

**ITEM A LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE**

The lack of residential aged care in Wollongong and the region is impacting our community and causing significant issues for the health system. It was reported that on any given night during winter there are over 150 people essentially living in Illawarra hospitals because of a severe lack of aged care places. Council is a participant on the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Health and Aged Care Taskforce which has been established to address this complex problem. It is important for all levels of government to consider how planning can contribute to addressing some of the issues associated with the development of residential aged care facilities. While there are examples of senior housing developments (independent living units) moving through the planning system, it is residential aged care beds that are needed to transition older patients who require ongoing care out of the hospital system and into appropriate alternative accommodation.

As with all housing types in the current economic environment, the cost and feasibility of delivering residential aged care accommodation is a major challenge.

Council has asked the NSW Government to consider introducing a bonus scheme to incentivise investment in residential aged care, similar to the affordable housing 30% bonus provision. It is appropriate that we advocate collectively with neighbouring Councils on this issue.

**RECOMMENDATION**

I therefore recommend that Wollongong City Council request the assistance of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation in advocating for the NSW Government to consider introducing a bonus scheme to incentivise investment in residential aged care.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.