

Wollongong City Council  
March 2023



# Wollongong News

## It's autumn, and at this time of year our city really shines.

The humidity has dialled back and the nights are cooler, but the days are still warm, and the flags remain up on our 17 patrolled beaches until Anzac Day in late April.

It's perfect picnicking weather, so pack that basket and head to the Wollongong Botanic Garden this month for the return of the hugely popular Sculpture in the Garden.


It's also the time of year for planting trees in our streets and parks, and our outdoor teams are embracing the challenge of getting plenty of trees into the ground before the winter chill sets in.

Our sportsfields are prepped for winter sports, and Berkeley's Fred Finch Park is ready for action with 16 of its netball courts reconstructed, resurfaced and painted with high-grade sports court surfacing. The works were funded by Wollongong City Council and supported by the

NSW Government's \$50M Greater Cities Sports Facilities Fund.

Right now, we're working on our Operational Plan and Delivery Program for the next financial year. These strategic documents list our priorities for the next year, and community feedback is key to their development. Get involved by visiting [our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au](https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

Read on to find out more about what we're doing for you.



Head to Wollongong Botanic Garden to enjoy Sculpture in the Garden 2023. This image is of *Evolve* by Laura Nolan, and won the People's Choice Award for Sculpture in the Garden 2021. Photographer Tad Soudan.

### 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.





## Protecting our coast

We're preparing a long-term plan to manage our beaches, dunes, cliffs, headlands and rock platforms, and small coastal creeks and estuaries. Called a Coastal Management Program (CMP), it will identify current and future issues along our coast and detail actions to address them in partnership with residents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, community groups and the NSW Government.

Having a certified CMP will allow us to access funding for coastal projects and ensure everyone knows who is responsible for actions that care for our coastline.

There are five stages in developing a CMP. We have just completed Stage 1 to identify the scope and find out what our community values about the coast, how they use it and the challenges they see now and into the future. Stage 2 will see us

complete a range of studies to obtain new data and update our knowledge base.

**To stay informed as the Wollongong CMP progresses, and be involved in future engagement opportunities, visit [our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/cmp](https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/cmp)**

*This project is supported by the NSW Government's Coastal and Estuary Management Program.*



### Stage 1

We identify the scope of the CMP and ask 'What don't we know?'



### Stage 2

We complete studies to fill any knowledge gaps

### Stage 3

We decide what is important and what actions can help

### Stage 4

We prepare a draft CMP and ask for feedback from the community


### Stage 5

We implement the actions from the CMP

## Wollongong goes green with Red

The city's 18,218 streetlights and 17 largest council facilities have switched to 100 per cent renewable energy thanks to a new contract with Red Energy.

The switch will save up to 11,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year. It means 85 per cent of Council's consumption is now serviced with renewable electricity at a fixed, competitive price for the next 10 years. Reducing consumption and transitioning to renewable energy are key pillars in our Climate Change Mitigation Plan.



## Ways to live greener

### Go FOGO

Your green-lidded bin is collected weekly, with food waste and garden organics reprocessed into quality compost. Free FOGO caddy liners can be picked up from our office on Burelli St, Wollongong.

### Recycle right

Use the Wollongong Waste app or [wollongongwaste.com.au](https://wollongongwaste.com.au) to refresh you on what goes in the yellow-lidded bin.

### Can you dig it?

We've guidelines to help green thumbs to get the best out of

their verge – the patch of grass between your house and the kerb. Find out more on our website or by calling our Customer Service team on 4227 7111.

### On your bike

Ditching the car in favour of walking or cycling is a great way to reduce emissions and improve your health and wellbeing.

### Take charge of your batteries

Batteries contain toxic liquids and metals. Dispose of your batteries for free at our Community Recycling Centre at Whyte's Gully or drop them off at selected retailers.



## Embrace creativity and fun

It's another big year for cultural activities in the city, and we've got some exciting events on the agenda.

Things kick off with the 2023 Wollongong Acquisitive Sculpture Award in the Wollongong Botanic Garden.

Until 30 April, the Garden will be home to a record number of outdoor artworks as part of the biennial awards. The winning piece will become a permanent fixture in the city's public art collection, just as the sculptures of previous winners; Faith Semiz (Curious Dream of an Architect, 2021), Michael Purdy (Steel City, 2018), and Louis Pratt (King Coal, 2016) have done.

