wollongong
city of innovation

BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held at 6:00 PM on

Monday 17 November 2025

Council Chambers, Level 10,
Council Administration Building, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong

(Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors will be able to attend and participate in this meeting via audio-visual link)

Order of Business

1 Opening Meeting
2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians
3 Civic Prayer
4 Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors
5 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting
6 Confirmation of Minutes of Extraordinary Ordinary Council Meeting
7 Conflicts of Interest
8 Petitions and Presentations
9 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Committee Meeting
10 Public Access Forum
11 Call of the Agenda
12 Lord Mayoral Minute
13 Urgent Items
14 Reports to Council
15 Reports of Committees
16 Items Laid on the Table
17 Notices of Motions(s)/Questions with Notice
18 Notice of Rescission Motion
19 Confidential Business
20 Conclusion of Meeting

Members

Lord Mayor –
Councillor Tania Brown (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor –
Councillor Linda Campbell
Councillor Andrew Anthony
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Kit Docker
Councillor Dan Hayes
Councillor Ann Martin
Councillor Richard Martin
Councillor Ryan Morris
Councillor Tiana Myers
Councillor Thomas Quinn
Councillor Deidre Stuart
Councillor Jess Whittaker

QUORUM – 7 MEMBERS TO BE PRESENT

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with clause 3.23 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, released by the NSW Office of Local Government, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Wollongong and Wollongong City Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Where a councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting will be suspended or terminated for the time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or at any time during which Council is voting on the matter.

Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Wollongong City Council ***Code of Conduct for Councillors*** in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

Staff should also be mindful of their obligations under the Wollongong City Council ***Code of Conduct for Staff*** when preparing reports and answering questions during meetings of Council.

INDEX

PAGE NO.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council 27/10/2025 1

ITEM 1 Draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2024-2025 16

ITEM 2 Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 333

ITEM 3 Draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2025 460

ITEM 4 Destination Wollongong - Funding Agreement 578

ITEM 5 Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal Centres and Industrial Lands, and Review of Wollongong DCP Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Precincts 582

ITEM 6 Post Exhibition - Planning Proposal 190 Military Road, Port Kembla 1131

ITEM 7 Post Exhibition - Riparian Corridor Management Strategy for West Dapto 1189

ITEM 8 Post Exhibition - Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2025 1368

ITEM 9 Post Exhibition - Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 - Chapter E15 - Water Sensitive Urban Design 1408

ITEM 10 Post Exhibition - Customer Service Policy and Customer Service Charter 1439

ITEM 11 Post Exhibition - Wollongong Botanic Garden Draft Masterplan 1451

ITEM 12 Policy Review - Outdoor Dining Council Policy 2174

ITEM 13 Council Meeting Dates 2026 2179

ITEM 14 Tender T1000223 Lease of North Wollongong Beach Café & Kiosk 2182

ITEM 15 Question With Notice - Whale at Scarborough 2185

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

at 6:00 PM

Monday 27 October 2025

Present

Lord Mayor – Councillor Tania Brown (in the Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor – Councillor Linda Campbell
Councillor Andrew Anthony
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Kit Docker
Councillor Dan Hayes
Councillor Ann Martin
Councillor Richard Martin
Councillor Ryan Morris
Councillor Tiana Myers
Councillor Thomas Quinn
Councillor Deidre Stuart
Councillor Jess Whittaker

In Attendance

General Manager	Greg Doyle
Director Infrastructure + Works, Connectivity Assets + Liveable City	Joanne Page
Director Planning + Environment, Future City + Neighbourhoods	Linda Davis
Director Corporate Services, Connected + Engaged City	Renee Campbell
Director Community Services, Creative + Innovative City	Kerry Hunt
Chief Financial Officer	Brian Jenkins
Chief Digital + Information Officer	Ingrid McAlpin
Manager City Strategy	Luke Musgrave
Manager City Works (Acting)	Alan Davis
Manager Commercial Operations + Property (Acting)	Jenny Towers
Manager Community Culture + Engagement	Sue Savage
Manager Customer + Business Integrity	Todd Hopwood
Manager Development Assessment + Certification	Mark Adamson
Manager Infrastructure Strategy + Planning (Acting)	Jerah Fox
Manager Open Space + Environmental Services	Paul Tracey
Manager Project Delivery	Jeremy Morgan
Manager Regulation + Enforcement	Corey Stoneham
Manager Sport + Recreation	Mark Berriman
Manager Libraries + Community Facilities	Sarah Taylor
Governance + Risk Manager (Returning Officer)	Michelle Martin
Land Use Planning Manager	David Green

Note: In accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, participants in the meeting can participate via audio-visual link. Those who participated via audio-visual link are indicated in the attendance section of the Minutes.

INDEX

PAGE NO.

ITEM 1 Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 3

ITEM 2 Public Exhibition - Wollongong City Centre - Planning Proposal, draft Development Control Plan Chapter D13 and Development Contributions Plan amendments 3

ITEM 3 Public Exhibition – Planning Proposal Request - 163-171 Crown Street and 80-82 Church Street, Wollongong 4

ITEM 4 Public Exhibition - Draft Flinders Street Wollongong - Precinct Urban Design Framework 4

ITEM 5 Public Exhibition - Preferred locations for the Northern Suburbs and Wollongong City Centre Skate Parks 4

ITEM 6 Public Exhibition - Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy 5

ITEM 7 Public Exhibition - Public Interest Disclosures Policy 5

ITEM 8 Post Exhibition - Hill 60 Port Kembla Crown Reserve Plan of Management 5

ITEM 9 Policy Review - CCTV Code of Practice Council Policy 6

ITEM 10 Proposed Road Closure and Sale of Disused Public Roads Traversing 132 Staff Road at Cordeaux Heights 6

ITEM 11 Review - Dapto and Corrimal Pool Trial School Holiday Voucher Program 6

ITEM 12 Election of Deputy Lord Mayor 7

ITEM 13 Execution of Licence Agreement to Illawarra Hockey Incorporated - Part Lot 102 DP 878563 being Illawarra Hockey Stadium, Lindsay Maynes Park, Waples Road, Unanderra. 8

ITEM 14 Illawarra Hockey Incorporated - Request for Financial Assistance 8

ITEM 15 Tender T1000221 - Debris Control Structure (DCS), The Avenue, Figtree 8

ITEM 16 Tender T1000224 - North Wollongong Beach Seawall Stage 2 9

ITEM 17 Code of Conduct - Complaint Statistics Report 2024-25 9

ITEM 18 Annual Tabling of Returns of Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests and Other Matters 2024-2025 9

ITEM 19 August 2025 Financials 9

ITEM 20 September 2025 Financials 10

ITEM 21 Statement of Investment - August and September 2025 10

ITEM 22 Notice of Motion - Councillor Jess Whittaker - Pruning of street trees by Endeavour Energy 10

ITEM 23 Notice of Motion - Councillor Dan Hayes - Review of Hotspots for Fines 10

ITEM 24 Notice of Motion - Councillor Deidre Stuart - Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025 11

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

124 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 15 September 2025 (a copy having been circulated to Councillors) be taken as read and confirmed.

CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ann Martin declared a not-significant, non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 2 - Public Exhibition - Wollongong City Centre - Planning Proposal, draft Development Control Plan Chapter D13 and Development Contributions Plan amendments, Item 3 - Public Exhibition – Planning Proposal Request - 163-171 Crown Street and 80-82 Church Street, Wollongong, Item 4 - Public Exhibition - Draft Flinders Street Wollongong - Precinct Urban Design Framework and Item 8 - Post Exhibition - Hill 60 Port Kembla Crown Reserve Plan of Management due to her employment at the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. As she is not involved in planning matters related to the Wollongong LGA, Councillor A Martin advised she would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the items.

Councillor Ann Martin declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 24 - Notice of Motion - Councillor Deidre Stuart - Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025 due to employment at the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Councillor A Martin advised she would depart the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor Anthony declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 2 - Public Exhibition - Wollongong City Centre - Planning Proposal, draft Development Control Plan Chapter D13 and Development Contributions Plan amendments due to family owning property in the area. Councillor Anthony advised he would depart the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor Docker declared a not-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 - Proposed Road Closure and Sale of Disused Public Roads Traversing 132 Staff Road at Cordeaux Heights, as he has a relation who owns property adjacent to the development mentioned in the report. Councillor Docker advised he would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor Morris declared a not-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 6 - Public Exhibition - Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy as he owns a property near one of the dog beaches detailed in the Policy. Councillor Morris advised he would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor Campbell declared a not-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 – Post Exhibition - Hill 60 Port Kembla Crown Reserve Plan of Management as she resides in close proximity to Hill 60. Councillor Campbell advised she would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor David Brown declared a not-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 2 - Public Exhibition - Wollongong City Centre - Planning Proposal, draft Development Control Plan Chapter D13 and Development Contributions Plan amendments and Item 4 - Public Exhibition - Draft Flinders Street Wollongong - Precinct Urban Design Framework as he resides in the broader City Centre planning area (R1 Zone). Councillor D Brown advised he would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Councillor Whittaker declared a not-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 - Post Exhibition - Hill 60 Port Kembla Crown Reserve Plan of Management as she resides in close proximity to Hill 60. Councillor Whittaker advised she would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown declared a not-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 2 - Public Exhibition - Wollongong City Centre - Planning Proposal, draft Development Control Plan Chapter D13 and Development Contributions Plan amendments as she resides in the broader City Centre planning area. Councillor T Brown advised she would remain in the meeting during debate and voting on the item.

PETITION – HARRIGAN PARK TARRAWANNA COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Councillor Whittaker tabled a petition from 146 residents of Tarrawanna requesting a fenced dog area and improved community amenities at Harrigan Park.

PRESENTATIONS

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown, made the following presentations -

A trophy accepted on behalf of the Council at the closing ceremony of the World-Tri, in recognition of outstanding commitment in hosting the World Triathlon Championship Finals 2025, shared with organising partners AusTriathlon and Elite Energy.

A contemporary glass art piece gifted to the Lord Mayor by Mayor Fukuda during a recent visit to our Sister City Kawasaki. The Lord Mayor shared that she gifted Mayor Fukuda a local artwork of Wollongong's northern suburbs and Tim Tams, on behalf of the City.

A shirt and medal, presented to the Lord Mayor by the George Cross Falcons Community Centre, at Wollongong's first Malta Regatta, held on 21 September in celebration of Maltese Independence Day.

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

ITEM NO	TITLE	NAME OF SPEAKER
2	PUBLIC EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG CITY CENTRE - PLANNING PROPOSAL, DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN CHAPTER D13 AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN AMENDMENTS	CORALIE MCCARTHY – BUSINESS ILLAWARRA **FOR RECOMMENDATION**
3	PUBLIC EXHIBITION – PLANNING PROPOSAL REQUEST - 163-171 CROWN STREET AND 80-82 CHURCH STREET, WOLLONGONG	JEREMY WILSHIRE – DESTINATION WOLLONGONG **FOR RECOMMENDATION**
5	PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PREFERRED LOCATIONS FOR THE NORTHERN SUBURBS AND WOLLONGONG CITY CENTRE SKATE PARK	JESS FRASER **FOR RECOMMENDATION**
6	PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DOGS ON BEACHES AND PARKS POLICY	ROGER WITHERS **AGAINST RECOMMENDATION**

125 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor R Martin that all speakers be thanked for their presentation and invited to table their notes.

CALL OF THE AGENDA

126 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that the staff recommendations for Items 7 and 8, 10 and then 13 to 21 inclusive be adopted as a block.

A PROCEDURAL MOTION was MOVED by Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that Andrew Webber from EY and David Daniels from the Audit Office of NSW present to Council on the Audited Annual Financial Statements. This was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY and the presentation was delivered.

ITEM 1 - ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

127 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Morris that -

1 The Financial Statements Executive Summary and Financial Commentary be endorsed for inclusion in the Annual Financial Statements.

2 The Annual Financial Statements be endorsed and an opinion be formed in the prescribed format (as per Attachments 2 and 3) on the General Purpose Financial Statement and the Special Purpose Financial Statement.

3 The audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's report be presented to the public at the Council meeting of 17 November 2025.

4 Council resolves not to recover $98,796 of Pensioner Rates Rebates inadvertently applied to pensioners previously verified who have become ineligible during the period of review.

5 The presenters be thanked for their presentation.

DEPARTURE OF COUNCILLOR

Due to a disclosed conflict of interest, Councillor Anthony departed the meeting at 6:39pm and was not present for the debate nor voting on Item 2. Councillor Anthony returned to the meeting at 6:50pm at the conclusion of Item 2.

ITEM 2 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG CITY CENTRE - PLANNING PROPOSAL, DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN CHAPTER D13 AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN AMENDMENTS

128 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Hayes that -

1 The Wollongong City Centre Planning Proposal (Attachment 1) be endorsed for referral to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination to enable exhibition.

2 Following the receipt of the Gateway Determination, the Planning Proposal be exhibited for a minimum period of 60 days.

3 The NSW Department Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be advised that Council is not seeking to use its delegations to finalise the Planning Proposal as it includes Council owned land.

4 The draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 – Chapter D13 Wollongong City Centre (Attachment 2) be endorsed for exhibition, to occur concurrent with the Planning Proposal.

5 The proposed amendments to the Wollongong City Wide Development Contributions Plan (Attachment 4) be endorsed for exhibition, to occur concurrent with the Planning Proposal.

6 That the planning proposal include an incentive or incentives for the development of a cinema in the City Centre E2 Commercial Centre Zone and any proposed incentives relating to Height of Building and Floor Space Ratio controls are to be included as an addition to the Design Excellence Clause, in a similar structure to what is proposed for hotel and motel accommodation and serviced apartments. Noting that the provision of a cinema is supported by Council's adopted strategies and policies:

- Wollongong City Council Economic Development Strategy 2025-35 –priority area-3, A vibrant and connected city
- The NSW 24 hour Economy Strategy
- Wollongong CBD Night Time Economy Policy
- Creative Wollongong – 2024-2033
- Our Wollongong Our Future, 2035 Community Strategic Plan, Goal-3 *"We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity"*

ITEM 3 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION – PLANNING PROPOSAL REQUEST - 163-171 CROWN STREET AND 80-82 CHURCH STREET, WOLLONGONG

129 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Hayes that -

1 A Planning Proposal be prepared to amend the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 for 163-171 Crown Street and 80-82 Church Street, Wollongong by:

a introducing a local clause (as indicated in this report) to vary the Height of Building, Floor Space Ratio, Sun Plane Protection clause, part of the Design Excellence Clause to enable additional capacity in hotel and motel accommodation development to be considered on the site.

b Mapping the site as a Key site on the Key Sites Map

2 The Planning Proposal be referred to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination.

3 Following receipt of the Gateway Determination, the Planning Proposal be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.

4 The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be advised that Council wishes to use it delegations to finalise the Planning Proposal after exhibition and the consideration of a post-exhibition report.

5 The Planning Proposal be progressed separately to the City Centre Planning Proposal.

ITEM 4 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT FLINDERS STREET WOLLONGONG - PRECINCT URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

130 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Whittaker seconded Councillor Hayes that the draft Flinders Street Precinct Urban Design Framework be endorsed for exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

ITEM 5 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PREFERRED LOCATIONS FOR THE NORTHERN SUBURBS AND WOLLONGONG CITY CENTRE SKATE PARKS

131 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Hayes that -

1 Council endorse the following sites as the preferred skate park locations for public exhibition:

a WF Jackson Park, Thirroul as the preferred location for the Northern Suburbs skate park.

b MacCabe Park – Site 2 – as the preferred location for the Wollongong City Centre skate park.

2 Community and stakeholder feedback from the public exhibition period be reported back to Council for consideration prior to adoption of the preferred locations.

ITEM 6 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DOGS ON BEACHES AND PARKS POLICY

132 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor R Martin seconded Councillor Morris that -

1 The "Off-Leash Green Beach Zones" list in the draft Policy be amended to remove proposed changes to the McCauley's Beach off-leash area prior to going on Public Exhibition.

2 Staff continue to monitor resident and dog activity beyond the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place boundary.

3 Council welcome community feedback on sites for future 'off leash' dog parks or other opportunities across the city.

Variation *The variation moved by Councillor T Brown (the addition of Point 3) was accepted by the mover and seconder.*

An AMENDMENT was MOVED by Councillor Whittaker seconded Councillor Anthony that exhibition of the Policy be deferred until the rationale for the removal of McCauley's Beach is provided.

Councillor Whittaker's AMENDMENT on being PUT to the VOTE was LOST.

In favour Councillors Anthony, Whittaker, Docker and Stuart

Against Councillors Hayes, R Martin, Quinn, D Brown, Myers, A Martin, Campbell, Morris and T Brown

Councillor R Martin's MOTION was then PUT to the VOTE and was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY to become the RESOLUTION.

ITEM 7 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES POLICY

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that the draft Public Interest Disclosures Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

ITEM 8 - POST EXHIBITION - HILL 60 PORT KEMBLA CROWN RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that -

1 The amended draft Plan of Management for Hill 60 Crown Reserve (97344) (Attachments 3 and 4), be endorsed and referred to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands as a delegate for the Minister to obtain consent to adopt the amended Plan of Management under clause 70B of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018*.

2 If consent to adopt the Plan of Management for Hill 60 Crown Reserve (97344) is granted by Crown Lands, the General Manager be delegated authority to adopt the Plan of Management for Hill 60 Crown Reserve (97344) as approved under clause 70B of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018* pursuant to section 40 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with section 3.23(6) of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

3 Once adopted, a copy of the adopted Plan of Management be forwarded to the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure – Crown Lands and placed on Council's website.

ITEM 9 - POLICY REVIEW - CCTV CODE OF PRACTICE COUNCIL POLICY

133 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Anthony seconded Councillor Docker that Council -

1 Endorse the revised CCTV Code of Practice Council Policy.

2 Request that an Information Note be provided to Councillors outlining:

a The effectiveness of the temporary CCTV cameras that were deployed in the Stuart Park precinct earlier this year in response to vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

b The costs involved in installing, maintaining and monitoring the temporary cameras.

c Whether there is scope for permanent CCTV cameras to be installed in the area including potential funding sources and operational considerations in accordance with the policy.

d Any relevant feedback from NSW Police regarding the effectiveness of CCTV in deterring antisocial behaviour in this location.

ITEM 10 - PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE AND SALE OF DISUSED PUBLIC ROADS TRAVERSING 132 STAFF ROAD AT CORDEAUX HEIGHTS

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded A Martin that -

1 Council closes the portions of Public Road traversing Lot 1000 in DP 1315222 (as shown shaded yellow in Attachment 1) via a Staged Road Closure Process, and upon closure, the land vest to Council as Operational Land pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2 The closure of those portions of Public Road be subject to the grant of an easement in favour of Endeavour Energy in respect to the existing Electricity Transmission Line 45.72 wide, subject to final survey and associated Section 88B Instrument.

3 The General Manager be authorised to approve the negotiations and the final sale price in relation to the disposal of the closed portions of Road and the property owner be responsible for all costs associated with the road closure and sale.

4 The Lord Mayor and General Manager be granted authority to affix the Common Seal of Council to any documentation required to give effect to this resolution and the General Manager be granted authority to sign any documentation necessary to give effect to this resolution.

ITEM 11 - REVIEW - DAPTO AND CORRIMAL POOL TRIAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY VOUCHER PROGRAM

134 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Campbell seconded Councillor A Martin that Council adopt Option A – continue to trial a digital voucher system at Dapto and Corrimal swimming pools for 5 to 16-year-olds at the beginning of the summer NSW School Holiday period, looking to enhance the program through pre-registration and targeted promotion.

An AMENDMENT was MOVED by Councillor Whittaker seconded Councillor Docker That council adopt option B – Expansion of Voucher Program to Include a trial for individuals from a refugee background, looking to partner with refugee organisations for efficient distribution of vouchers to people of known refugee background who are interested in participating. The program will also include the continued trial of a digital voucher system at Dapto and Corrimal swimming pools for 5-16 year olds at the beginning of the summer NSW School Holiday Period, seeking to enhance the program through pre-registration and targeted promotion.

Councillor Whittaker's AMENDMENT on being PUT to the VOTE was LOST.

In favour Councillors Anthony, Whittaker Docker

Against Councillors Hayes, R Martin, Quinn, D Brown, Myers, A Martin, Campbell, Stuart, Morris, T Brown

Councillor Campbell's MOTION was then PUT to the VOTE and was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY to become the RESOLUTION.

ITEM 12 - ELECTION OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

135 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Hayes that Council -

1 Elect a Deputy Lord Mayor for a one-year term.

2 Proceed to conduct the election of Deputy Lord Mayor by way of open voting (show of hands) in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.*

The Lord Mayor handed proceedings over to the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer for the election Michelle Martin advised the meeting that nominations had been received from Councillors Campbell and Whittaker.

As there was more than one nomination the Returning Officer conducted an election for the position of Deputy Lord Mayor.

