 5 We have a healthy community in a liveable city



5.1 Accessible and appropriate medical services are available to the community.

5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community.

5.3 Work towards enabling all people in our community to have access to safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainably produced food.

5.4 Provide a variety of quality and accessible public places and opportunities for sport, play, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community.

5.5 Provide safe, well-maintained and accessible beaches and aquatic recreation facilities.

5.6 Healthy, active ageing programs are provided and promoted in partnership with government agencies and community organisations.

5.7 Provide an appropriate range of active and passive open spaces and facilities to cater for traditional and emerging recreational pursuits.

5.8 Housing choice in the Wollongong Local Government Area is improved, considering population growth, community needs and affordability.

5.9 Integrated services are provided to residents in need of urgent shelter.

5.10 Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe, accessible and resilient community.

5.11 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced.

5.12 Plan and deliver an accessible, safe, clean and inviting public domain.

Goal 6 We have affordable and accessible transport



6.1 Plan for the delivery of multi-modal public transport together with sustainable transport modes such as the Gong Shuttle, walking and cycling to meet the community's needs.

6.2 Wollongong continues to build infrastructure and programs to fulfill its role as a UCI Bike city.

6.3 Effective and integrated regional transport with a focus on road, bus, rail and freight movement (including the port of Port Kembla).

6.4 Plan and provide sustainable infrastructure for safe and liveable places integrated with the environment and accessible to key transport routes.

6.5 Advocate for strong transport links within the Local Government Area and connections to Sydney, the South Coast, and the Southern Highlands to provide physical and economic opportunities.

6.6 Improve active transport links and connectivity to our unique places and spaces, including marine access along the Local Government Area and accessibility from the Central Business District to the foreshore.

6.7 Maintain the service levels of our roads, footpaths and cycleways to an acceptable standard.

6.8 Community transport options for frail older people, people with disabilities and the transport disadvantaged are actively promoted and available.

What our community told us...



Environment

- Protect + invest
- Retain + add green space + trees
- Net zero carbon emissions



Local Economy

- Create local jobs
- Invest in economic growth
- Foster tourism



Accessibility

- Create liveable communities
- Improve systems + processes
- Support meaningful employment



Development

- Avoid over-development
- Preserve + protect environment + heritage
- Encourage long term planning



Heritage

- Protect + preserve buildings
- Celebrate Aboriginal heritage + culture
- Value our history



Wellbeing

- Offer initiatives to support health
- Safety in public
- Connected + engaged
- Celebrate diversity



Active Transport

- Increase network
- Promote network
- Increase cycling



Arts + Culture

- Support creatives
- Provide events + spaces
- Celebrate Aboriginal heritage + culture



Housing

- Impacts of housing costs
- More affordable housing
- Address homelessness



Transport

- Increase parking
- Improve public transport
- Maintain free bus



Recreation

- Maintain + increase open space/s
- Maintenance of parks + beaches
- Improve sporting facilities



Community Services + Facilities

- Libraries and facilities are loved
- Places + programs for young people
- Accessible community facilities

By working together we will make the aspirations of our community a reality.

Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan is a shared community vision and details the actions needed over the next 10 years to create the Wollongong our community wants. The Plan has been reviewed in response to community feedback on their aspirations for the future. Information including State and Regional Plans, local Council strategies and plans and relevant data were also used.

Acknowledgement of Country

Wollongong City Council would like to show their respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Dharawal Country, Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We want to know if what we heard from our community is reflected in the Plan.

To view the full version of the Community Strategic Plan, visit Council's website at <https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/ourfuture>.

You can give feedback to Council in a variety of ways:

Email: engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Post: Locked Bag 8821,
Wollongong DC NSW 2500

Online survey: using the form at Council's website
<https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/ourfuture>.