There will be a range of events and activities around the exhibition including workshops, talks and live music in the evenings. Visit Council's website for details.

Creative expression remains key at Wollongong Art Gallery this year with an exciting program of

exhibitions and talks planned for the next 12 months. Some of the highlights include Coomaditchie: The Art of Place, Reflection: Works from the Collection, and Round.

Comic Gong will be back in May – only things will look a little different in the popular event's 10th year. We're hitting pause on the traditional activities that take over Wollongong Library, Wollongong Town Hall and the Arts Precinct, while the exciting refurbishments to the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre are underway. Instead, we're delivering three distinctive events.

There's a Cosplay catch up at Wollongong Youth Centre on Thursday 4 May. Comic Gong goes back to its roots at Corrimal Library with a family-focused day on Saturday 13 May, and on Friday 19 May mature cosplayers can embrace the inaugural Comic Gong Cosplay Ball at Wollongong Town Hall. Council's website has more details on all the events, including where to buy tickets for Youth Centre catch up and Ball.

We're also excited to be delivering a brand new, community-focused event later this year. While we can't reveal the details just yet, we can say it's planned for spring and will be an event to get the body moving. We're grateful for the support of the NSW Government for this event.

As we work through and fine-tune the details, we're encouraging local dance and cultural groups to keep an eye on the grants page of Council's website – or follow City of Wollongong on Facebook – to keep in the loop of how to get involved.

## Sculpture in the Garden 2023

**Until 30 April 2023**

Wollongong Botanic Garden, Northfields Avenue, Keiraville

Free and open daily

Weekdays: 7am-6pm  
Weekends and public holidays until 1 April: 7am-6.45pm  
From 2 April: 7am-5pm daily  
Closed on Good Friday



Comic Gong



**Planning some DIY?** Be sure to brush up on where hazardous substances such as asbestos, roof dust and lead paint might be in your family home before you start. You'll find information at [wollongong.nsw.gov.au/asbestos](http://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/asbestos) and [epa.nsw.gov.au](http://epa.nsw.gov.au) to help keep you safe while you work.



## Take the lead

When it comes to taking your dog to an off-leash area, it's important your dog is under effective control at all times.

This means you must:

- Control the dog by voice, or in another way
- Make sure your dog doesn't hurt another person or animal, including wildlife and birds
- Carry and use a poo bag to dispose of dog poo appropriately

All the city's off-leash parks and beaches are listed on our website. Dogs must stay on a leash until they're in the off-leash zone and not, for example, be let off in the car park near an off-leash beach.

Our Animal Compliance Officers patrol the city's parks and beaches and will issue fines to dog owners who don't follow the rules. Remember, dogs should stay off red zone beaches, and are only permitted on on-leash orange zone beaches at certain times. Check the signage, or Council's website, to make sure you're there at the time allowed.

## Extra ways to read all about it

We love keeping you in the loop so you can enjoy great events, make the most of services, and learn about exciting projects that make your city extraordinary.

While this newsletter lands in your letterbox every few months, you can also find out the latest information your way.

### Join our social media communities

**Facebook:** City of Wollongong

**Instagram:** [wollongongcity](https://www.instagram.com/wollongongcity)

**LinkedIn:** Wollongong City Council

**Twitter:** [Wollongong\\_City](https://twitter.com/Wollongong_City)

### Subscribe to our e-newsletter:

Delivered to your inbox every three weeks, get a snapshot of the latest need-to-knows for your city. Subscribe by following the link in the footer of our website.

**Visit our website:** From news, booking your On-Call Household Collection service, and getting the lowdown on your sportsgrounds' status, our website has it all.

**Read Public Notices:** This new webpage is essential reading. It's where you can find current development proposals and approvals, grant and business opportunities, and changes to policies that apply to your city.

Follow the links off our homepage or scan the QR code. If you would like to receive a hard copy of public notices, please email [council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au) with your request.

## Contact us

**Visit:** Wollongong City Council, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong

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**Website:** [wollongong.nsw.gov.au](http://wollongong.nsw.gov.au)



Scan here to view Public notices, or visit [wollongong.nsw.gov.au/public-notices](http://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/public-notices)



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