Following the election, the Returning Officer declared that Councillor Campbell was elected as Deputy Lord Mayor for the period of one year.

<u>Votes for Councillor Whittaker</u>

- Cr Anthony
- Cr Whittaker
- Cr Docker
- Cr Stuart

<u>Votes for Councillor Campbell</u>

- Cr Hayes
- Cr R Martin
- Cr Quinn
- Cr D Brown

- Cr Myers
- Cr A Martin
- Cr Campbell
- Cr Morris
- Lord Mayor Cr Tania Brown

ITEM 13 - EXECUTION OF LICENCE AGREEMENT TO ILLAWARRA HOCKEY INCORPORATED - PART LOT 102 DP 878563 BEING ILLAWARRA HOCKEY STADIUM, LINDSAY MAYNES PARK, WAPLES ROAD, UNANDERRA.

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin

1 Pursuant to Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993,* Council authorises the grant of a Licence in respect to Community Land for a term of 20 years to the Illawarra Hockey Inc for part Lot 102 DP 878563 being Illawarra Hockey Centre, Lindsay Maynes Park, Waples Road, Unanderra.

2 Pursuant to Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993,* as the Licence does not exceed 21 years, Council can grant the licence under delegation of the General Manager.

3 Pursuant to Section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993,* Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to formally execute the licence and any other documentation necessary to complete the matters.

4 Authority to grant to affix the Common Seal of Council and/or delegation pursuant to Section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to the Licence documents.

ITEM 14 - ILLAWARRA HOCKEY INCORPORATED - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that Council -

1 Approve a loan of $291,939 to the Illawarra Hockey Incorporated to cover the outstanding costs associated with the Indoor Hockey Stadium roof replacement project at the Illawarra Hockey Centre, Unanderra.

2 Authorise the General Manager (or delegate) to negotiate and execute a formal loan agreement.

3 Prior to financial assistance being provided, a formal licence agreement is to be entered into between Illawarra Hockey Incorporated and Wollongong City Council.

4 That Illawarra Hockey Incorporated is to provide ongoing financial reporting.

ITEM 15 - TENDER T1000221 - DEBRIS CONTROL STRUCTURE (DCS), THE AVENUE, FIGTREE

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that -

1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council accept the tender of Cadifern Pty Ltd for construction of a Debris Control

Structure, in the sum of $858,070.40, including GST.

2 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to finalise and execute the contract and any other documentation required to give effect to this resolution.

3 Council grant authority for the use of the Common Seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.

ITEM 16 - TENDER T1000224 - NORTH WOLLONGONG BEACH SEAWALL STAGE 2

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that -

1 a In accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council decline to accept any of the tenders received for North Wollongong Beach Seawall Stage 2 and resolve to enter into negotiations with one or all of the tenderers or any other party with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.

b In accordance with Section 178(4) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, the reason for Council hereby resolving to enter into negotiations with one or all of the tenderers or any other party and not inviting fresh tenders is that it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved with one of those parties who demonstrate a capacity and ability to undertake the works.

2 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to undertake and finalise the negotiations, firstly with the tenderers, and, in the event of failure of negotiations with those tenderers, any other party, with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.

3 Council grant authority for the use of the Common seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.

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.

ITEM 17 - CODE OF CONDUCT - COMPLAINT STATISTICS REPORT 2024-25

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that the report on Code of Conduct complaint statistics for 2024-2025 be received and noted.

ITEM 18 - ANNUAL TABLING OF RETURNS OF DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER MATTERS 2024-2025

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that Council note the tabling of Annual Returns of Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Other Matters as required by Clause 4.26 of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW.

ITEM 19 - AUGUST 2025 FINANCIALS

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that the financials be received and noted.

ITEM 20 - SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that the financials be received and noted.

ITEM 21 - STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2025

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 126)

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor A Martin that Council receive the Statement of Investment for August and September 2025.

ITEM 22 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JESS WHITTAKER - PRUNING OF STREET TREES BY ENDEAVOUR ENERGY

136 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Whittaker seconded Councillor Stuart that Council -

1 Request the General Manager write to the NSW Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Heritage and Environment, The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, to raise that in relation to pruning of street trees on council verges by energy company contractors, residents have reported repeated instances of non-compliance with the *Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW)* and Standards Australia (2007) AS4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees.

2 Request the General Manager write to Endeavour Energy to raise ongoing dissatisfaction with tree pruning practices in relation to Council's goals in the Climate Change Mitigation Plan, Wollongong Transport Strategy, Urban Greening Strategy and Urban Heat Strategy. Endeavour Energy should be formally notified that arborist contractors regularly prune well beyond the companies' own guidelines, and this is inconsistent with other energy providers.

In favour Councillors Hayes, R Martin, Quinn, D Brown, Myers, A Martin, Campbell, Anthony, Whittaker, Docker, Stuart and T Brown

Against Councillors Morris

DEPARTURE OF COUNCILLOR

During debate and prior to voting on Item 22, Councillor Hayes departed and returned to the meeting, the time being from 8:16pm to 8:17pm.

ITEM 23 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR DAN HAYES - REVIEW OF HOTSPOTS FOR FINES

137 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Hayes seconded Councillor Quinn that Councillors receive a report on –

1 How Council utilises the data from fines to develop specific strategies for preventative action for compliance of areas that are hotspots, including but not limited to traffic / parking related fines.

2 Opportunities to better improve the analysis of data relating to fines.

DEPARTURE OF COUNCILLOR

Due to a disclosed conflict of interest, Councillor A Martin departed the meeting at 8:35 and was not present for the debate nor voting on Item 24. Councillor A Martin returned to the meeting at 9:05pm at the closure of the meeting.

ITEM 24 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR DEIDRE STUART - ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT (PLANNING SYSTEM REFORMS) BILL 2025

MOVED by Councillor Stuart seconded Councillor Docker that Council –

1 Note with concern the introduction of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025 and its potential to reduce local planning control, transparency, and community confidence in planning decisions for all forms of development, not just housing.

2 Note with concern the fundamental changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 arising from amendments to the objects of the Act and to Part 4.15, including significant weakening of requirements to consider cumulative impacts, environmental impacts, site suitability, and the public interest in decision-making.

3 Note that the Bill has been described as “the biggest planning reform in 50 years,” yet has proceeded with minimal public consultation and limited engagement with local government.

4 Note with concern that the proposed Development Coordination Authority centralises powers within the Department of Planning and reduces the independent and specialist input previously provided by agencies such as the Environment Department and Rural Fire Service, with no clear mechanisms to ensure transparent or arms-length decision-making.

5 Acknowledge the critical role that councils play in managing housing density, infrastructure capacity, transport networks, and environmental sustainability through locally informed, place-based planning processes.

6 Write to the NSW Premier, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Member for Wollongong, and the Members for Heathcote and Keira:

   a Seeking retention of local Community Participation Plans, ensuring meaningful and inclusive community engagement in local planning processes.

   b Raising concern about the administrative burden and cost-shifting to councils that will result from the new time-frames and referral processes, leading to poorer planning outcomes and reduced.

   c Highlighting broad concerns about governance, environmental assessment, and the public interest arising from the Bill, while acknowledging that recent Legislative Assembly amendments—such as the introduction of a 28-day minimum consultation period for targeted assessments, the exclusion of designated development (e.g. coal mines, power stations, concrete works), and the retention of bush-fire-prone-land provisions—represent partial but insufficient improvements.

7 Advocate through Local Government NSW (LGNSW) for a coordinated local-government response to the reforms.

8 Request staff workshops outlining the likely implications of the Bill for Council, including potential impacts on housing density, infrastructure planning, environmental and social safeguards, and community consultation, as further information becomes available.

138 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION - RESOLVED on the Motion (AMENDMENT) MOVED by Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Campbell that Council -

1 Welcomes the State Government's efforts to modernise the EP&A act and its inclusion of climate change resilience and affordable housing supply as objectives.

2 Recognise the efforts of the State Government to promote housing supply to help combat the housing crisis.

3 Welcomes the Act's changes to address the problem of 'zombie DAs', a matter previously advocated for by this Council.

4 Welcomes the Act's changes to clarify what is and is not a development standard.

5 Welcome changes to the deemed refusal timing rules that should see fewer matters going to court.

6 Urges the State Government to adequately resource the Development Coordination Authority such that it can efficiently fulfil the envisioned role as a single point of agency contact.

7 Requests that local government and the community be given the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed standard rules for community engagement in the planning process.

Councillor D Brown's AMENDMENT on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED to become the MOTION.

In favour Councillors Hayes, R Martin, Quinn, D Brown, Myers, Campbell and T Brown

Against Councillors Anthony, Whittaker, Docker, Stuart and Morris

The motion (AMENDMENT) on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED.

In favour Councillors Hayes, R Martin, Quinn, D Brown, Myers, Campbell and T Brown

Against Councillors Anthony, Whittaker, Docker, Stuart and Morris

A PROCEDURAL MOTION was MOVED by Councillor Docker seconded Councillor Hayes that Councillor Stuart be granted an additional 2 minutes to address the meeting in relation to Item 24.

A PROCEDURAL MOTION was MOVED by Councillor Docker seconded Councillor Hayes that Councillor D Brown be granted an additional 1 minute to address the meeting in relation to Item 24

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:05PM

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Wollongong held on Monday 17 November 2025.

Chairperson

ITEM 1 DRAFT WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

This report presents the draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2024-2025, which outlines Council's progress against the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025.

In line with reporting requirements, the Annual Report must be endorsed by Council within five months of the end of the financial year and submitted to the Office of Local Government by 30 November 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Council endorse the draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2024-2025 and Attachment A Financial Statements.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Steph Hummerston, Chief Financial Officer (Acting)
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

1 Draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2024-2025
2 Attachment A Financial Report

BACKGROUND

Wollongong City Council's draft Annual Report 2024-2025 outlines our progress against the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025. It is a key document advising the community of Council's performance during 2024-2025. The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (section 428) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation* (section 217). This is the third and final Annual Report of the 2022-2026 Delivery Program.

The draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2024-2025 demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to achieving outcomes that benefit the community. Key highlights throughout 2024-2025 include:

- Inducted a new Council, following the Local Government election on 14 September 2024, with polls declared on 2 October.
- The Community Battery program was launched in partnership with Endeavour Energy, with the first round of batteries energised in Dapto and Warrawong.
- Transitioned 45 per cent of Council's light fleet vehicles to lower emissions vehicles including 30 electric vehicles.
- The Animal Care and Impounding Service rehoming program continued to expand, with 433 animals (181 dogs and 252 cats) successfully adopted into new homes.
- 847 development applications were accepted and 942 determined.
- Adopted the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034 setting direction towards sustainable waste and resource management for the city.
- Achieved 100 per cent of the jobs target set out in the Economic Development Strategy 2019–2029, four years ahead of schedule.
- Wollongong received the global Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Bike City Award in recognition of the Bike City Community Partners Program.
- Delivered the Culture Mix festival in October 2024 attracting over 16,000 attendees and showcasing over 190 different programs.
- Delivered more than 85 education programs and engaged over 1,300 participants at the Wollongong Art Gallery.

- Partnered to host the inaugural Creative Wollongong Short Film Festival attracted 500 attendees to the shores of Lake Illawarra.
- Reviewed and adopted the Community Engagement Strategy Council Policy in December 2024.
- Physical Loans at our libraries surpassed 1,000,000 over the year.
- Adopted the Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Integrated Plans, including the Community Strategic Plan 2035, Resourcing Strategy 2025-2035, new four-year Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan.
- Twelve Wollongong Youth Forum members were sworn in at the Council Chambers following their election in November 2024.
- Over 8,000 attended a celebration of pop culture with Comic Gong held in May 2025.
- Accepted a $41.7M tender for the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library.
- Announced the site for the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library to be located at 53–55 Walker Street.
- Worked with Illawarra Stingrays and Dapto Phoenix Football Clubs to establish Lakelands Oval, Dapto as a shared home ground and granted a 21-year license to the Stingrays.
- Progressed the Safer Routes to School Program with 19 reports finalised during the year.
- Successfully secured over $26M in grant funding including $19.9M for the upgrade of Cleveland Road in the West Dapto Urban Release Area and $5M for Stage 2 of the Darkes District Sporting & Community Hub.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Preparation of the draft Annual Report involved input from all Council Divisions and review by the Executive Management Committee and Senior Leadership Team.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 4 “We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	**Service**
4.8 Provide our community with equitable services, access to education, and information to help them make informed decisions.	Corporate Strategy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Full financial details are included in Attachment A Financial Report.

CONCLUSION

The draft Wollongong City Council Annual Report 2024-2025 (including attachment A) provides a clear and transparent account of Council’s performance over the past financial year. It demonstrates progress against the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and is presented for Council’s endorsement in accordance with reporting requirements.

Image: Children on Corrimal Beach

Wollongong City Council

Draft Annual Report 2024 - 2025

wollongong
city of innovation

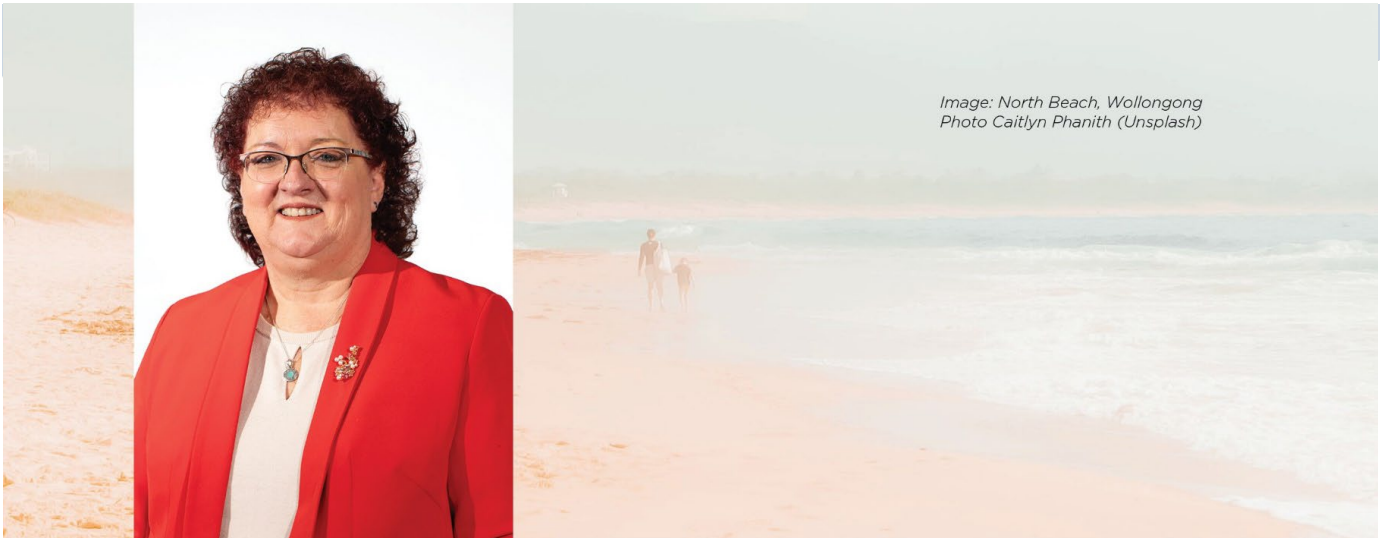
Image: Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony, Sculpture in the Garden, Wollongong Botanic Garden

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our city is built, Dharawal Country. We recognise and appreciate their deep connection to this land, waters and the greater community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and those emerging and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who call this city home. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people to live in the area. We respect their living cultures and recognise the positive contribution their voices, traditions and histories make to the city.

Contents

Lord Mayor's Message 4
General Manager's Message 6
Council's Annual Report 2024 -2025 and Our City 8
Integrated Planning and Reporting – Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program 12
Our Councillors and Our Organisation 14
Delivering to Our Community 18
Achieving Environmentally Sustainable Outcomes 22
Connecting With Our Community 28
Council's Supporting Document Roadmap 30
Council's Strategic Priorities 34
Reporting against the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2023-2024 40
Summary of Progress by Goal 41
GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT 42
GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY AND A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY 64
GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY 74
GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED CITY 82
GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY 100
GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT 116
SUPPORT SERVICES 124
Statutory Reporting 137
Index 186



Lord Mayor's Message

It gives me great pleasure to present my first Annual Report as the Lord Mayor of Wollongong.

While I've been a Councillor in Wollongong since 2017, I was honoured to be elected as Lord Mayor to lead the city and guide its bright future.

It's a responsibility that I don't take lightly and one where each and every day I'm focused on ensuring that we deliver what our residents want and need.

Over the past year, we've worked hard to provide to our community the services, facilities and infrastructure that is expected of Council.

We've had lifeguards on patrol at the city's 17 beaches across the swim season, and at North Wollongong beach year-round.

We've managed 285 sports and playing fields, nine turf wickets, cleaned and maintained nine ocean rock pools, three heated pools and six public swimming pools.

More than 50,000 people have walked through the doors at Wollongong Art Gallery, more than 390,000 people visited the Wollongong Botanic Garden and our seven library branches welcomed more than 520,000 visitors and loaned more than 1.3 million items.

We're also responsible for the often unseen work that helps make Wollongong a liveable city.

For example, more than 1,250 public bins are emptied across the Local Government Area each week – with three-quarters of them emptied up to five times a week! Our cleaning crews work in the early hours to keep the city's amenities in good shape, and in our six operational cemeteries and gardens we've supported people to lay to rest around 760 loved ones.

We've also continued to invest in stormwater infrastructure improvements, and the vital flood risk management studies and plans that ensure we're leading the way when it comes to best practice in stormwater management.

This will remain a focus for Council in the next financial year as we continue to build our city's resilience in the face of climate change and take important steps to ensure we're doing all we can to minimise the impact of flash flooding and stormwater.

Flood-reliable roads are also key to our considerations of stormwater management and in West Dapto we're working on a program of works to deliver more road capacity as well as improved all-weather access. These projects also work towards meeting our housing targets and the roadmap that is set out within the Wollongong Housing Strategy 2023.

I've long been a passionate advocate for more homes, more jobs and infrastructure to support Wollongong's growth. I remain committed to increasing the amount of housing available in the right locations across the city, as well as building strategic, collaborative relationships with local leaders like NSW Health, BlueScope and the University of Wollongong.

It was also in the 2024-2025 financial year that we got real momentum behind Wollongong City Council's Animal Care and Impounding Service. Launched in April 2024 in response to the withdrawal of service from the NSW RSPCA, Council built from the ground up our own care service that reunited lost cats and dogs with their owners and rehomed those who were found without owners.

Animal welfare was also front of mind for our Foreshore Animal Compliance Officers with a focus on beaches and foreshore parkland areas. Operating seven days a week, the team focused on compliance and education around Council's Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy.

We've a huge year ahead. Plans are moving forward on two new combined community centres and libraries – one in Warrawong catering for residents of the southern suburbs and another in Helensburgh. We continue our support for community members to take action to reduce their environmental footprint through programs like the ShineHub bulk buying solar power and battery scheme. Plus, much-loved events like Culture Mix, Carols in MacCabe Park and Australia Day will return.

Sports lovers are also spoilt for choice with world-class athletes on their doorstep. The National Basketball League's Illawarra Hawks – the only foundation club – will kick off their title defence with the first game of the season doubling up as a presentation of the Keys to the City. The world's eyes will, once again, be on our foreshore precinct when the 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals come to town in October. We'll see the world's top triathletes (plus, a strong Australian contingent with a number of local representatives) pounding the pavement, cycling our roads and swimming in our surf. Plus, that same month, our passionate netball-loving community will have the chance to watch the Diamonds National team take on South Africa's SPAR Proteas. It's such an inspiring opportunity for the city's young Saturday morning netballers to see elite sportswomen in action in their hometown.

We've a big year behind us, and we're energised and ready to take on the next. It certainly is an exciting time for Wollongong and all who call it home.

Lord Mayor of Wollongong
Councillor Tania Brown

Image: Lifeguards at City Beach

Image: North Beach, Wollongong
Photo Caitlyn Phanith (Unsplash)

General Manager's Message

Here at Wollongong City Council, we consider ourselves privileged to work on behalf of those who live, work and play on Dharawal Country.

Our passionate community want to see us deliver more, while stretching our budget ever further. This sees us strive to provide better roads, footpaths and cycleways, to ensure community facilities, spaces and venues are fit for purpose, and to provide spaces for exercising, socialising and to feel a part of our community.

On that note, I'm proud to present our Annual Report 2024-2025 which provides an overview of what Wollongong City Council has achieved this year.

We began the year with an ambitious Infrastructure Delivery Program. Built in careful consultation with our community, this saw us invest $88 million in projects to enhance and support the liveability of our city.

More than 40 road upgrades were completed across our Local Government Area, and we continued to invest in footpaths, shared paths, and dedicated cycleways to make it safer for kids to get to school and more enticing for people of all ages and all skill levels to participate in active modes of transport.

We continued to protect the stunning natural beauty of our city, care for our coastline and natural areas through investment in conservation and restoration projects and $10 million in upgrades at Wollongong Waste & Resource Recovery Park. We worked to keep our community safe in natural disasters by investing another $8 million in upgrades to stormwater infrastructure.

As our city's population grows, we continue to invest in major infrastructure works to improve access to the areas around West Dapto — including West Dapto Road and Cleveland Road — for which, with the support of the NSW Government, upgrades are underway.

We could not achieve all this, on top of the 'business as usual' of providing libraries, sports fields, pools and countless vital services to our community, without a high-performing workforce.

I am immensely proud of our work this year to attract, recruit and retain people with diverse abilities, skills, experiences and backgrounds who live and breathe Council's values — respect, sustainable, courage, integrity and one team. A workforce that reflects the diversity of our community understands the community's needs and is motivated to meet them.

We continue to grow in this space with new programs like our Open Spaces Summer Program which saw 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and female students undertake paid work to maintain parks and open spaces across Wollongong. Along with the opportunity to serve their community, the group gained industry exposure, valuable workplace skills and a pathway for future positions. In fact, Allegra, Eva and Keira stayed on with Council's Cadet, Apprentice, Trainee and School-based Trainee (CATS) Program.

The trio were some of the 55 learning roles supported in areas including cybersecurity, civil engineering and construction, libraries, plumbing, conservation and horticulture to name a few. These early career employees represent the future of great service for our community and that future looks very bright indeed!

We also value the knowledge and lived experience that our longer-serving employees bring to the organisation. Together, this helps us deliver the best possible outcomes for our community – it's a great mix!

Work has also started to inform our next Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This will be our roadmap for providing an equal opportunity for people with disability to participate in all aspects of community life, including council as a workplace.

Our city is an exciting place, and local government is a key player when it comes to supporting and advocating for its growth and development. Each day, we strive to deliver our very best to keep the City of Wollongong an extraordinary place to live, work and play.

Wollongong City Council General Manager
Greg Doyle

Image: Central Business District, North Wollongong.

Council's Annual Report 2024 -2025 and Our City

About this report

The Wollongong City Council Annual Report provides a summary of our performance over the 2024-2025 financial year against Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025.

Council's 33 Services form the foundation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, with Services presented under their best fit goal.

On June 30, 2025 Council adopted the new suite of Integrated Plans *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035* including the Community Strategic Plan 2035, Resourcing Strategy 2025-2035, new four year Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026. As a result, this is the final Annual Report against Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026 and has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993.*

How to read this document

The Annual Report comprises five main sections presented as the following:

- An overview of our city, Council and a financial summary
- Strategic Priorities and progress against the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025 through activities and actions within Council's 33 Services
- Additional statutory reporting
- Detailed audited financial statements, including General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Statements (Attachment A).

Intended Audience

This report provides information to a broad range of stakeholders including the Wollongong community, government and non-government organisations, our partners and local businesses. It also provides our staff with information on how we have performed over the year and how their efforts are contributing to achieve our community's vision,

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.

How to obtain a copy of this document

A copy of this Annual Report and various other Council publications are available on our website: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/council-documents/csp.

Hard copies of this report are also available for viewing in Council's community centres and libraries.

Our City

Located 80 kilometres south of Sydney, Wollongong covers 714 square kilometres and occupies a narrow strip bordered by the Royal National Park to the north, Lake Illawarra to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Illawarra escarpment to the west.

The name Wollongong originated from the local Aboriginal word *woolyungah* meaning five islands. Archaeological evidence indicates the Aboriginal people have lived here for at least 30,000 years. The area known today as Wollongong was originally a home for Aboriginal people of Dharawal country (also spelled Tarawal or Thuruwal), who remain the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Dr Charles Throsby first established a settlement here in 1815, bringing down his cattle from the Southern Highlands to a lagoon of fresh water located near City Beach. The earliest reference to Wollongong was in 1826, in a report written by John Oxley, about the local cedar industry. The area's first school was established in 1833, and just one year later the Surveyor-General arrived from Sydney to lay out the township of Wollongong on property owned by Charles Throsby-Smith.

Our local steel industry commenced in 1927 with Charles Hoskins entering into an agreement with the State Government to build a Steelworks at Port Kembla, thereby commencing a long history of steel production that still continues to this day. Operations began in 1930 with one blast furnace of 800 tonnes capacity. In 1936, BHP acquired Australian Iron and Steel Limited and production at Port Kembla increased rapidly. The steel industry was a catalyst for growth for many decades, and laid the foundations for the city's economy, lifestyle and culture. Wollongong is proud of its industry roots and is still known and acknowledged as one of Australia's leading industrial centres. While steel and other manufacturing industries remain an essential part of the local economy, the city has long recognised the need to diversify its economic base. Construction of the spectacular Sea Cliff Bridge to the north has given more focus to the burgeoning tourism industry, and information technology, hospitality, health services and telecommunications continue to grow as key industries in the region. Wollongong is a diverse community, with people from more than 30 different language groups and 20 different religious groups calling Wollongong home. A deep respect for others' traditions and regular celebrations of diverse customs add to the vibrant tapestry of community life and provide another dimension to our increasingly sophisticated city.

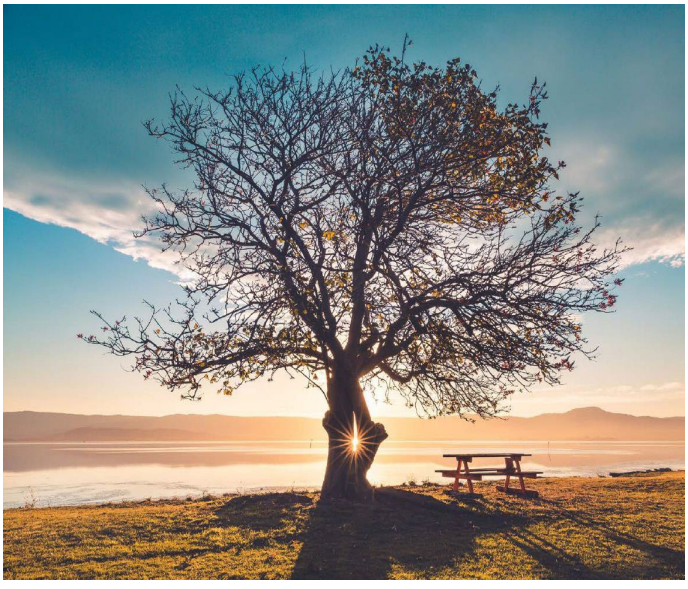


Image: Lake Illawarra

Community Snapshot

The Wollongong Local Government Area covers 714km² and is located on Dharawal Country. It is divided into three wards with four Councillors elected from each ward. The Lord Mayor is elected by all voters across all three wards.

Community Wellbeing

A 2024 Community Wellbeing Survey found that most people in Wollongong Local Government Area were satisfied with their:

- Overall life (87%)
- Personal safety (86%)
- Relationships (86%)
- Standard of living (84%)[1]

Population

In 2025, Wollongong was estimated to have 223,411 residents.[2]

Age

In 2021, the median age was 39 years, and life expectancy was 82.5 years.[3]

Environment

Wollongong City Council actively manages approximately 286 hectares of natural areas, and 46 hectares of asset protection zones. There are 68 volunteer groups contributing efforts to Bushcare, Dunecare and Fiready programs.[7]

Wollongong community emissions reduced 20% between 2016 and 2022, on track for our 50% reduction target by 2030 (Excluding Industrial Processes and Product Use).

Economy and Employment

In 2023-2024, Wollongong's Gross Regional Product was $17.6B, approximately 60% of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region.[5]

In 2023-2024, there were 102,957 local jobs in the Wollongong Local Government Area, with 8% growth in the five years to 2024.[6]

In 2021, the median household income was $1,682 per week, lower than the NSW average of $1,829.[3]

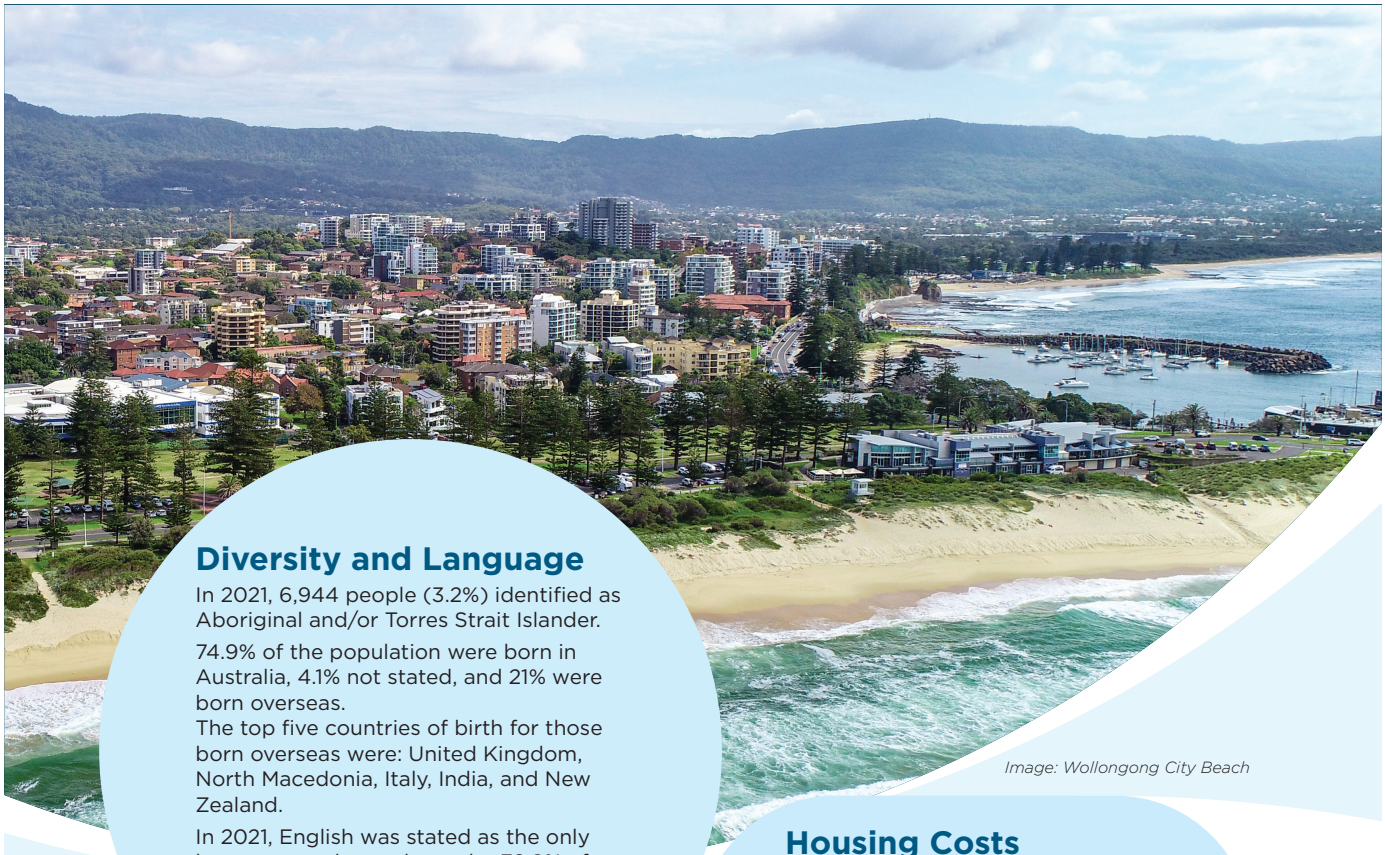


Image: Wollongong City Beach

Diversity and Language

In 2021, 6,944 people (3.2%) identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

74.9% of the population were born in Australia, 4.1% not stated, and 21% were born overseas.
The top five countries of birth for those born overseas were: United Kingdom, North Macedonia, Italy, India, and New Zealand.

In 2021, English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 79.8% of the population. The four most common languages other than English were: Macedonian, Arabic, Italian and Mandarin.[3]

Housing Costs

In 2024, the median house price was $1,055,000 and unit price was $715,000.

Weekly rent was $700 for a house and $500 for a unit.

Only 50.6% of rentals were considered affordable.[4]

Homes, Households and Homelessness

In June 2024, there were 91,899 dwellings in Wollongong. By 2035, this is expected to increase to 107,617. The areas expected to see the greatest increase in new homes are Wollongong CBD, Dapto and Dombarton.[2]

In 2021, 66.3% of residents lived in separate houses, 20.5% lived in medium density dwellings, and 12.3% in high density dwellings. 60.9% of residents had a mortgage or fully owned their home, 23.1% of residents were renting privately and 6.8% lived in social housing.[3]

29.3% of households were couples with children, 11.2% were one- parent households and 25.4% were people living alone with nearly half aged 65+.[3]

1,255 people were experiencing homelessness.[3]

Education

In 2021, 12,670 residents (5.9%) attended university, and 5,872 (2.7%) were in TAFE or vocational training.[3]

Transport

In 2024, driving a car was the dominant method for all purposes. 86% of residents living in the LGA commuted to work by car, motorcycle or scooter, 8% caught public transport, and 6% walked or rode a bicycle. [1]

Sources
[1] Wollongong City Council, Community Wellbeing Survey, 2024
[2] Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2046, prepared by .id, 2025
[3] Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 census. Note at the time of publication this was the latest census data.
[4] PropTrack, Compiled and presented by .id, 2024. Rentals at 30% of gross income for very low, low and moderate income households.
[5] National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR), 2024
[6] Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour force survey, 2024
[7] Wollongong City Council, Asset Management Plans, 2025
[8] Snapshot Climate, Community Emissions Tool, 2024.

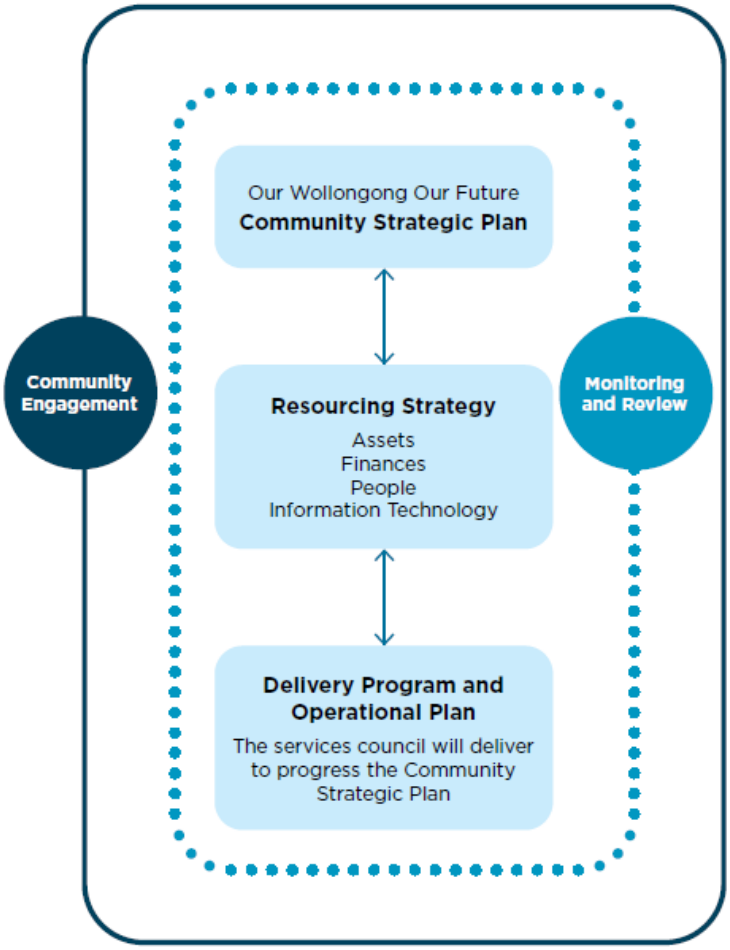
Image: Council staff meeting, Burelli Street Wollongong

Integrated Planning and Reporting – Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program

Our Community Strategic Plan, Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 includes the community's vision, goals, objectives and strategies for the future. Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan outlines how those strategies for which it holds responsibility, will be translated into actions, delivered through 33 Council Services.

Council is not solely responsible for the implementation of the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan. It is the community's Plan and Council works together with business, government, community groups and individuals to deliver the community's aspirations.

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan is developed utilising the resources available through the Resourcing Strategy 2022-2032.



Reporting To Our Community

Wollongong City Council regularly tracks and monitors the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and reports to the community on progress on a quarterly and annual basis. Council also tracks progress towards the Community Strategic Plan through the State of our City Report. All reports are available on Council's website.

Our Wollongong Our Future 2032

Vision

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.

Goals

We value and protect our environment

We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

We are a connected and engaged community

We have a healthy community in a liveable city

We have affordable and accessible transport

Our Values and Purpose

Wollongong City Council is committed to being a local government of excellence that enhances our City's quality of life and environment through effective leadership, community involvement and commitment to service. As a purpose-led, values driven organisation our values are part of everything we do every day and provide the foundation of our organisational culture and guide how we deliver the strategies and actions outlined in the Delivery Program.

We live these values through:

Enabling daily work that encourages collaboration, innovation, interdependence, belonging and inclusion

Living the values in everyday work through behaviours and interactions

Supporting and enabling people to deliver on the promise of an Extraordinary Wollongong

OUR VALUES IN ACTION

SUSTAINABLE
use our community's resources responsibly

RESPECT
inclusive and considerate

COURAGE
challenge the norm to be better

INTEGRITY
honest and reliable

ONE TEAM
together we deliver excellent service

Councillor Information

The following Councillors were in office following the NSW Local Government elections held on 14 September, 2024.

Lord Mayor
Councillor Tania Brown
Email
council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
02 4227 7111

Ward 1

Councillor Richard Martin
Email
cr.rmartin@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0437 553 175

Councillor Jess Whittaker
Email
cr.jwhittaker@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0491 316 123

Councillor Dan Hayes
Email
cr.dhayes@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0447 231 080

Councillor Ryan Morris
Email
cr.rmorris@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0416 240 955

Ward 2

Councillor Kit Docker
Email
cr.kdocker@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0419 765 651

Councillor Thomas Quinn
Email
cr.tquinn@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0421 521 791

Councillor David Brown
Email
cr.dbrown@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0409 897 597

Councillor Andrew Anthony
Email
cr.aanthony@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0448 286 501

Ward 3

Councillor Deidre Stuart
Email
cr.dstuart@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0457 902 470

Deputy Lord Mayor
Councillor Linda Campbell
Email
cr.lcampbell@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0437 570 708

Councillor Ann Martin
Email
cr.amartin@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0435 575 370

Councillor Tiana Myers
Email
cr.tmyers@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone
0412 700 291

Our Executive

Greg Doyle
General Manager

Renee Campbell
Director
Corporate Services

Linda Davis
Director
Planning and Environment

Joanne Page
Director
Infrastructure and Works

Kerry Hunt
Director
Community Services

Our Workforce

Includes permanent, term contract employees, and casuals as at 30 June 2025

Our workforce is comprised of 1,775 employees

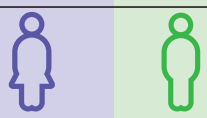
Employment type	Females	Males	Indeterminate
Permanent full-time	294	646	1
Permanent part-time	206	31	1
Term contract	83	76	0
Casual	233	192	12
Total	816	945	14

40% of employees at Middle Manager Level and above are women

	Female	Male
General Manager		100%
Director	100%	
Senior Manager	30.8%	69.2%
Middle Manager	38.5%	61.5%

67 Graduates, Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees make up our workforce

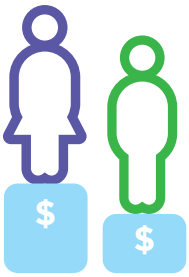
	Female	Male
Graduates	4	6
Cadets	12	12
Apprentices	4	10
Trainees	7	12



Wollongong City Council Gender Pay Gap

The gender pay gap measures the annual difference between the average earnings of women and men in a workplace. It shows how contributions are valued across the workforce and is expressed as either a percentage or a dollar amount. Closing this gap supports a fair, inclusive and economically strong society. The gender pay gap is different from equal pay. Equal pay means being paid the same for the same or comparable work, which has been a legal requirement in Australia since 1969.
The gender pay gap compares average pay for women and men across all roles and levels.

While Wollongong City Council is not legislatively required to report under the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012, we choose to do so as part of our commitment to transparency and equity. Data is calculated using the Workplace Gender Equality Agency methodology and shows the yearly difference in average earnings between women and men, expressed as both a percentage (of male earnings) and a dollar amount.



Full-Time Equivalent Gender Pay Gap (all employees)

Wollongong City Council's full-time equivalent gender pay gap is 0.2%, or $220.84 per year in favour of women. This compares the average base salaries of female and male employees across all employment types - full-time, part-time, term contract and casual as at 30 June 2025. Salaries for part-time and casual employees have been annualised to a full-time rate to ensure a fair comparison. The calculation includes base salary components such as ordinary time earnings and paid leave but excludes higher-duty payments where staff may be temporarily acting in another role. The General Manager is included in this measure, consistent with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency methodology.

Delivering everyday

Wollongong City Council delivers a diverse range of services for our community everyday. Some of these services – building and repairing roads, rubbish collection and maintenance of public spaces and facilities are recognised as Council's work.

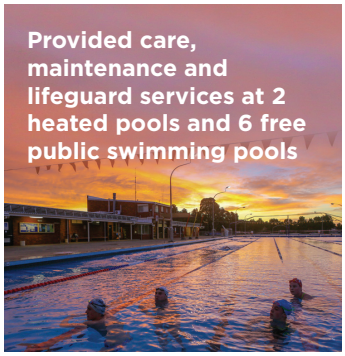
Others might not be as well known. Here are some highlights for 2024-2025.

760 people laid to rest in our six operational cemeteries and gardens

Ran 52 different programs and projects for young people

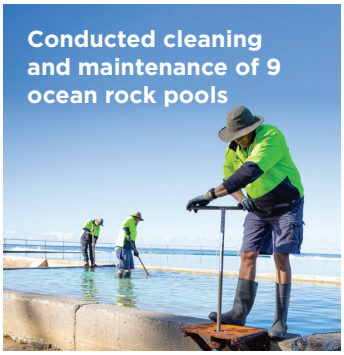
Conducted seasonal patrols of 17 beaches including North Wollongong year-round

Provided care, maintenance and lifeguard services at 2 heated pools and 6 free public swimming pools



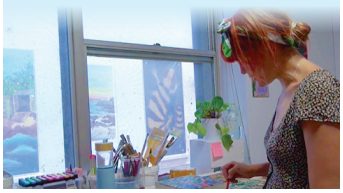
Operated more than 1,300 parks, reserves and open space areas

Conducted cleaning and maintenance of 9 ocean rock pools



Facilitated and supported a wide range of community arts festivals and activations

Managed the Creative Wollongong Studios providing workspaces for local artists



Picked up over 1,250 public bins across the Local Government Area each week with more than 75% of these bins serviced 5 times a week

Managed and operated 76 Council-owned community facilities including Neighbourhood Centres, Senior Citizens Centres, Childcare Centres, Libraries, Community Centres and Community Halls

Conducted over 400 school zone parking patrols at our local primary schools

Transitioned 45% of our light fleet vehicles to lower emissions vehicles including 30 electric vehicles

Had over 104,265 nights stayed at our three tourist parks

Determined 942 development applications

Inspected approximately 28,710 metres of stormwater pipe and 1,525 stormwater pits and headwalls

Had 427,083 attendances across all program areas including group exercise, learn to swim, competitive and social swimming, athletics, tennis, squash, fitness, table tennis, badminton across two commercially operated recreation centres

Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program continued to divert organic material from landfill, with a total 32,671 tonnes of food organics and garden organics materials processed

Held 467 environmental program/events/ workshops

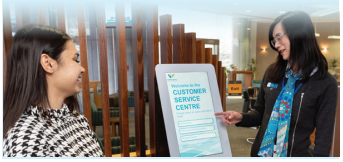
Saw 51,265 people visit the Wollongong Art Gallery

Our 7 Libraries saw 521,207 visitors and loaned 1,379,457 items

Managed approximately 8.7 million square metres of road pavement over 1,186kms

Planned for the delivery of Council's largest ever proposed capital budget through the Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025-2026 to 2028-2029

Customer service answered 92,717 telephone calls, logged 2,126 in person customer requests and received 26,637 online requests



Supported 24 Cadets, 12 apprentices, 15 trainees and 4 school-based trainees through Cadet, Apprentice, Trainee and School-based Trainee program

Delivering Sustainable Services

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, section 428(3) and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines Essential Element 5.3

Council has a strong history of reviewing services as part of its continuous improvement and customer-centric practices. Council has a Service Optimisation Program that continues to focus on assessing identified service delivery to ensure it:

- is sustainable, relevant, aligned with community need,
- delivers a good customer experience, and
- operates efficiently and effectively.

During the process, we place a considerable focus on community and stakeholder engagement. Meaningful engagement helps us understand pain points and opportunities and is used to shape recommendations to improve the customer experience and our internal processes. Our review process uses information from many sources including other relevant and recent community and stakeholder engagement activities, community satisfaction survey results and customer requests, to name a few. Where we have gaps in information, we seek to further engage with the community in an appropriate manner (for example via interviews, workshops or surveys).

Below is a summary of how Council's Service Optimisation Program progressed during the 2024–2025 financial year.

Service/Focus Area	Status	Review Outcome	Improvements Made
Development Assessment (DA) customer interface	Complete	This service assessment looked at the customer service process, website content, online services, communications to customers and associated internal processes. The main goal was to enhance customer service and make it easier for the community and customers to access the information they need from Council.	Most of the recommendations were implemented or commenced in the 2024–2025 financial year. Some recommendations remain in progress and are expected to be completed in the 2025-2026 financial year. Some of the improvements made to date include: • Streamlining website navigation for DA related content to make it easier for customers to follow the process. • Publishing content that clearly outlines the type of advice Council's Development Assessment Duty Officers can and cannot provide to customers/the community. • Improving the user experience across DA related online self-serve functions, including the Lodge an Application process. • Reviewing and rewriting a range of customer facing communications against the principles of plain English. • Improving the information we provide about Council's DA notification and submission processes. In late 2025, we'll undertake a user survey to gauge how the community and customers feel about the changes we have put in place.

Service/Focus Area	Status	Review Outcome	Improvements Made
Rates customer interface	Complete	This service assessment looked at the process customers go through when interacting with Council rates to identify pain points, current service gaps and improvement opportunities. This included reviewing customer service calls received, customer request data, the various customer online portals, website content, communications to customers and associated internal processes. To help support the findings, we undertook empathy interviews with residents/community members, to understand their experiences. The main goal was to enhance customer service, make it easier for the community and customers to access rates information, understand and navigate the various payment methods available and know what to do if they need assistance.	Recommendations will move into implementation during the 2025–2026 financial year.
Pits/Drains customer interface	In Progress	This Service Assessment is progressing and will be completed in the 2025–2026 financial year. It includes looking at the procedures involved in receiving, understanding and acting upon customer requests. It encompasses the entire lifecycle of a customer request, from initial submission to resolution including information provided via customer communications, the use of technology, website content and navigation, and relevant internal processes.	Review still underway.
Road Signage	In Progress	This Service Assessment has commenced and will be completed in the 2025–2026 financial year. This review aims to assess the full lifecycle of road signs (as identified in scope) — from installation and maintenance to eventual removal and replacement — ensuring alignment with safety standards, regulatory compliance, and community expectations. The assessment will examine current policies, procedures, and maintenance programs to identify opportunities for improved efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and visual amenity, including incorporating community feedback to enhance the functionality of signage across the network.	Review still underway.

Achieving Environmentally Sustainable Outcomes

In alignment with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines and broader public sector sustainability reporting practices, and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, section 428(3).

Council is committed to delivering services that are environmentally responsible, economically viable, and aligned with community values. Sustainability is embedded across Council's operations and planning, with a focus on reducing emissions, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing resilience. Council's approach is guided by long-term strategic goals and shaped through meaningful engagement with our community, stakeholders, and partners.

This section provides a summary of Council's key sustainability achievements during the 2024–2025 financial year, grouped under community-focused initiatives and operational improvements.

Council's Emissions Reduction Targets

- Net zero emissions by 2030 for Wollongong City Council operations,
- 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 for the Wollongong community, and
- Net zero emissions by 2050 for the Wollongong community.

Community Focused Initiatives

Council continues to deliver environmentally sustainable outcomes that respond to community needs, reduce environmental impact, and build long-term resilience. This financial year saw several successful and ongoing programs delivered targeting: clean energy and electrification, resource recovery and circular economy, urban greening and biodiversity, sustainable and active transport, and ecologically sustainable development.

Wollongong LGA Emissions Reduction Snapshot

20% reduction in emissions since 2018-2019

35% of homes have solar panels

12 community batteries installed

133,000 tonnes of CO_2 diverted from residential solar energy generated

175,700 tonnes of CO_2 diverted by using Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO)

166,400 tonnes of CO_2 diverted by using kerbside recycling

9 public electric vehicle chargers in Council carparks

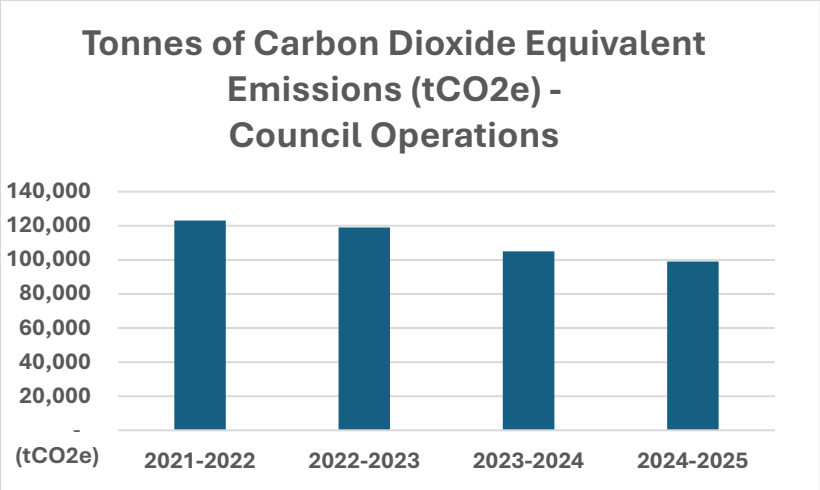
25% of new car registrations are electric vehicles as at February 2025

Wollongong Community Emissions

Wollongong's emissions have steadily decreased since 2018 mainly due to greening of the electricity grid with renewable energy sources. Our largest sources of emissions (excluding industrial processes) remain stationary energy (electricity and gas consumption) and transport as we work towards our 2030 interim target. For 2018-2019, community emissions were recorded at 4.451 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. 2022-2023 recorded 3.804 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. 2022-2023 is the latest available data at time of publication (*Source: Wollongong profile, snapshot.com.au)*, reflecting a downward trend since 2018.

Wollongong City Council Operational Emissions

Council continues to make progress in reducing its operational carbon footprint, aligning with our net zero by 2030 target. In 2024–2025, emission reductions were driven by investment in renewable energy, electrification, landfill gas capture and transition of fleet to electric vehicles. Emissions from Whytes Gully landfill continue to be Council's biggest source of operational emissions and we'll continue to act innovatively to reach our goal.

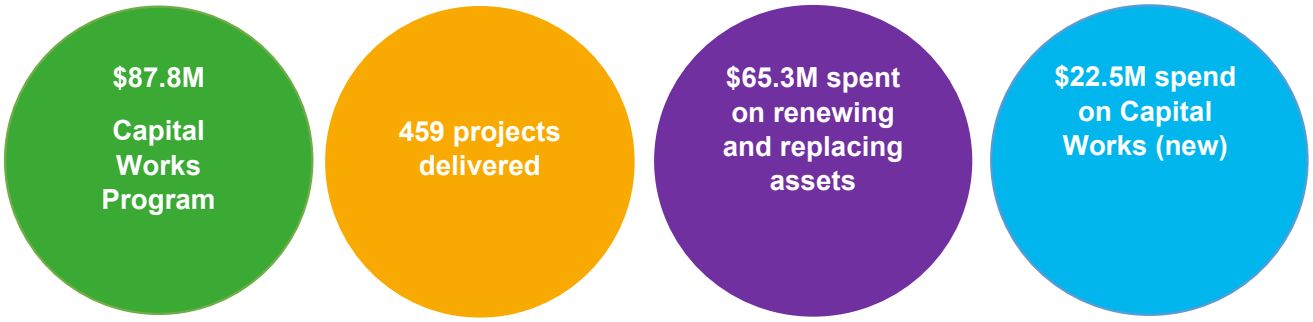


Some key projects that contributed to emissions reductions in 2024-2025:

Operational Emissions Reduction Project	Outcome and Impact
Increase landfill gas capture infrastructure	This financial year 10 additional gas capture wells were installed at the landfill as the new landfill cell was constructed. The additional capacity is expected to capture a further 20% of the methane emissions generated by organic landfill.
Ongoing solar acceleration program	Council's 500+kW of onsite solar generated over 740MWh of electricity in 2024-2025. Avoiding over 500 tonnes of emissions and enough energy to power charge one of our electric vehicles over 11,000 times.
Fleet transition	Council has transitioned over 110 vehicles to either electric or hybrid options. When charged with Council's renewable energy each electric car on average reduces 5 tonnes of emissions/year.
Electrification of gas consuming assets	Progressed the upgrade of the Town Hall and Art Gallery HVAC system to an efficient electric heat pump. This will see these facilities transition to full electric and include on-site solar generation. Currently these facilities account for 142 tonnes of emissions each year that will now be powered by zero emissions renewable energy.
Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) diversion from landfill	31,000 tonnes of FOGO was diverted from landfill and reused for compost production, this avoided ~45,000 tonnes of emissions.

Image: Continental Pools, Wollongong.

Major Capital Works Projects



Wollongong City Council is the custodian of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets with a gross value of approximately $7.3B and a net carrying value of $4.1B on behalf of the community.

During 2024-2025, Council delivered a capital works program worth $87.8M across 459 projects throughout the Local Government Area. This includes $65.3M on renewing and replacing existing assets and $22.5M on upgrading, constructing or purchasing new assets.

Council received a further $13.9M of contributed assets such as roads and drainage from new subdivisions constructed by developers. The following is a summary of the 2024-2025 expenditure program, highlighting some of the major projects undertaken during the year:

Major Capital Projects*	Spend YTD
New Cell Stage 2B-2, Whytes Gully	$9.3M
Beaton Park Regional Tennis Complex Upgrade	$3.5M
Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation	$3.2M
Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library	$2.6M
Stages 2-4 West Dapto Road Upgrade	$2.3M
Cleveland Road Upgrade Stage 1	$1.2M
Stage 1A – West Dapto Road Upgrade	$1.2M
Farmborough Road; #151 to Fairloch Avenue (East)	$1.1M
Weringa Avenue, Flagstaff Road to Denise Street	$0.9M
Reserve Street, Gilmore Street to Robsons Road; south side	$0.9M
Strathearn Avenue; Rawlinson Avenue to South Street	$0.8M
Hercules Street; New Dapto Road to Denison Street	$0.8M
Mount Keira Road; Queen Elizabeth Drive to Mount Keira Road RFS	$0.8M

* Expenditure quoted above refers to the actual expenditure for 2024-2025, not the total cost of the project

Projects across multiple locations^ Asset Class	Number of Projects	Total Spend
Roads and Related Assets	141	$21.0M
West Dapto	14	$7.6M
Footpaths and Cycleways	76	$9.4M
Carparks	12	$1.3M
Stormwater and Floodplain Management	71	$8.3M
Buildings	60	$7.5M
Commercial Operations	16	$5.8M
Parks, Gardens and Sportsfields	41	$3.4M
Beaches and Pools	2	$0.6M
Waste Facilities	9	$10.3M
Fleet	1	$4.3M
Plant and Equipment	2	$3.3M
Information Technology	7	$1.6M
Library Books	1	$1.4M
Public Art	1	$0.2M
Land Acquisitions	5	$1.8M

^ Number of projects refers to the number of projects Council spent money on and not necessarily constructed in 2024–2025

Council at Work

Council's revenue for 2024-2025 was $390.64M, with the majority of revenue coming from general rates and annual charges. This funding supported more than 33 services and programs, as well as new investment in operational and strategic priorities for the city. The following information provides an overview of Council's revenue and expense in 2024-2025.

Where does the money come from?

	%	Total $'000 390,643
Rates and Annual Charges	63%	247,516
User Fees and Charges and Other Revenue	10%	40,074
Rental Income	2%	6,555
Grants and Contributions – Capital Purposes	12%	45,473
Grants and Contributions – Operating Purposes	8%	31,646
Interest and Investment Revenue	3%	12,081
Other Revenues	2%	7,298

Where is the money spent? Expense by Service

Financial Overview

Key Indicators

$46.5M Available Funds
Amount of funds Council has earned but not allocated to specific expenditure

($10.2M) Net Operating Result
($55.7M) Operating result pre-capital
Long term viability of Council

$87.8M Capital Expenditure
Full year Capital expenditure

Financial Highlights

$247.5M Rates and Annual Charges

$390.6M Total income from continuing operations

$77.1M Total Grants and Contributions provided for capital and operating purposes

$21.1M Commonwealth government funded grants

$18.8M State government funded grants

$302.8M Total expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation

$13.9M in Contributed Assets recognised

$4.2B Net Assets

$22.5M invested in new capital works **$65.3M** invested in renewing existing

$7.3BN Gross replacement costs of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment managed by Council

$112.3M Total cash, cash equivalents and investments held not subject to external restrictions

$213.9M Total cash, cash equivalents and investments held

$34.4M Net increase in cash, cash equivalents and investments held over the year

Connecting With Our Community

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan delivers in response to the aspirations outlined in the Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan. Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Community Strategic Plan is the community's Plan, and Council works together with business, government, community groups and individuals to deliver the community's aspirations.

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan have been prepared in response to community engagement and feedback and Council's legislative responsibilities.

Throughout 2024–2025, many online and face to face engagement methods have been used to hear the thoughts and ideas of our community about a range of Council's plans, projects and policies.

Community engagement undertaken throughout 2024–2025 includes:

Project name	Date
Draft Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2024	July
Draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009: West Dapto Release Area	July
Help plan for how we get around the City Centre in future	July - August
Planning Proposal – 21 Barham Place - Horsley (Preliminary)	July - August
Planning Proposal – Preliminary Notification – Irvine Street, Gwynneville precinct	July - August
Wollongong City Council Business Survey 2024	August - September
Options for Helensburgh Cemetery Entrance	August - September
Helensburgh Community Rooms – Fees and Charges	August - September
Revised Privacy Management Plan 2024	August - September
Creating safer connections to Corrimal Train Station Phase 1	August - September
Creating safer connections to Austinmer Train Station Phase 1	August - September
Creating safer connections to Helensburgh Train Station Phase 1	August - September
Creating safer connections to Stanwell Park Train Station	August - September
Creating safer connections to Coniston Train Station Phase 1	August - September
Creating safer connections to Bulli Train Station	August - September
Creating safer connections to Thirroul Train Station	August - September
Planning Proposal – Preliminary Notification – Stockland Forest Reach Estate Huntley	September - October
Draft Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy 2024	September - November
Location options for Helensburgh Men's Shed	October
New Helensburgh Community Centre and Library	October
Fowlers and Cleveland Roads Upgrade	October - November
Draft Neighbourhood Plan – Cleveland Road East Precinct	October - November
CCTV in the Wollongong CBD	October
Our Wollongong Our Future 2035	October – November; April - May
Review of Councillors Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy	October - November
Review of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter A1: Introduction	November - December
Creating a Safer Community	December - February
Options for the Lake Illawarra Entrance	November - December
Draft Wollongong Foreshore Plan of Management	December - February
Review of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter A2: Ecologically Sustainable Development	February - March
Planning Proposal – Preliminary Notification – Marshall Mount Road Timber Glades Precinct	February - March
Permit, Plug, Play	February - May

Project name	Date
Planning Proposal – Irvine Street, Gwynneville Precinct	March - May
Updating Wollongong's Development Controls: Car Parking, Access, Facilities and Traffic Management	March - April
Planning Proposal – Stockland Forest Reach Estate, Huntley	March
Planning Proposal – Preliminary Notification – 190 Military Road, Port Kembla	March
Share your Helensburgh Cemetery portico story	March - June
Draft Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 and Draft Resourcing Strategy 2025-2035	April - May
Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement	April - May
Caring for waterways in West Dapto	April - June
Flinders Street Precinct Review – Aboriginal Engagement	April - June
Planning Proposal – Exempt Temporary Events and Review of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 – Chapter C6 Events Management	May - June
Our Asset Plan 2025-2035	May - June
Review of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009: Appendix 4 Definitions	May - June
Planning Proposal for 21 Barham Place, Horsley	May - June
Pick your favourite image of Dapto!	May - June
Help make our next Disability Inclusion Action Plan	June - September
Hill 60 Masterplan Implementation – Stage 1A upgrade	Ongoing
Wollongong Youth Services programs	Ongoing

Calendar of Events

Wollongong City Council delivers and supports a diverse range of events to entertain, engage, activate, connect and build a sense of community.

Here are just some of the events held throughout the year.

July 2024

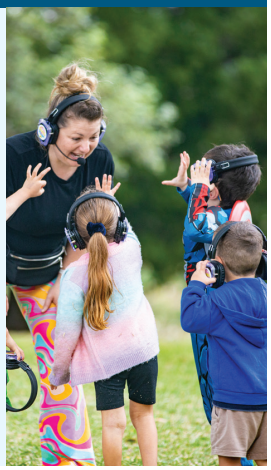
- NAIDOC Week*
- Lantern Parade 2024 Port Kembla
- Football Australia 2024 National Youth Boys Championships
- Kite Flying Festival, Lang Park Wollongong

August 2024

- Australian Darts Masters
- Lord Mayor's Recognition Reception*
- Emma McKeon AM Promenade unveiling*
- 2024 Southern Stars

September 2024

- Household Chemical Cleanout*
- Nature Shake*
- Creative Wollongong Short Film Festival*

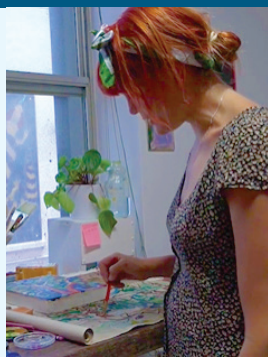


October 2024

- Open Street Festival*
- Yours and Owls 10th Birthday Party
- Illawarra Aboriginal Business Expo*
- 2024 Down Under Championships - Crossfit
- Culture Mix (multi-cultural Festival)*
- Lord Mayor's School Starter Picnic*

November 2024

- City of Wollongong Giving Tree*
- Australian Supercross Championship
- MS Sydney to Gong
- Santa's Arrival*
- Illawarra Convoy
- Creative Wollongong Studios Open Day*



December 2024

- Australian Junior Surfing Titles
- Biker's Toy Run*
- City of Wollongong Christmas Carols*
- Sunset Cinema*
- Wollongong New Years Eve*

* Events directly delivered by Wollongong City Council

January 2025

Wollongong Summer Carnival

Honk Oz

Volleyball - Youth National Champs

Cityskate: The Roller Remix

Australia Day Aquathon

Australia Day 2025*

February 2025

Lunar New Year at Crown Steet Markets*

LoveFest Wollongong

Annual Rock Swap

Illawarra Hawks v South East Melbourne Phoenix

March 2025

Yours and Owls Festival

Seniors Festival*

Great Illawarra Walk

Lord Mayor's Afternoon Tea Dance*

2025 Women's NSW Open Golf Tournament

April 2025

Sculpture in the Garden*

Connections Exhibition – Works by Creative Wollongong Studio Artists in Residence 2024-2025*

Youth Week*

City Skate*

ANZAC Day Dawn Service and March*

May 2025

Wollongong Chilli Festival*

NSW and VIC State Touch Rugby League Championships

Live + Local Micro Festival*

Botanic Gardens Week*

Comic Gong*

June 2025

Wollongong Running Festival

Make Music Day

Creative Dialogues*

Bloody Long Walk

Council's Supporting Document Roadmap

Council refers to its adopted strategies and plans as Supporting Documents. These direction setting documents support the development of the Community Strategic Plan, Council's Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plans.

These documents include goals, strategies and actions specific to project or location. However, until the actions are enabled through resourcing and included in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, they remain aspirational.

The following supporting documents have been endorsed by Wollongong City Council as priority documents and for the actions within them to be considered for inclusion through the annual planning process:

Community Services and Facilities

Discover Learn and Connect Wollongong City Libraries Strategy 2024-2028
Wollongong Community Safety Plan 2021-2025
Creative Wollongong 2024-2033
Cultural Tourism Strategy 2018
Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025
Framing Our Future - Wollongong Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2020–2025
Places for People Wollongong Social Infrastructure Planning Framework 2018-2028
Places for the Future: Social Infrastructure Future Directions: 2023-2036
Animating Wollongong Public Art Strategy 2022-2032
Public Toilets Strategy 2019-2029
Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023
Destination Wollongong Major Events Strategy 2021-2026

Corporate Governance and Internal Services

Our Resourcing Strategy 2032
Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2032
Asset Management Strategy 2022-2032
Workforce Management Strategy 2022-2026
Information Management and Technology Strategy 2022-2024

Environment

Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy
Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2030
Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022
Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy
Illawarra Escarpment Management Plan 2015
Urban Greening Strategy 2017-2037
Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034
Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program 2020–2030
Coastal Zone Management Plan 2017
Urban Heat Strategy 2023

Stormwater Management Plans

Floodplain Risk Management Plans

Planning and Engagement

West Dapto Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment 2023
West Dapto Vision 2018
Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029
Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework
Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027
Wollongong Housing Strategy 2023
Wollongong Retail and Business Centres Strategy 2023
Tourism Accommodation Strategy
Public Spaces Public Life 2016-2029
Wollongong Industrial Lands Review 2023
Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

Town and Village Plans Including:

- Corrimal Town Centre
- Dapto Town Centre
- Figtree Town Centre
- Helensburgh Town Centre Plan
- Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan
- Thirroul Village Centre
- Unanderra Town Centre
- Warrawong Town Centre
- South Wollongong Future Strategy

Recreation and Open Space

Masterplans including:

- Beaton Park
- Blue Mile
- Wollongong Botanic Garden
- Bulli Showground
- Corrimal Heated Pool
- Cringila Hills Recreation
- Draft Bellambi Foreshore
- Figtree Oval
- Grand Pacific Drive
- Hill 60
- Kembla Grange Cemetery
- King George V Oval
- Memorial Gardens
- Stuart Park
- JP Galvin Park

Plans of Management including:

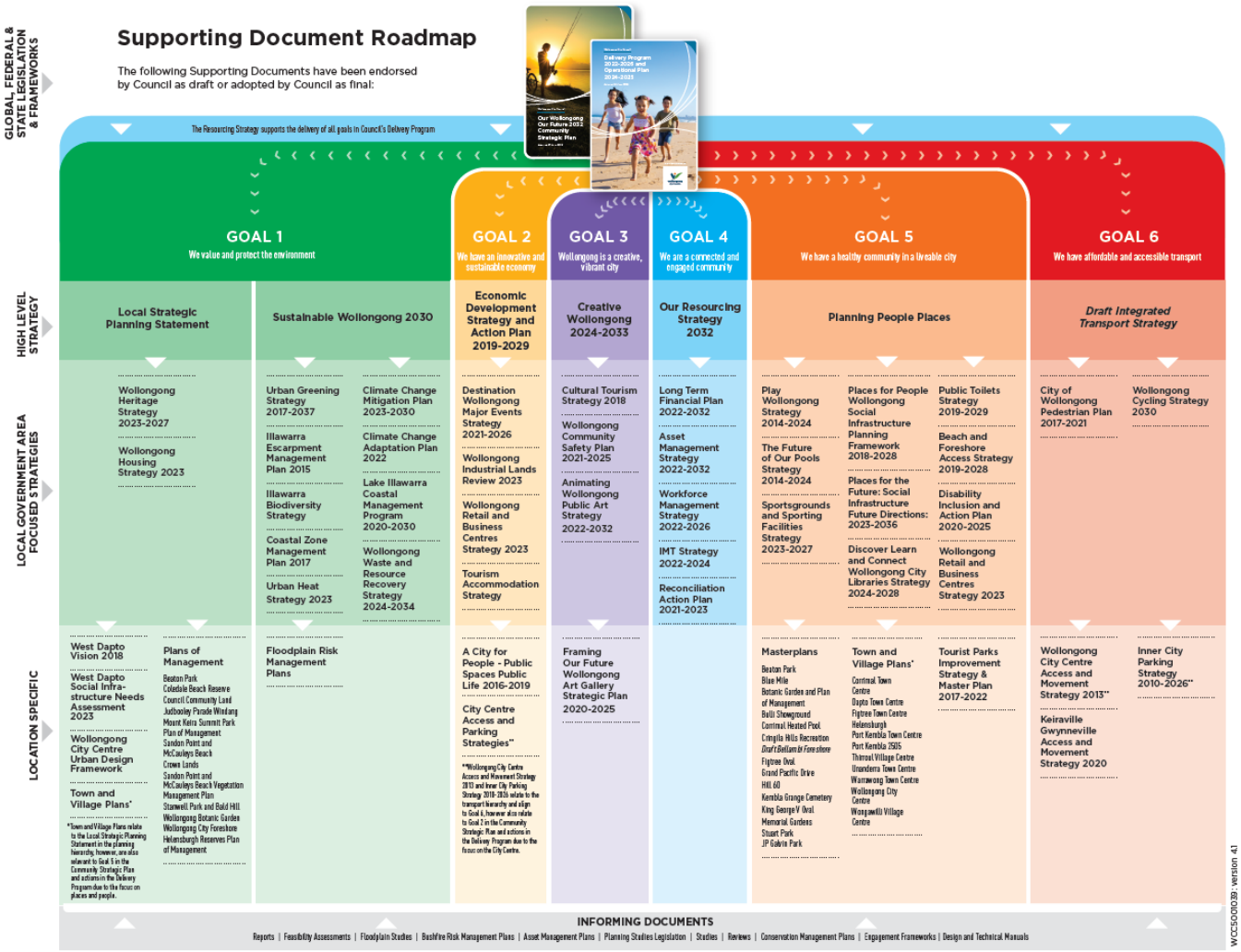
- Council Community Land
- Beaton Park
- Coledale Beach Reserve
- Judbooley Parade Windang
- Mount Keira Summit Park Plan of Management
- Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach Stanwell Park Reserve and Bald Hill Lookout
- Wollongong Botanic Garden
- Wollongong City Foreshore

- Helensburgh Reserves Plan of Management
- Draft Hill 60 Crown Reserve

Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027
The Future of Our Pools Strategy 2014-2024
Play Wollongong Strategy 2014-2024
Tourist Parks Improvement Strategy and Masterplan 2017-2022
Beach and Foreshore Access Strategy 2019-2028

Transport and Infrastructure Planning

Draft Transport Strategy 2025-2035
Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030
City of Wollongong Pedestrian Plan 2017-2021
Inner City Parking Strategy 2010-2026
Keiraville Gwynneville Access and Movement Strategy 2020
Draft City Centre Movement and Place Plan
Asset Management Plans



COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

To focus Council's attention, Councillors identified five key focus areas for the life of the Delivery Program. These are known as Council's Strategic Priorities.

Localised Suburbs and Places

Our localised suburbs and places will be well planned so that they are liveable and safe. This includes important transport infrastructure and footpaths, as well as the necessary facilities and spaces are available for a variety of uses for communities. We will endeavour to maintain and protect the unique character of our local areas and encourage community spirit and civic pride through appropriate activities and land uses.

Sustainable Wollongong

Achieving a sustaibable future and addresssing a changing climate are a significant focus during this Council term. Our program includes the implementation of key priorities including reducing emissions and reducing waste to landfill, continuing urban greening and protecting our natural environment.

Active Transport and Connectivity

We are planning for and progressively working towards an integrated and active transport network with improved connectivity across the Local Government Area. We will continue to facilitate the upgrade of our public transport, bicycle networks, pedestrian access routes and safety around our schools. This focus will see further investment into our footpaths and cycle ways, complementing our commitment to our suburbs and places.

Business and Investment

We will continue to grow the Wollongong economy through jobs growth, attracting business, investment, major events and tourism to the region. We will continue to promote our local advantages, including our proximity to Sydney, supportive business environment, innovative ecosystem, world class university and suburb liveability. We will work with key stakeholders including peak business groups and state and federal governments to further promote our city and attract greater invesment in infrastructure and other key assets.

West Dapto

We will continue to work in collaboration with key agencies to provide the infrastructure needed to support West Dapto's existing and growing community and employment lands of the urban release area. This will include coordinated planning for access improvements including new roads and bridges which are needed to support the expected 19,500 total housing lots and 8,500 jobs required over the next 30 years.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CONTINUED

Strategic Priorities

Our Councillors have made a commitment to support our organisation and community in making Wollongong a better place to live, work, visit and play. To focus Council's attention to achieve this, Councillors have agreed to five Strategic Priorities. These are outlined in the Delivery Program 2022-2026. A summary of progress made in 2024-2025 is outlined below:

Localised Suburbs and Places

Connecting Neighbours Grants were available to support an event or activity that connects people to each other. Funding was provided for 32 activities across the local government area.

The Paint the Gong REaD reading tent was delivered at various locations and events.

As part of the *Safer Cities: Her Way* project, festoon, fairy lighting and wayfinding signage was installed in Port Kembla town centre. A shade sail, soft fall, art pole wraps, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and charging station were installed in Dapto Square and an outdoor movie event was held.

The *Creative Wollongong* Short Film Competition festival was held at Lakeside Reserve, Kanahooka. The event focused on Lake Illawarra and was delivered in partnership with Screen Illawarra, Shellharbour City Council and the NSW Government.

A range of programs for young people were delivered in Bellambi, Bundaleer Estate, Warrawong, Dapto and Horsley.

Hill 60 Dreaming terrazzo was laid at Hill 60, Port Kembla and new signage has been installed which includes a QR code to stories about Hill 60 told by Aboriginal Traditional Owners, custodians and knowledge holders.

Support was provided for a range of community based Reconciliation Walks, National Aboriginal and Islanders' Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) events and the Saltwater Festival in Bundaleer Estate.

Informed by extensive community engagement, the Kembla Vision: A Plan for the Future was developed. The Plan includes a Vision, Guiding Principles and Proposed Actions for Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights.

Sustainable Wollongong

Council made significant progress delivering on its commitment to sustainability completing 477 environmental referrals to inform the assessment of proposed developments that support sustainable outcomes.

Council adopted amendments to Chapter A2 – Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009. This chapter outlines sustainability considerations for new development, including support for all-electric building options. These principles will inform future reviews of

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CONTINUED

additional chapters of the Development Control Plan to help deliver more sustainable development outcomes.

Sustainable Wollongong

Efforts continued to protect biodiversity through the West Dapto Urban Release Area - Biodiversity Certification Scheme which was publicly exhibited and submitted to the NSW Government for final endorsement.

Key projects were delivered under the Climate Change Mitigation Plan along with the development of communication and education tools to support our community in making sustainable decisions. Most of the tools are hosted on Council's website sustainability pages for ease of access.

Active Transport and Connectivity

Council completed engagement workshops and sessions with the community, Transport for NSW and other stakeholders to develop the draft Wollongong Transport Strategy 2025–2035, which was planned for Council endorsement early in 2026 financial year. This ambitious 10-year plan sets a future-focused direction for how people move around the city, aiming to create a safe, reliable, sustainable, and inclusive transport network.

Multiple stakeholder engagement sessions have been undertaken to develop the draft Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan. This is a strategic initiative by Council aimed at transforming how people move through and experience the city centre. It aligns with the broader Transport Strategy and focuses on creating a vibrant, connected, and accessible urban environment.

Council continues to implement the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030, adopted on 16 November 2020. Engagement with the consultant responsible for the Cycling Network Plan and Program has now concluded, with work progressing on the final version. This Plan delivers on multiple actions of the Cycling Strategy and will help guide future investment in cycling infrastructure. Community workshops are being developed to engage local cyclists, Councillors and staff, with the final Plan expected to be issued in 2025 following public feedback.

Once the Cycling Network Plan is completed, work will commence on a new Footpath Network Plan, subject to funding. This will help integrate active transport networks across the city and inform the Safer Routes to School planning, which identifies key priorities and addresses missing links.

Council staff have also been actively engaged with the NSW Government on the Strategic Cycling Corridors project. Feedback and recommendations were provided to align the draft proposals with Council's Cycling Network Plan and to ensure strong connections between local and regional cycleway routes. The Strategic Cycleway Corridors Illawarra–Shoalhaven Overview has identified three connections within the Wollongong Local Government Area. Detailed design is required to support the development of a future business case for funding. As part of this project, Council staff also reviewed a concept design for a route between Figtree and Coniston Train Station and are now awaiting the next steps in design development.

The draft Lake Illawarra Shared Path Masterplan will be finalised in 2025. Options for completing the loop will be shared following further engagement with key stakeholders and the community.

Council's Safer Routes to School program remains ongoing, supporting short and long-term actions that encourage active travel across the Local Government Area.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CONTINUED

Business and Investment

Wollongong has achieved 100 per cent of its jobs target from the Economic Development Strategy 2019–2029, reaching this milestone four years ahead of schedule. Between 2017–2018 and 2023–2024, local employment increased by 10,612 jobs—an 11.5 per cent rise—bringing the total number of jobs in the Wollongong Local Government Area to 102,957. This is a significant achievement for the region given the target represented double the jobs grow in the preceding decade.

Council conducted its biennial Wollongong Business Survey in August 2024, receiving over 300 responses. The results of the survey informed both our annual business support program, and the mid-term review of the Economic Development Strategy.

A new 30 second video featuring the Wollongong CBD as a place to do business was launched.

The *#MadeInWollongong Business Leader Series* was launched in December 2024. A new initiative dedicated to promoting local innovative businesses in key target sectors that are putting Wollongong on the map.

In January 2025, Council partnered with Screen Illawarra and Destination Wollongong, to host a Screen Famil tour – showcasing Wollongong's key assets and growing capability to host major film productions. The Famil was attended by senior executives including from Netflix, The Walt Disney Company, BBC Studios and Warner Bros Entertainment.

The 2025 *Invest Wollongong* Investment Prospectus was launched in February at the Property Council of Australia's Office Market Report event in Sydney, attended by more than 500 industry leaders in property.

Council also participated in the Reserve Bank of Australia region economic engagement program and hosted a number of other international trade and investment delegations including from Indonesia in October 2024 and Longyan, China in April 2025.

West Dapto

The review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2022) was finalised during the year. On 7 April 2025, Council adopted the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2025 as reviewed and supported by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This is a significant milestone that will ensure development contributions reflect current infrastructure costs and support the delivery of essential services in the West Dapto Urban Release Area.

The final report of IPART supports Council's request to remove the Western Ring Road project from the Contributions Plan subject to alternative funding being identified, either through grants or the NSW Government taking responsibility for its delivery. Council continued its advocacy for the State's commitment to the road, including Northcliffe Drive Extension, throughout 2024-2025.

Four major Concept Development Applications (DAs) were actively under assessment by Council staff throughout 2024-2025. Three of the Concept DAs were located within Stage 5 of the release area. The first of the applications was approved in May 2025. Located in Stage 5, it provides approval for eight development stages with the potential for 1,600 residential lots. This approval also includes consent for the Stage 1 subdivision, which will deliver 113 residential lots. Future stages (2 to 8) will require separate Development Applications. Concept DAs are submitted by applicants in lieu of Neighbourhood

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CONTINUED

Plans, as permitted under the New South Wales Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Council staff continued work on key infrastructure projects in West Dapto, including those supported by Commonwealth and NSW Government funding. This includes the Darkes District Sports and Community Hub and the West Dapto Road urban upgrade. Progress was also made on the Cleveland Road upgrade, with Council's works team completing Stage 1, from Fowlers Road to Cleveland Road.

Council remains actively involved in discussions with infrastructure delivery authorities to ensure a coordinated approach to infrastructure planning and delivery in line with development progress at West Dapto.

Image: Lunar New Year

We value and protect our environment
We have an innovative and sustainable economy
Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
We are a connected and engaged community
We have a healthy community in a liveable city
We have affordable and accessible transport
Community Strategic Plan
Resourcing Strategy
Delivery Program and Operational Plan
delivered through 33 Council Services
Development Assessment
Emergency Management
Environmental Services
Land Use Planning
Natural Area Management
Regulatory Compliance
Stormwater Services
Waste Management
City Centre Management
Economic Development
Tourist Parks
Cultural Services
Engagement, Communications and Events
Aged & Disability Services
Community Programs
Corporate Strategy
Integrated Customer Service
Libraries
Property Services
Youth Services
Aquatic Services
Botanic Garden & Annexes
Community Facilities
Leisure Centres
Memorial Gardens & Cemeteries
Parks & Sportfields
Public Health & Safety
Transport Services
Support Services
Employee Services, Financial Services, Governance & Administration,
Infrastructure Strategy & Support, Information Management & Technology

Summary of Progress by Goal
Status of Actions as at 30 June 2025

Status	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Support Services	Overall %
On-Track/ Complete Action is progressing or achieved as planned	96% *(23/24)*	100% *(8/8)*	100% *(9/9)*	100% *(22/22)*	64% *(18/28)*	86% *(6/7)*	86% *(12/14)*	88% *(98/112)*
Deferred A decision has been made to reschedule the timing of the project or actions	4% *(1/24)*	0% *(0/8)*	0% *(0/9)*	0% *(0/22)*	11% *(3/28)*	0% *(0/7)*	7% *(1/14)*	4% *(5/112)*
Not scheduled to commence The action was not due to commence during the reporting quarter	0% *(0/24)*	0% *(0/8)*	0% *(0/9)*	0% *(0/22)*	0% *(0/28)*	0% *(0/7)*	0% *(0/14)*	0% *(0/112)*
Delayed Unforeseen event has changed the timing of a project or action	0% *(0/24)*	0% *(0/8)*	0% *(0/9)*	0% *(0/22)*	25% *(7/28)*	14% *(1/7)*	7% *(1/14)*	8% *(9/112)*

Result shown as number of actions.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Objectives

We will work together to reduce emissions and the effects of a changing climate.
Our natural environments are protected and our resources will be managed effectively.
Development is well planned and sustainable and we protect our heritage.

Achievements

- Council led an Emergency Management training exercise involving over 130 emergency management personnel.
- 847 development applications were accepted and 942 determined.
- The Community Battery program was launched in partnership with Endeavour Energy, with the first round of batteries energised in Dapto and Warrawong.
- Council's public place Return and Earn Recycling initiative was recognised at the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards - Clean Communities award.
- Transitioned 45% of Council's light fleet vehicles to lower emissions vehicles including 30 electric vehicles.
- The Animal Care and Impounding Service rehoming program continued to expand, with 433 animals (181 dogs and 252 cats) successfully adopted into new homes.
- Adopted the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034 setting direction towards sustainable waste and resource management for the city.

Highlights

Children using one of the 100 additional public place bins and Return and Earn baskets installed at busy foreshore areas as part of the Summer Cleansing program.

Council adopted the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034.

Director Energy Futures Network Ty Christopher, Federal Member for Cunningham Alison Byrnes MP, Endeavour Energy Chief Financial Officer Francoise Merit, Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown and Coomaditchie Administration Officer Kristy 'Lil' Thomas at the launch of the Community Battery Program in partnership with Endeavor Energy, Warrawong.

A new polystyrene recycling unit at Whytes Gully has resulted in significant diversion of this material to landfill.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Development Assessment

Responsibility *Manager Development Assessment and Certification*

About this Service

The service undertakes assessment and determination of planning matters to facilitate balanced planning outcomes to serve the current and future community. This includes development applications, construction certificates, complying development, building and subdivision certificates, pre-lodgement advice, managing panels, Fire Safety Statements and upgrades, building compliance inspections, audits on completed buildings, providing expert evidence in Land and Environment Court Appeals, and advice to Council and stakeholders in all aspects of the development assessment process.

Annual Progress Update

Council continued to assess a diverse range of development applications during the year. Process improvement was a key focus with the implementation of recommendations from the recent customer experience review. These included improving processing times and customer service with enhancements completed along with ongoing investment in resolving issues with the NSW Planning Portal integration. Pre-lodgement advice was also provided to a range of stakeholders.

The introduction of the Planning Minister's expectations for assessment performance across the State, saw an increased focus on assessment times to align with the newly introduced criteria. Council demonstrated high performance in both the State and internal performance indicators.

Council continues to offer services as a Principal Certifying Authority for buildings and subdivisions, providing an alternative to private sector certification.

Council worked with the Design Review Panel to achieve design excellence through providing advice on 22 matters throughout the year. Work with the Wollongong Local Planning Panel saw the Panel consider and determine 50 matters.

Work with the Southern Regional Planning Panel saw the Panel briefed on eight matters over the course of the year and determine seven applications.

Throughout 2024-2025, 847 development applications were accepted and 942 were determined.

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Progress the outcomes resulting from the review of customer experience around access to information related to Development Assessment.	On-Track	The Development Assessment and Certification Service Optimisation Project is well progressed with a number of recommendations completed. The remaining items are on track for completion in the September 2025 quarter. The project has led to enhancements to Council's website for all planning and development related information as well as improved customer service online access to our Duty Development Officer. A minimum two customer call back over two separate days policy is now in place in order to improve customer service. A post implementation survey is planned for mid-2025-2026 financial year, in order to evaluate the success of the project from a customer perspective and further potential improvements.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Development Assessment Continued

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Administer Design Review Panel in relation to key sites or significant development	On-Track	Council continued to work with the Design Review Panel to support design excellence in the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel's engagement with Council staff and proponents' design teams assists in facilitating best design for significant projects across the local government area. The Panel provided advice on a total of 22 matters during 2024-2025.
Administer the Wollongong Local Planning Panel	On-Track	Council continued to work with the Wollongong Local Planning Panel to finalise the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel considered a total of 50 applications during 2024-2025. Panel concurrence with staff recommendations remains high with the Panel concurring with 44 out of 50 applications across the annual reporting period.
In conjunction with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment administer the Southern Regional Planning Panel	On-Track	Council continued to work with the Southern Regional Planning Panel to finalise the assessment and the determination of significant development. Council and the Panel focused on efficient and early reporting to deliver best outcomes for urban development proposals and applications. During 2024-2025, the Panel determined nine matters and was briefed on a further eight applications.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Emergency Management

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

The service provides support in the planning and preparation for significant emergencies that may impact the safety and security of residents and visitors to the city.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the year, Council continued to deliver its core emergency management responsibilities, supporting both the Local Emergency Management Committee and the Local Rescue Committee to undertake their legislated functions. Council's active involvement has ensured that these Committees continue to function effectively in coordinating local emergency preparedness and response.

Council's Emergency Management Officer played a key role in several emergency operations throughout the year. This included direct support to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) during the Bulli Pass bushfire in September 2024. Additional support was provided to both the NSW RFS and NSW State Emergency Service (SES) during periods of high and extreme fire danger and during severe storm events, including those associated with ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Council also contributed to regional emergency preparedness through participation in a major tsunami response exercise and by joining the exercise control team for a large-scale multi-agency drill. The officer is also contributing to the planning and operations committee for the upcoming World Triathlon Championship Finals.

On 21 June, the *BUSted* training exercise was held, simulating a serious collision between a bus and car on Mount Ousley Road involving 26 passengers. The exercise was planned and overseen by Council's Emergency Management Officer, Clare Robinson, and involved 130 emergency services personnel. The scenario tested the multi-agency response to a major road crash and supported ongoing readiness across emergency services.

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Partner with the State Emergency Service to upgrade Wollongong Unit facilities at Montague Street	On-Track	Council has agreed to partner with the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) to deliver minor upgrade works to the existing Wollongong SES Unit on Montague Street. These works will be fully funded by the SES. Project scoping is continuing in collaboration with SES representatives.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Emergency Management Continued

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Continue to advocate for funding from the State and Federal Government to Support disaster recovery and future resilience	On-Track	Council played a central role in leading the regional recovery efforts following the 6 April 2024 flood event. As chair of the Illawarra and Southern Highlands Regional Recovery Committee, Council continued to advocate for policy and funding reforms to enhance both immediate recovery and long-term community resilience. This collaborative forum provided a vital platform for coordinating regional responses and sharing strategic insights and has now concluded. Council has commenced preparing claims under the joint Commonwealth–State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to recover costs associated with clean-up activities and repairs to damaged infrastructure resulting from the April storm event. Council has received confirmation from Transport for NSW that an emergency works claim, valued at approximately $650,000, has been approved. Preliminary advice has also been received from NSW Public Works regarding the estimated value of Council's remaining emergency works, however, this has not yet been formalised. Council has submitted a grant application under Round 3 of the Disaster Ready Fund for a Disaster Resilience Innovation Pilot. The project aims to strengthen recovery and resilience capability within the Wollongong Local Government Area.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services

Responsibility *Manager City Strategy*

About this Service

This service involves Council working with the community in relation to local climate change mitigation, adaptation, monitoring and reporting, coastal and estuary management, biodiversity planning, contaminated lands controls, development assessment for environmental impacts, environmental education, volunteer management and partnerships, waste minimisation and environmental advocacy.

Annual Progress Update

2024-2025 was a year of rebuilding the education service both at the Botanic Garden and as an outreach program. This included a review and implementation of new school programs, development and delivery of new school holiday programs, community education and waste content. The establishment of a new environmental education event ‘Nature Shake’ was a successful highlight.

In addition to regular Bushcare, DuneCare and FIReady volunteer programs, tree planting activities included National Tree Day and Poem Forests events with community and school groups installing over 3,000 native plants and learning about their local environment. Council staff attended three Private Creek Care Information days across our three Wards. Creek Care days were an opportunity for community members to speak directly with Council staff about issues affecting private land ownership along creek lines. Council also supported the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council in undertaking the 'Planting Purrah Bay: Community Day Restoring Lake Illawarra Foreshore' project with 1,200 native plants planted.

The Bushcare Summer Walks series were held across five sites. All registered volunteers were invited to attend bush walks that highlight the important work that volunteers and Council undertake in our natural areas. Natural area restoration work continued throughout bushland reserves. Volunteers were recognised at two special events, a morning tea during national Volunteers Week and an end of year event.

Opportunities for community participation in Urban Greening actions were facilitated. These included National Tree Day, Poem Forest days with schools and special community planting events around key sites such as Lake Illawarra, Puckeys Estate. Highlight projects included the Glossy Black Cockatoo food tree project, supporting the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council in undertaking the 'Planting Purrah Bay: Community Day Restoring Lake Illawarra Foreshore' project.

The tree replacement ratio of 19:1 for the year, represents the number of trees being planted for each tree removal when combining natural area canopy trees and parks/open space specimen tree planting.

The New Landfill Cell construction at Whytes Gully continued overcoming some challenges including significant weather conditions. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of December 2025. The procurement of the domestic waste collection service has progressed with a report to Council expected at the end of September 2025.

Circular economy initiatives continued to be delivered with over 16,000 mattresses locally recycled, 31,000 tonnes of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) processed for reuse and over 800 kilograms of soft plastic collected in partnership with Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation.

Community Recycling Centre activities have been expanded to include polystyrene and embedded battery collections and an expanded list of e-waste items. Waste education programs continued focusing on the diversion of waste from landfill, by using FOGO, and included several tours for the public through the Soilco facility, where Council’s FOGO is processed.

The citywide biannual household waste bin audit was completed to inform current bin use behaviour and inform Council's approach to future education programs.

Council received two ‘Keep Australia Beautiful’ awards for Summer cleansing and FOGO Hero's campaign.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver commitments made under the Global Covenant of Mayors including the implementation of Council's Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2030	On-Track	Significant progress and achievements were made in line with the net zero pathway for community emissions. The adoption of solar panels and batteries by households and the decarbonisation of the electricity grid have resulted in a decrease in our community greenhouse gas emissions. The roll out of Community batteries by Endeavour Energy supported by Council and launch of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Community Renewable program in partnership with Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation and ShineHub in June 2025 will support further community emissions reduction. Increased consideration of Ecologically Sustainable Development outcomes through the adoption of Chapter A2 – Ecologically Sustainable Development in the Wollongong Development Control Plan and future Development Control Plan chapters review will assist with the community emissions pathway to net zero. Council's transition of our passenger fleet vehicles and related equipment to low carbon alternatives is well progressed with a further review of Council's large fleet underway. Capture of our landfill emissions has increased and a project to install solar on priority buildings is underway. Our internal Climate Actions working groups continue to prepare implementation plans that support reducing our corporate emissions. A focus on alignment across the organisation will support our ongoing pathway to net zero by 2030.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement priority actions of the certified Coastal Management Program for Lake Illawarra	On-Track	Significant progress has been made with the implementation of the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program throughout the year. Of the 39 actions included in the Plan, two have been completed and 35 are progressing. Work has been completed to improve water quality through water quality monitoring and reporting and the implementation of the risk based framework well progressed. Sediment load entering the lake due to construction activities have been reduced due to effective educational and compliance programs. Rise and Shine Lake clean ups have been successful. Work to manage the entrance channel included completion of the entrance options study and subsequent public exhibition. In late May 2025, both Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils resolved to write to the NSW Government, requesting that it resource and undertake a Strategic Business Case to deliver a long-term management solution for the Lake Illawarra entrance. This request aligns with Action EC1 of the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program and was supported by a community engagement report outlining options for the entrance. A project to protect and promote cultural heritage was undertaken in collaboration with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to understand Aboriginal cultural values by talking with Traditional Owners, custodians and knowledge holders. Vegetation works on priority areas around the lake to protect and rehabilitate estuarine and riparian vegetation continued with support from Bushcare groups. A riparian corridor management strategy for the West Dapto Urban Release Area has been drafted and its public exhibition is completed. Community engagement and participation included: the appointment of new community representatives and scientific advisor to the Lake Illawarra Implementation Group, featuring of the lake and its waterways in the Creative Wollongong Short film festival, Rise and Shine clean-ups, and the regular updates of the Lake webpages on both Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils website.
Prepare the Coastal Management Program for the Wollongong Open Coast	On-Track	Several technical studies were completed throughout the year as part of Stage 2 of the Wollongong Coastal Management Program. These included the Coastal and Estuary Processes Study, Cliff Instability Study, Coastal Entrance and Estuary Foreshore Erosion Study, Coastal and Tidal Inundation Study, and the Aboriginal Coastal Cultural Values Report. Progress made on other studies included the Coastal Erosion Study, Identification of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values and assets, and vulnerability assessment and the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Wetlands mapping.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Carry out sustainability and environmental education programs	On-Track	During the year, Council delivered various forms of sustainability and environmental education covering participation and information-based formats. Tree planting activities were held in addition to regular Bushcare, DuneCare and FIReady volunteer programs. These included National Tree Day and Poem Forests events with community and school groups installing over 3,000 native plants and learning about their local environment. Council staff attended three Private Creek Care Information days across all three Wards. The Creek Care days were an opportunity for community members to speak directly with Council staff about issues affecting private land ownership along creek lines. The Bushcare Summer Walks series were held across five sites. All registered volunteers were invited to attend bush walks that highlight the important work that volunteers and Council undertake in our natural areas. The Stream Hill Community Day, held on 14 April 2025, was led by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water in partnership with Landcare and Council. The event attracted strong attendance and celebrated the endangered Lowlands Grassy Woodland plant community with nature-based activities, guided walks, stalls and planting. It also provided a valuable opportunity to connect with residents from Stream Hill and surrounding suburbs. Rise and Shine was relaunched in spring with notable community events including the Mt Keira to Mt Kembla clean-up recording 5.5 tonnes of waste being removed from bushland areas. The Program also commenced a series of monthly clean-up events around Lake Illawarra. Clean Up Australia Day was held in March with 108 groups registered and 32 groups across the weekend. The Green Team waste education delivered Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) talks on Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) with a mix of Arabic, Swahili, Farsi and Burmese languages and interpreters. Weekly pop-up promotional events primarily on FOGO as well as Household Clean-up and Community Recycling Centre across shopping centres and Bunnings stores were also held along with promotional days across various sites. The huge demand by residents for FOGO caddy liners remains ongoing. A new ‘How to FOGO’ video was produced and is available on Council’s website as well as website improvements including a new webpage for mattresses and polystyrene.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Land Use Planning

Responsibility *Manager City Strategy*

About this Service

Land Use Planning manages the plans, policies and certificates that help our community understand the role and function of land within Wollongong. The team undertakes detailed studies to make long-term plans for how we can live, work and play sustainably, protecting what we value and ensuring development contributes to great places for our community.

Annual Progress Update

A broad range of strategic planning matters progressed during the year.

The Tourism Accommodation Strategy was adopted, which identifies opportunities for additional tourist accommodation facilities in our city and will inform a review of current planning controls.

The Affordable Housing Policy was also adopted, which details when development contributions to assist in the provision of affordable rental housing will be required.

The Planning Proposal to rezone land in Gwynneville was publicly exhibited. This proposal has the potential to increase housing capacity from 125 existing dwellings to approximately 1,250 new dwellings, including a target of 50 per cent social and affordable housing. A number of other Planning Proposals were progressed and finalised including the review of large R2 zoned lots in the Illawarra Escarpment foothills, Wilga Street Corrimal, Cleveland Road West Dapto phase 2 rezoning. A Planning Proposal to exempt Events held on Council and Crown land from the requirement to gain development consent was also exhibited during the year.

Wollongong Development Control Plan chapters were updated, exhibited and adopted including A1 - Introduction, A2 - Ecologically Sustainable Development, E3 - Car parking, and an update to Chapter D16 – West Dapto to incorporate two additional Neighbourhood Plans.

The revised draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement was exhibited. This statement outlines an updated land use vision for the Wollongong Local Government Area.

The Wollongong City Foreshore Plan of Management was endorsed on 30 June 2025. The Plan provides guidelines for the use and management of Crown and Council reserves along the Wollongong central foreshore, extending from Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park in the north to Coniston Beach and Swan Street in the south.

Preparation of the Wollongong Forts Conservation Management Plan commenced along with a strategic review of the planning controls for the Flinders Street, Wollongong precinct.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review the Local Strategic Planning Statement	On-Track	The Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020-2040 was adopted by Council on 29 June 2020. Council is legislatively required to review the Statement within seven years of initial adoption. On 7 April 2025, Council endorsed the draft Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement for public exhibition. The draft Statement was exhibited alongside the Community Strategic Plan from 9 April to 7 May 2025. Submissions received during the exhibition period will inform the final version of the Statement, which will be reported to Council for adoption in the first quarter of 2025–2026.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Land Use Planning Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Continue the review of the West Dapto Land Release Area by developing a Local Infrastructure and Development Strategy	On-Track	During the year, Council staff received feedback and support from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) following its review of Council's draft West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2025. The nominee of the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces subsequently also supported IPART recommendations and directed Council to adopt the Contributions Plan. On 7 April 2025, Council adopted the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2025. The updated Plan reflects the rising infrastructure costs that have occurred since the previous version was adopted in December 2020. It will also inform the development of the West Dapto Infrastructure Development Strategy. A consultant has now been appointed and is expected to undertake the majority of the work during the first quarter of the 2025–2026 financial year.
Undertake studies to inform the periodic review of the West Dapto Development Contribution Plan	On-Track	The informing studies that supported the development of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2025, adopted on 7 April 2025, were completed in 2023. Council staff will deliver the West Dapto Water Management Masterplan during the 2025–2026 financial year, which will inform the next major review of the Contributions Plan. In addition, the West Dapto Infrastructure and Development Strategy will be completed during 2025–2026, following the successful procurement of a consultant in June 2025. This Strategy will also support the ongoing review and refinement of the Contributions Plan.
Progress the City Centre Planning Strategy	On-Track	Council has continued to progress the City Centre Planning review, which focusses on the Commercial Centre and Mixed Use zones of the CBD. A Phase 1 implementation plan is being developed. Council has also been actively engaging with Transport for NSW, Venues NSW, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Area Health District, and Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on their various strategies and masterplans and considering how these projects interface with the City Centre Planning review work. A report recommending the exhibition of the City Centre Phase 1 implementation package is expected to be presented to Council in late 2025.
Develop and install the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place Interpretive Strategy and Indigenous Art Project	Deferred	The Sandon Point Interpretation Strategy has been completed, and four interpretive signs have been erected. The delivery of Sandon Point Art Project has been placed on hold and will be considered as part of ongoing stakeholder engagement associated with the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Land Use Planning Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Finalise the development of the Housing Strategy and commence implementation on initial priorities	On-Track	During the year, progress was made on a range of implementation outcomes from the Housing Strategy. The Affordable Housing Policy was adopted, and the draft Affordable Housing Contributions Plan is in preparation. The Planning Proposal for housing uplift in Gwynneville, which proposes up to 1,250 dwellings including 50 per cent social and affordable housing, was publicly exhibited. Council also endorsed the public exhibition of a review of Council-owned land with potential for future housing opportunities. In Horsley, a Planning Proposal to align zone boundaries with designated open space areas within the Forest Reach subdivision was endorsed to be finalised. In the West Dapto Urban Release Area, two additional Neighbourhood Plans were finalised to guide future development. Council continued to monitor NSW Government housing initiatives, including the proposed Transport Oriented Development precinct in North Wollongong and recent announcements by the Housing Delivery Authority. Relief from certain fees was introduced for emergency, affordable and accessible housing in association with adoption of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2025).

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Natural Area Management

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*

About this Service

Manage Council's natural areas restoration works program, carry out weed and pest management and coordinate volunteer programs in natural areas. Management and restoration of natural areas under Council care and control and conservation of endangered ecological communities and threatened species. These activities are funded through a combination of Council's own operating funds, external grants, partnerships with other organisations and the support of community volunteers.

Annual Progress Update

Natural area restoration work continued throughout bushland reserves using a combination of volunteer and contractor labour with Council funding supplemented by external funds and grants. Fifty-five contracts were awarded from the current tender panel for natural areas restoration and volunteer support.

Continuing support was provided to 50 Bushcare and Dunecare groups across the Local Government Area. These included Eucalyptus workshops, promotional events at The Illawarra Biodiversity Festival, Nature Shake, Volunteer recognition - End of Year and morning tea, Bushcare Summer Walks and presentations to Conservation Biology University of Wollongong students at Puckeys Estate. Council supported the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council in undertaking the 'Planting Purrah Bay: Community Day Restoring Lake Illawarra Foreshore' project. The community event was attended by Gawura Men's Shed, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Midges Bushland Restoration, NSW Environmental Protection Authority, Council staff and volunteers with 1,200 native plants planted.

Council successfully secured external funding for natural area restoration at several Crown Land sites. This includes $75,000 for Fishermans Beach, Port Kembla, $23,000 for Perkins Beach, Windang and $52,000 for Harry Morton Park, Port Kembla. The funding will support weed control and the restoration of native vegetation across these reserves. Works have commenced on an NSW Ports Authority funded bush restoration program at Purrah Bay, Lake Illawarra receiving $115,000 over three years.

Deer culling resumed during the year after an extended procurement process by the State Government.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement annual bushfire hazard reduction works program for Asset Protection Zones on Council managed lands	On-Track	Asset Protection Zone maintenance was undertaken through scheduled slashing and contracted works in line with Council's Asset Protection Zone Maintenance Program. Firetrail inspections and maintenance works were completed as per program. Working with the Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW enabled various fuel reduction pile burns and dissemination of information to local area communities. Grant funded works supplemented Council funding to ensure priority works were completed to schedule. Council maintained an active role in the Illawarra Bushfire Management Committee. There were 11 active volunteer FIReady groups who assisted in the maintenance of Asset Protection Zones near their residences.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Regulatory Compliance

Responsibility *Manager Regulation and Enforcement*

About this Service

This service involves environment and development compliance, animal control and parking in accordance with statutory requirements and Council Policy. Providing education programs and information to raise community awareness also forms part of this service.

Annual Progress Update

During the year, Council staff continued to deliver regulatory compliance services and implementing various programs. There was a high volume of requests received and actioned in relation to general compliance, parking, animal control and illegal dumping. These included a total of 2,507 abandoned motor vehicles, 161 requests regarding hoarding or squalor, 292 footpath obstructions and 300 in relation to overgrown land. There were requests for 3,763 parking incidents, 453 aggressive dog or dog attack cases, 476 barking dog complaints, 1,025 stray or roaming dog or cat, and 1,172 incidents of illegal dumping or kerbside waste issues.

Development and environment compliance programs continued with a focus on public safety and compliance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and Protection of the Environment Operations Act. During the year, staff completed over 1,500 customer service requests, investigating issues that include illegal and non-complying development, unauthorised use, air noise and water pollution incidents, unsafe buildings and structures, and defective stormwater management issues. Where appropriate, regulatory action was taken through the issue of fines, notices and orders to ensure compliance.

The Building Sites Compliance program was implemented across the Wollongong Local Government Area with staff completing over 560 inspections of building sites. There was a focus on hours of operation, erosion and sediment controls, waste management, noise and dust management and general compliance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act and Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. Fifty-six fines were issued for observed breaches, over 130 warnings issued to builders and contractors, and nine notices and orders regarding building site issues.

Also as part of the program, education initiatives were delivered including the provision of erosion and sediment control training, the development of the ‘Builder’s Toolkit’ on Council’s website, social media messaging, presentations at Wollongong Master Builders information events and advocacy work with the NSW State Government regarding the use of waffle pods at building sites.

Council’s Animal Care and Impounding Service provided care for a total of 938 companion animals, comprising 393 dogs and 545 cats. The rehoming program continued to expand, with 433 animals (181 dogs and 252 cats) successfully adopted into new homes. An additional 109 animals (14 dogs and 95 cats) were transferred to rehoming organisations following their impounding period. This growth was supported by the increasing reach of the Wollongong Pet Connection Facebook page, which now has over 2,400 followers, helping to connect animals with potential adopters.

The Foster Care Program also saw strong growth, with 367 animals (151 dogs and 216 cats) placed into foster homes rather than being housed in the facility. This program plays a vital role in supporting the rehoming process, as animals in foster care often experience improved welfare, particularly psychological wellbeing, which enhances their chances of successful adoption.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Regulatory Compliance Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Carry out a proactive surveillance and inspection program of known dumping hot-spots and implement education and awareness raising programs aimed at reducing illegally dumped waste	On-Track	During 2024-2025, Council conducted a total of 587 investigations of illegal dumping incidents within the Wollongong Local Government Area. As a result, 13 verbal clean-up directions were issued and 10 cautions/warnings provided. Twenty Penalty Infringement Notices were issued for a total of $169,500 over the financial year. Public education remains a key component, with ongoing efforts to raise awareness and encourage responsible waste disposal practices across the community.
Maintain a proactive compliance program for companion animals in public places, including beaches, foreshore areas and parks	On-Track	During 2024-2025, Council conducted a total of 1,080 patrols of beach and foreshore locations and monitored dog and owner behaviour during these patrols. These patrols resulted in 241 penalty notices issued, 218 verbal warnings given and 45 written warnings issued. Council undertook a total of 270 educational discussions with the community when on patrol.
Develop and implement an education and awareness raising program regarding swimming pool barriers	On-Track	The Swimming Pool Safety Barrier program was implemented throughout 2024-2025, with staff working to improve community safety and awareness of their responsibilities under the Swimming Pools Act. Over 510 inspections of swimming pools across the Wollongong Local Government Area were completed. Staff responded to over 220 customer service requests and enquires relating to swimming pool safety barriers and completed 149 Compliance Certificate Applications under the Swimming Pools Act. Community education initiatives were also planned and delivered. Important swimming pool safety information was prepared and distributed with the March 2025 quarter Rates Notice. This was a practical way to provide information to as many residents of Wollongong as possible and was met with positive feedback. To support the mailout and help promote safety awareness more broadly, Council staff included the Swimming Pool Safety Handbook with all external correspondence. Social media messaging was also prepared and promoted during the summer months to draw attention to swimming pool safety and encourage private swimming pool owners to be aware of their responsibilities.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Stormwater Services

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

This service strategically plans for a coordinated approach to floodplain risk management and stormwater management including protection of waterways, beaches, lakes, lagoons and creeks. This service manages and maintains 835 kilometres of drainage and associated infrastructure assets across the city that aim to be safe, efficient, effective and sustainable.

Annual Progress Update

Stormwater projects completed throughout the year included the construction of channel lining and bank support to improve flood mitigation as part Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation, pipe reconstruction at Morrison Avenue, Wombarra, delivered as part of Council's declared disaster recovery program, channel stabilisation at Cabbage Tree Lane/Dawson Street, Fairy Meadow, pipe reconstruction at Georgina Ave, Keiraville and trash rack and pit modification work at Sea Foam Avenue, Thirroul. At The Drive, Stanwell Park, a major structural relining was completed on a large brick arch culvert situated on a steep and constrained site, preserving a key drainage asset despite significant access and engineering challenges.

Stormwater pipe relining projects completed throughout the year included Waterloo Street, Bulli and St Johns Avenue, Mangerton. A mid-year increase in capital contingency allowed the acceleration of further pipe relining works under the Stormwater Renew Program. While many of these will extend into the 2025-2026 financial year, the program made strong progress despite challenges such as wet weather and supply chain disruptions.

Designs for 28 stormwater reconstruction, upgrade and declared disaster recovery projects are currently underway. Designs were completed on stormwater projects that included Port Kembla Beach Stormwater Quality Improvement Device, The Avenue Debris Control Structure and Memorial Drive Debris Control Structure.

A highlight of the year was international recognition with the presentation of a full-day session by Council staff to visiting stormwater government officers from India and Nepal. This was part of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded program reinforcing our ongoing leadership and innovation in sustainable stormwater management.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and implement the Floodplain Risk Management Plans	On-Track	Significant progress was made in developing and implementing Floodplain Risk Management Plans. The adoption of the Allans Creek and Fairy and Cabbage Tree Creek Flood Risk Management Studies and Plans were followed by critical updates and publication to support internal coordination and community access. Council responded to over 400 flood-related customer requests following the April 2024 storm event, using these inputs to inform ongoing flood studies. At the Councillor Induction held in February 2025, Councillors were equipped with foundational knowledge to support flood risk planning. The acquisition of two high-risk properties under the NSW Voluntary Purchase Scheme further supported our commitment to long-term flood resilience by continuously implementing flood mitigation measures.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Stormwater Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Plan and deliver stormwater maintenance, renewal and upgrade works	On-Track	Stormwater projects and maintenance works continued throughout the year. Highlights included the construction of channel lining and bank support to improve flood mitigation as part Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation, pipe reconstruction at Morrison Avenue, Wombarra, delivered as part of Council's declared disaster recovery program. At The Drive, Stanwell Park, a major structural relining was completed on a large brick arch culvert situated on a steep and constrained site, preserving a key drainage asset despite significant access and engineering challenges. Stormwater maintenance continued with 59 maintenance work orders for scheduled stormwater maintenance covering works at 156 locations, issued throughout the year. Fifty-seven of the 59 work orders issued were complete representing 97% completion. Stormwater pipe relining projects completed throughout the year included Waterloo Street, Bulli and St Johns Avenue, Mangerton. A mid-year increase in capital contingency allowed the acceleration of further pipe relining works under the Stormwater Renew Program. Designs for 28 stormwater reconstruction, upgrade and declared disaster recovery projects are currently underway. Three designs were completed.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*

About this Service

Deliver high quality, value for money, customer focused municipal waste services to the Wollongong community in the form of waste facilities and collection services.

The service includes community education programs, waste collection and recycling, operation of the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park, public domain waste collection and facilities cleaning.

Annual Progress Update

Construction of the new landfill cell at Whytes Gully, Kembla Grange progressed throughout the year overcoming some challenges including significant weather conditions. The construction is expected to be completed by the end of December 2025.

The tender for Domestic Waste Kerbside Collections closed in June 2025 and is currently under assessment. A report is scheduled to be presented to Council by the end of September 2025.

Circular economy initiatives continued to be delivered for the community with over 16,000 mattresses locally recycled, 31,000 tonnes of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) processed for reuse and over 800 kilograms of soft plastic collected in partnership with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation.

Community Recycling Centre activities were expanded throughout the year to include polystyrene and embedded battery collections and expanded list of e-waste items. The first deliveries of recycled polystyrene collected at Whytes Gully were successfully transported to Wetherill Park for reuse, marking a milestone in Council's waste recovery efforts.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Educate and continue to deliver waste diversion programs aligned with problematic waste streams	On-Track	Extensive waste education programs were delivered across the Local Government area, to help educate, promote and inspire the community to reduce waste, increase the use of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) and to create behaviour change. Events and promotions throughout the year included Plastic Free July, Nature Shake at the Botanic Garden, Soilco Tours as part of Compost Week, Household Chemical Clean-up, FOGO Pop-up Stalls and FOGO Heroes and Cardboard, Recycling and Soft Plastics Drop Off Events. New bin stickers and a waste services guide were promoted to support correct waste disposal. Council continued to provide regular updates through the website and the Wollongong Waste app to keep the community informed.
Continue to develop and implement the landfill gas management system at Whytes Gully	On-Track	Throughout the year, the landfill gas system at Whytes Gully Kembla Grange, abated an estimated over 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This system plays a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting Council's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability. The landfill gas extraction system will be expanded with the construction of new landfill cells.

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		June 2024	June 2025
Development Assessment			
Outstanding DAs < 90 days #	200	163	180
Outstanding DAs >90 days #	50	115	38
Average net determination days	100[1]	New measure	81[2]
Environmental Services			
Number of participants in education programs*	Increase	9,577	4,213[3]
Number of participants in environmental programs*	At least 85,000 per annum	66,399	20,815[4]
Tonnes of waste collected from clean-up activities*	Decrease	19.8	39.8
Net zero emissions from Council operations by 2030	Zero by 2030	105K tonnes CO_2e	99K tonnes CO_2e
Proportion of residents satisfied with environmental programs and education	Increase	3.40 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Land Use Planning			
Proportion of residents satisfied with planning controls for development in your local area/ town centre	Increase	2.76 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		June 2024	June 2025
Natural Area Management			
Number of volunteers worked at Bushcare, Dunecare and FIReady sites^	Increase	217	203
Ratio of trees planted versus trees removed	2:1	4.4:1	2:1
Proportion of residents satisfied with protection of our natural environment	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.30 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Regulatory Compliance			
Proportion of residents satisfied with companion animal compliance	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.50 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with compliance and regulation of parking	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.10 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*

GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		June 2024	June 2025
Waste Services			
Percentage of waste diverted from landfill^	Increase	49%[5]	55
Number of waste education workshops and events*	Increase	150	71[4]
Number of participants in waste education workshops and events*	Increase	18,845	6,457
Tonnes of waste removed from our creek and waterway Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices and trash racks*	Decrease	157	141
Percentage of recycling contamination in public waste bins	Decrease	31%	Not Available[6]
Proportion of residents satisfied with street cleaning	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.60 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with public bin collection	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.00 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with waste disposal depot facilities	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.80 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*

Result as at 30 June

*Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis.

^ Figures have been prepared as an average on annual basis.

[1] Target reflects the change in NSW Government reporting requirements to average net determination days. This replaces the previous reporting requirements from median processing times with a target of 50.

[2] Result calculated based on a 5-day week, excluding public holidays and any pauses to the assessment time. Note data in the NSW Department of Planning's League Tables is calculated based on a 7-day week with no exclusions for weekends, public holidays or pausing of assessment time.

[3] Numbers dropped due to a shift from face to face to online waste education, and redesign of the Discovery Centre program to onboard external providers. Note 2024 figure includes an online Red Room poetry national event which inflated the numbers.

[4] Numbers dropped due to changes in reporting to not include special events such as Sculpture and Cinema at the Botanic Garden as requested by Councillors.

[5] Result impacted by the volume of flood damaged waste and sediment received from 6 April 2024.

[6] Data for 2025 is unavailable due to the removal of public place recycling bins along foreshore areas. This follows the conclusion of a three-year trial and a review of contamination rates and low recovery volumes. This initiative was supported by a temporary program that included third party sorting.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY AND A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Objectives

The region's industry base continues to diversify and local employment opportunities increase.

Wollongong is established as the regional capital of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven.
We are leaders in innovation and sustainable research and development of new industries.

Achievements

- The biennial Wollongong Business Survey was conducted in August 2024, providing a range of insights about local business sentiment levels.
- Highlights for Crown Street Mall included the setting up of a live site in Globe Lane for the Illawarra Hawks Finals, along with infrastructure upgrades such as creative wayfinding, refurbished bus shelters, and improved lighting.
- Council helped facilitate 111 business and investor enquiries throughout the 2024-2025 year.
- Wollongong achieved 100% of the jobs target set out in the Economic Development Strategy 2019–2029, four years ahead of schedule.
- Wollongong received the global Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Bike City Award in recognition of the Bike City Community Partners Program.
- Worked to enhance our customer experience at the tourist parks through the digitalisation of the check-in processes and access to information.
- The Tourist Parks welcomed three trainees as part of Council's Cadets Apprentices and Trainees recruitment program.

Highlights

The Crown Street Mall Parklet received a refurbishment with the edging being replaced with flat-topped sandstone blocks.

Wollongong City Council General Manager Greg Doyle presenting to over 300 people at the annual Doing Business with Council event.

Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown with Green Gravity Chief Executive Officer Mark Swinnerton launched the #MadeinWollongong series.

The Illawarra Hawks were celebrated as the 2025 National Basketball League Champions at a civic event held in Crown Street Mall in March 2025.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

City Centre Management

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

From Wollongong Station to the foreshore, City Centre Management supports the revitalisation of the City Centre through the coordination and delivery of a range of strategies in collaboration with various stakeholders. The service also ensures the smooth operation of the City Centre, particularly Crown Street Mall which is funded by the Special Mall Levy.

Annual Progress Update

City Centre Management continued to deliver its core operations, enhancing the Wollongong Central Business District through targeted place activation, business engagement and strategic marketing. A precinct-based approach remained central to this work, providing valuable insights into local business conditions and informing tailored support.

Partnerships with organisations such as the Live Music Office continued to support the live music and night-time economy. This included initiatives like Live@Local and the Tune In Wollongong microfestival. Seasonal and family-friendly events, including Lunar New Year, City Skate 2025, and the Wollongong Chilli Festival, helped activate public spaces and support community wellbeing.

Infrastructure upgrades, including creative wayfinding, refurbished bus shelters, and improved lighting, have enhanced safety and vibrancy, contributing to a more welcoming and dynamic city centre.

The team supported Crown Street market operations and participated in the Globe Lane internal working group to help businesses navigate the impacts of ongoing redevelopment in the precinct.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver increased City Centre marketing and activation initiatives to support the local and regional economy	On-Track	The mix of 'always on' campaigns promoted and positioned the Wollongong CBD as a destination for shopping, entertainment, dining and nightlife. This was complemented by a range of seasonal and event-based campaigns to support visitation and activation. The 2025 Christmas Campaign: 'Celebrate the Season' featured a large-scale tree, music performances and events, including school band and choir performances, Santa's arrival and the Bikers Toy Run. Marketing campaigns were delivered to support activities boosting reach and reactions. World Margarita Day website and social media channels supported a range of businesses with special activations/deals and was reshared by multiple hospitality businesses that were featured. The 'Tune In Wollongong' microfestival saw 30 local musicians celebrating all things live and local across 20 venues. The marketing campaign achieved a reach of over 175,000 on Wollongong CBD social media channels (Facebook and Instagram). These integrated campaigns used a mix of targeted digital advertising on social media, search, banners, direct mail, radio and outdoor advertising. Through this combined activity Facebook reach is up 24% to 325,300 and Instagram reach is up 41.7 per cent to 146,500 on last year. Web page views are down 21.3 per cent on last year at 148,900.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

City Centre Management Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement a range of activation initiatives across the City Centre Precincts	On-Track	Throughout the year there was an increased focus on events and placemaking projects to deliver activation. Through the Lower Crown Street Placemaking Project, the outdoor dining areas were refurbished. The existing trail of illuminated wayfinding sculptures along Western Crown Street also received a refresh. The Crown Street Mall Parklet received a refurbishment with the edging being replaced with flat-topped sandstone blocks enhancing the aesthetics of the area, providing additional seating and improved pedestrian amenity and wayfinding. Bus shelters along Burelli Street, Wollongong were rejuvenated with creative artwork improving the amenity. Live sites were set up in Globe Lane, Wollongong for the Illawarra Hawks Finals games where the community was able to enjoy the large screen televisions and site dressing to watch the games and cheer on the team. As the 2025 National Basketball League Champions, a Civic Event was held in the Crown Street Mall to acknowledge the achievement of the Illawarra Hawks. City Skate 2025 and Roller Remix, held during school holidays were well received by the community. Honk Oz delivered vibrant community performances and a parade through the city centre. The Lunar New Year celebrations were well attended and the first Wollongong Chilli Festival provided chilli lovers with an array of chilli products and spicy foods. The weekly Live@Lunch live music performance program continues to bring activation to the Crown Street Mall and surrounding businesses, showcasing local music artists and curators.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

City Centre Management Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver an integrated marketing campaign that reflects the 'city experience'	On-Track	Throughout the year, a mix of 'always on' campaigns were complemented by a range of seasonal and event-based campaigns to support visitation and activation. These integrated campaigns use a mix of targeted digital advertising on social media, search, banners, direct mail, radio, and outdoor promotions. The Christmas 2025 Marketing Campaign, 'Celebrate the Season', included an 'Australiana' theme and showcased the Wollongong CBD as a vibrant and festive destination. The campaign utilised multiple marketing channels. Digital efforts included social media, website content, and Google AdWords. Radio advertising expanded the campaign's reach. By combining digital and traditional media with site dressing and business involvement, the campaign reflected the city experience, driving awareness, increasing foot traffic, and supporting local retail and hospitality businesses during the festive season. In response to access changes linked to construction of The Globe development, Council delivered a dedicated communications and marketing campaign to support Globe Lane businesses. This included updated web content, social media promotion, editorial support in local publications and radio advertising. Positive stories and promotional content about Globe Lane will continue to be shared over the coming months.
Develop and implement City Centre Wayfinding	Complete	New creative wayfinding elements were completed in Ethel Hayton Walkway (between Crown and Burelli streets, Wollongong) enhancing nighttime vibrancy, visual appeal and local place identity. Improvements included ambient overhead lighting and upgraded illumination of the art exhibition boxes to support a more welcoming and accessible environment. The Creative Wayfinders along western Crown Street, Wollongong, also received a fresh coat of paint and lighting upgrades. This project, as part of the broader wayfinding program, is now complete.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Economic Development

Responsibility *Director Planning and Environment*

About this Service

This service promotes sustainable economic development across the Wollongong Local Government Area working with business and industry to attract business, support educational and employment opportunities, to retain young people, local talent and create employment pathways for the unemployed. The service contributes to a number of economic development programs and initiatives in partnership with business, government, the University of Wollongong and a range of business and industry stakeholders.

Annual Progress Update

This year saw 111 business/investor enquires ranging from business support and information to facilitating larger projects through Invest Wollongong.

Council's monthly Economic Development business newsletter continues to reach more than 28,000 business contacts across the Local Government Area, providing updates on programs, opportunities and local economic activity. It has a consistent open rate of around 40 per cent or 12,000 opens each month.

In partnership with the Service NSW Business Bureau's Business Connect program, Council supported the delivery of Business Health Checks at various locations across the city. Two free workshops were also offered to local businesses during the quarter, one focused on artificial intelligence and the other on advanced social media, in response to feedback from the Wollongong Business Survey.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029	On-Track	Wollongong achieved 100 per cent of the jobs target set out in the Economic Development Strategy 2019–2029, four years ahead of schedule. Between 2017–2018 and 2023–2024, local jobs increased by 10,612 (11.5 per cent), with the most recent data indicating there are now 102,957 jobs across the Local Government Area. The Wollongong Business Survey was conducted in August 2024, providing a range of insights about local business sentiment levels. This survey is produced every two years and provides a timeseries of data to monitor business sentiment. This helps to inform both the Economic Development Strategy and our broader business support program. Council participated in NSW Small Business Month in October 2024, with the NSW Small Business Commissioner hosting a Small Business Expo for local businesses. The Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo was held at the Wollongong Town Hall and included a Procurement Networking Event that was held at Inside Industry. Council hosted its annual Doing Business with Council event in October, providing information for local business interested in doing business with Council. Over 300 people registered for the event, which involved a series of presentations from across Council. Council progressed the mid-term review of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029, hosting three external Reference

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

		Group meetings, internal staff workshops and a Chief Executive Officer Roundtable. Council partnered with Screen Illawarra and Destination Wollongong, to host a Screen Famil tour, showcasing Wollongong's key assets and growing capability to host major film productions. The famil was attended by senior executives from Netflix, The Walt Disney Company, BBC Studios, Warner Bros Entertainment, Screen Australia, Screen NSW, Ausfilm and Screen Producers Australia. Council continued its collaboration with Service NSW and Enterprise Plus to host workshops for businesses and expand the 'Business Health Checks' locations to across the local government area. Two workshops on artificial intelligence and social media were also held for businesses.
In partnership with NSW Government and the University of Wollongong, deliver the Invest Wollongong program	On-Track	Invest Wollongong continued its 'always on' digital marketing campaign across Google ads and Linkedin paid advertising. Achievements of the digital marketing campaign include reaching 3,530 followers on LinkedIn and 4.77 million impressions, an increase of 41 per cent on last year. There were 55,925 visits to the Invest Wollongong website with 96 per cent of website traffic coming from outside Wollongong. 1014 unique downloads of the Investment Prospectus represented an almost tripling of the downloads from last year. A new 30 second video featuring the Wollongong CBD as a place to do business was launched and has been viewed over 115,000 times across Linkedin and Youtube. Invest Wollongong sponsored the third Clean Energy Showcase in November with several NSW Government delegates participating in this showcase. The event highlighting the Illawarra region's leadership in the clean energy transition. The #MadeInWollongong Business Leader Series was launched. This new initiative is dedicated to profiling and promoting local innovative businesses that are putting Wollongong on the map in their respective sectors. The profiles are published on the Invest Wollongong website and promoted to a national audience. The 2025 Invest Wollongong Investment Prospectus was launched on 6 February 2025 at the Property Council of Australia's Office Market Report event in Sydney, attended by more than 500 industry leaders in property. Invest Wollongong presented at the Investment NSW Association of Southeast Asian Nations Market Update for Wollongong businesses in February. Held in partnership with Asialink Business with around 80 participants attending. The event highlighted opportunities in Southeast Asian markets and was attended by senior government ministers, business leaders and diplomatic representatives. Invest Wollongong continued its digital marketing campaign which included another feature article in the Australian Financial Review. This article explored Wollongong as a hub for a thriving entrepreneurial scene, and included case studies of iAccelerate, Sicona Battery Technologies, MitchCap.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Economic Development Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Report against the five pillars of the Destination Wollongong Funding Agreement 2021-2026 including: Marketing, Major Events, Business Visitor Economy, Tourism Infrastructure and Product Development and Cycling	On-Track	A highlight for the year was Wollongong receiving the global Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Bike City Award in recognition of the Bike City Community Partners Program. This prestigious award reflects Council's ongoing commitment to cycling and community engagement. Destination Wollongong sponsored 20 events that provided economic impact of an estimated $31.6 million, with highlights including the Australian Junior Surfing Championships and the NSW Women's Golf Open. These events collectively attracted 62,000 out-of-region visitors, which represented 70% of the total attendance figure. Investment in this sector realised a return on investment average of between $129 and $195 for every dollar spent. Twenty-eight out of 35 actions were successfully met or exceeded in 2024-2025. Of the remaining, three were approved to be addressed in the 2025–2026 financial year, while the remaining unmet four are all heavily influenced by extrinsic factors (broader tourism visitation numbers). Engagement, visitation, and follower growth across social media and digital platforms exceeded expectations, with an average increase of 32 per cent, well above the 3 per cent target. Visitation to visitwollongong.com.au increased by 17 per cent, social media followers grew by 6 per cent and social media engagement increased by an impressive 73 per cent. The Business Visitor Economy key performance indicator measuring growth in economic benefit, recorded a 19 per cent increase for the financial year. Nine dedicated campaigns were delivered across the year, including collaboration with a global 'kindness' influencer, which saw a deserving family surprised with a Wollongong short stay, generating almost 1 million views.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Tourist Parks

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service

Wollongong City Tourist Parks provide beachside accommodation for visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang. The three Tourist Parks compete in a commercial environment and operate accordingly to ensure they remain commercially viable and provide an acceptable return to Council.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the year, works commenced on enhancing our customer experience through the digitalisation of the check-in processes and to ensure better information is provided to customers before they arrive and throughout their stay.

The holiday van sale process commenced, allowing on site vans to be sold for the first time in 17 years. Currently 12 vans have been sold and 18 are in the process of selling.

The parks welcomed three trainees as part of Council's Cadets Apprentices and Trainees recruitment program.

Staff are also working in collaboration with Council's environment team to develop a scope of future works at the Bulli and Windang sites. This will help inform the preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit, aimed at supporting the timely and efficient implementation of future upgrades.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Commercially manage Council's three tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang to optimise service delivery and contribute to Council's financial sustainability	On-Track	Occupancy of cabins over the course of the year was down from a high of 70% in 2023-2024, to 65 per cent. This represents around 1,400 nights stayed. The tourist parks have generated over $9.5 million in income and recorded over 943,000 visits to our website, highlighting the relevancy of the service to the visitor sector.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		June 2024	June 2025
City Centre Management			
Number of people movements within Crown Street Mall[1]	1,000,000 (annual)	1,200,000	3,753,641
Economic Development			
Number of business enquiries facilitated*	Increase	98	111
Tourist Parks			
Tourist park occupancy rate of cabins^	Greater than 60%	70%	65%
Tourist parks occupancy rate of powered sites^	Greater than 50%	52%	50%

* Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis.

^ Figures have been prepared as an average on annual basis.

[1] Estimated using Crown Street Mall entry points via surrounding streets and laneways (bottom of Mall; Church Street South; Crown Central, Church Street; Keira Street North; Lower Globe Lane; top of Mall). It does not measure people entering via Wollongong Central or car parks.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Objectives

Creative, cultural industries are fostered and thriving.

Community have access to the arts, and participation in events and festivals is increased.

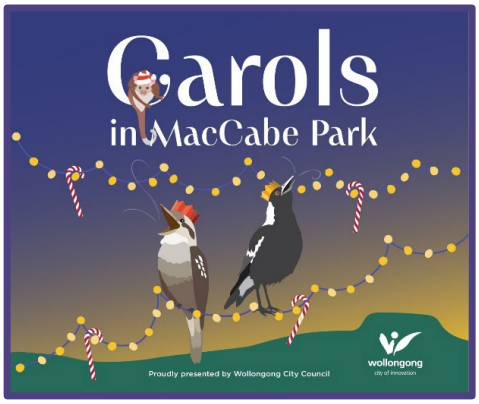
Strong diverse cultures are supported.

Achievements

- Delivered the Culture Mix festival in October 2024 attracting over 16,000 attendees and showcasing over 190 different programs.
- Delivered more than 85 education programs engaged over 1,300 participants at the Wollongong Art Gallery.
- Partnered to host the inaugural Creative Wollongong Short Film Festival attracting 500 attendees to the shores of Lake Illawarra.
- Issued 192 media releases, responded to around 500 enquiries, and tracked 12,755 media mentions strengthening community connection.
- Reviewed and adopted the Community Engagement Strategy Council Policy in December 2024.
- Conducted community engagements on over 50 Council projects with a priority on face-to-face interactions.
- Council's Communication approach was recognised with Culture Mix winning the Excellence in Communication Award at the RH Dougherty Awards.

Highlights

City of Wollongong Awards presentation ceremony on 6 February 2025.



Graphic design work included promotion of key events.

Wollongong Art Gallery exhibited A Road Less Travelled by John Kuczwa (Silversalt Photography).

Engaging with our community through sessions and pop-up events.

Christmas in Crown Street Mall, Wollongong.

New Years Eve community event and fireworks display at Wollongong Harbour.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Cultural Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Provide direction for the creative sector, support and grow creative industries and support community participation in creative life and celebrate our unique places and spaces.

Annual Progress Update

Council's support for the city's 24-hour economy continued through participation in strategic networks such as the NSW 24-Hour Economy Advisory Council, Night Time Economy Councils' Committee, Council's Place Network, business precinct group meetings, participation in the NEON Forum and the Australian Live Music Business Council networking events. An internal 24-hour working group was also established.

Council continued to work with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and NSW Ports regarding the Breakwater Battery Museum and its collection.

Six new artists for subsidised studio space were selected, while the current cohort presented their exhibition Connections at Wollongong Art Gallery. Twenty-one artists and arts organisations were selected for the 2025-2026 round of Small Cultural Grants. Fourteen Small Cultural Grants were disbursed, supporting local creatives and community groups.

The inaugural Creative Wollongong Short Film Festival attracted 500 attendees to the shores of Lake Illawarra. The competition and festival were held in partnership with Screen Illawarra, Shellharbour City Council and 11 other partners and supporters.

Wollongong Art Gallery presented more than 25 exhibitions, showcasing diverse artistic voices and added over 160 works to its permanent collection through acquisition and donation.

The Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Wollongong Town Hall saw a strong program mix of high-quality professional performances, local community shows, and ongoing development of local artists. The MerrigongX program saw a number of Wollongong artists touring their work nationally. The Strangeways Ensemble developed their facilitation skills and Merrigong's work with the local First Nations community has increased in strength with the employment of a new First Nations Emerging Producer.

A new funding and services agreement between Council and IPAC Ltd has been finalised for a further six years commencing in January 2026.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver community cultural development festival	On-Track	The second Culture Mix event was delivered in October 2024 with significant community support. Approximately 16,000 patrons attended the event which showcased over 190 different program elements drawn from the community. Council was successful in securing a third year of funding for the event. Culture Mix 2025 will be staged in September 2025 with planning for the delivery well underway.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Cultural Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop a new Cultural Plan	Complete	The new Cultural Plan, Creative Wollongong 2024-2033, was adopted by Council on 29 July 2024. Implementation of the new Plan commenced with disbursement of 14 Small Cultural Grants and 21 artists and organisations selected for 2025-2026. Public engagement grew through events including a panel discussion with author Shain Shapiro on live music and urban planning. The Creative Wollongong Studios Open Day showcased six artists in residence. The inaugural Creative Wollongong Short Film Festival attracted 500 attendees to the shores of Lake Illawarra. Six new artists were selected for subsidised studio space, while the current cohort presented their exhibition Connections at Wollongong Art Gallery. Cultural Development supported Pride Month programming and delivered professional development workshops for 60 emerging musicians through the 'Tune In' program. The Creative Dialogues event drew 400 attendees across Port Kembla, with fully booked workshops and expert-led panels. The Creative Wollongong Facebook page had over 300,000 views across the year, reaching a peak of 40,000 views in April, while increasing followers 8 per cent to almost 4,000. The page had 1,724 click-throughs and 6,678 content interactions.
Implement priorities from Framing our Future: Wollongong Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2020-2025	On-Track	Throughout the year, Wollongong Art Gallery delivered a dynamic program of exhibitions and community engagement. Highlights included 25 exhibitions such as *Rise and Fall* by Karla Dickens, *A Road Less Travelled* by John Kuczwal, and new exhibitions by Teo Treloar and Patrick Pound and *Greetings from Wollongong*. Each exhibition was supported by a program of talks, performances, and the commencement of a free film program, kicked off with a presentation of *Hello Dankness* by the New York-based Australian collective Soda Jerk. More than 85 education programs engaged over 1,300 participants. Public programs drew over 2,500 visitors, with highlights including excursion packages, enrichment programs and teacher's nights. The Gallery added over 160 works to its permanent collection through acquisition and donation. Highlights included 73 works on paper created by contemporary First Nations artists for Cicada Press and a landmark 1989 Mandy Martin painting of the Steelworks. Digital presence was expanded with total page views for the year up over 186 per cent on the previous year. Top content included the 2026 Exhibition Callout and *Greetings from Wollongong* opening night reel.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Cultural Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Implement the 'Animating Wollongong: Public Art Strategy 2022-2032'	On-Track	A full audit of the Public Art Collection was completed. Major repairs were conducted at Bald Hill, Bellambi, Port Kembla and Clifton. Local artists were featured in Crown Street Mall's Curio Gallery. Photographer Tad Souden was commissioned for the 'Wollongong At Work' portrait series, celebrating cultural diversity for the Bonacina walkway. International artist Mia Bian was commissioned for a series in Ethel Hayton Walkway The biennial Sculpture in the Garden exhibition featured 17 artists and introduced an ephemeral category. Eighteen artists were selected for the 2025 edition, reflecting strong community engagement. The outdoor exhibition saw 60,000 visitors to the Botanic Garden over four weeks, a 50 per cent increase on 2023's edition. This included over 100 hours of interactive programming and saw over 400 people work on artist-in-residence Greer Taylor's collaborative work. The event enjoyed widespread, positive media coverage. Uncle Steven Russell's *Hill 60 Dreaming* was installed at Hill 60, Port Kembla. Planning began for a major public artwork commission and Ethel Hayton Walkway commission. A public art brief was developed for Helensburgh Community Centre, and a scope of works for the Public Art and Placemaking elements of the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library project. The Public Art Advisory Panel renewal commenced. A new Public Art Specialist was recruited from over 70 national and international applicants.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Engagement, Communication and Events

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

The service is responsible for internal and external communications including media, community engagement, delivery of major community events, management of Sister City Relations, coordination of Council's Financial Assistance Policy and the provision of graphic design, digital content, print and signage needs for the organisation.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the year, Council issued 192 media releases, responded to around 500 enquiries, and tracked 12,755 media mentions. Our social media platforms have strengthened community connections, raised awareness, identified local issues, and supported communication during key events. Top content for the year included a social media video with swimming legend Emma McKeon AM, promotion of patrolled beaches, and a Gen Z bike safety video.

Annual results showed increased engagement and reach across major digital channels with 4,192,461 website page views, 947,914 users, 45,926 Facebook followers, 18,735 LinkedIn followers, 12,689 Instagram followers, and over 3,300 e-newsletter subscribers.

Council staff completed approximately 2,061 graphic design, digital content, print, and signage jobs, an increase from the previous year, supporting community awareness of Council's work. This included projects for the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and organisational signage.

A range of civic and community events were delivered including the unveiling of the Emma McKeon AM Promenade, presentation of the Key to the City to Alexander Volkanovski, the Open Street Festival in Port Kembla, and record attendance at the New Year's Eve celebration at Wollongong Harbour.

The Community Engagement Strategy was reviewed to align with best practices in Integrated Planning and Reporting. Diverse engagement methods were used to reach all community segments. Council prioritised face-to-face interactions, attended local events, and introduced new evaluation tools to refine our approach.

Council's innovative communications and events approach earned two awards in 2024-2025: Culture Mix won the Excellence in Communication Award at the RH Dougherty Awards, and the Food Organics Garden Organics Heroes campaign won the Communication and Engagement Award at the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns Awards.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Host six major events reflecting priority sectors and contribute to the acquisition and management of signature events	On-Track	During the year, Destination Wollongong backed 20 major events with half of the funded events being new to the region. Key highlights were the Australian Darts Masters, Women's NSW Golf Open and AUSX Supercross Triple Crown. All three events were broadcast internationally and drew interstate and international visitors to the region. The Yours & Owls Festival made its debut on Flagstaff Hill, bringing live music to one of the city's most iconic backdrops. In April 2025, Run Wollongong saw the city's first ever marathon. A sold out event with nearly 3,000 participants. In total, the 20 Destination Wollongong backed events attracted 60,000 out of region visitors and delivered over $30 million in economic impact.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Engagement, Communication and Events Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver civic activities which recognise and celebrate the city's people	On-Track	Council delivered 16 events and civic activities throughout the year to recognise and celebrate the city's people. Key events included Australia Day and New Year's Eve community events, Christmas Carols and the City of Wollongong Giving Tree. Collaboration with other organisations and groups included the City of Wollongong Awards and Wollongong RSL Sub-branch in the delivery of Anzac Day Dawn Service and March. Also leading the coordination of Wollongong's Seniors Week Festival calendar of events including the Seniors Week afternoon tea dance. Through the Financial Assistance program, Council was able to provide financial support to 22 events that were delivered across the city. The Civic Relations Policy, enabled valuable exchange with representatives from our sister city Kawasaki, Japan and friendship city Longyan in China on areas ranging from economic development, industry, culture and education.
Deliver a diverse range of community engagement opportunities to receive feedback and guide Council's services	On-Track	Council provided opportunities for community input across a range of projects during the year. Creating the Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, saw the largest number of participants engaged in the development of the Plan. Many new policies and strategies were informed by the community. Planning projects took place both across the city and many suburbs including West Dapto. The local Aboriginal community was engaged across a range of projects. Their knowledge and ideas were shared across many projects including the Draft Community Strategic Plan, the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement, and the Riparian Corridor Management Strategy for West Dapto.
Develop and deliver an organisational Brand Strategy	On-Track	Council continued to implement the Brand Strategy. There was a focus on elevating Council's brand identity through better alignment of key community facing activities such as community engagement, the Community Strategic Plan, corporate documents and environmental volunteering programs. Perceptions research is currently underway and will guide the next phase of this work. Advice and support were provided for the marketing and promotion of a range of Council services, events and initiatives. Integrated marketing campaign highlights include Your Wollongong, Splash into Summer, Net Zero Heroes, Culture Mix, Food Organics Garden Organics and Sculpture in the Garden.
Review Council's Community Engagement Strategy	Complete	Council's Community Engagement Strategy Council Policy has been reviewed in accordance with the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting framework best practice approach. The Policy was adopted by Council on 16 December 2024.

GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		June 2024	June 2025
Cultural Services			
Number of Wollongong Art Gallery partnership projects engaging with First Nations and CALD communities	2 per annum	9	16
Provision of subsidised artist studio space – number of opportunities accessed	6 per annum	6	6
Visitation to Wollongong Art Gallery*	Increase	51,228	52,265
Visitation to Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall Visitation*	Increase	123,202	129,480
Proportion of residents satisfied with Wollongong Art Gallery	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.10 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.30 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Engagement, Communications and Events			
Followers, reach and engagement across Council's social media channels^	Increase	77,658	79,263
Proportion of residents satisfied with Council's effectiveness in informing the community about its services, facilities and overall achievements	Increase	3.10 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Participation rate in Council community engagement activities	Increase	47% (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*

* Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis.

^ Figures have been prepared as an average on annual basis.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED CITY

Objectives

Residents have easy and equitable access to information and play an active role in the decisions that affect our city.

There is greater awareness and understanding of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, heritage and histories.

Our Council is accountable, financially sustainable and has the trust of the community.

Achievements

- Adopted a First Contact Resolution approach through our Customer Service Centre to enhance the quality and efficiency of interactions at the first point of contact.
- Secured new leases for prominent sites including Bulli Beach Café, Bulli Beach Tourist Park Café Kiosk, Corrimal Tourist Park Kiosk and the Auburn Street Carpark.
- Physical loans at our libraries surpassed 1,000,000 over the year.
- Adopted the *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035* Integrated Plans, including the Community Strategic Plan 2035, Resourcing Strategy 2025-2035, new four year Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026.
- The Reconciliation and Truth Telling Conference was held in May 2025, with 220 delegates in attendance.
- Twelve Wollongong Youth Forum members were sworn in by Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Linda Campbell at the Council Chambers following their election in November 2024.
- Over 8,000 attended a celebration of pop culture with Comic Gong held in May 2025.

Highlights

Paint and Snack Grandparents Day at Thirroul Library, Family Christmas Craft at Helensburgh Library and Billy Backpack at Dapto Library part of the many activities delivered across our libraries.

Lighting and infrastructure installed at Dapto Square, Dapto as part of the Safer Cities Her Way community safety project.

Wollongong City Council's second Youth Forum officially took office with an affirmation ceremony in March 2025 following their election in November 2024.

Attendees and presenter Stan Grant at the Reconciliation and Truth Telling conference held over two days in May 2025.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Aged and Disability Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Build the capacity of older people and people with disability to participate fully in community life. Enhance access to services for frail, older people and people with disability and their carers to enable them to continue to live independently in the community.

Annual Progress Update

On 5 May 2025, Council resolved not to accept the funding offer for community transport services, in light of ongoing changes in the sector, national aged care reforms and the anticipated implementation of the new Aged Care Act. From 1 July 2025, the Community Transport service will transition to Coast and Country Community Services, a not-for-profit organisation. Council acknowledges and sincerely thanks the staff and volunteers who have delivered a high-quality service to the Wollongong and Shellharbour communities over many years.

Social Support services will transition over the coming year, in line with an agreed transition plan.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Support the delivery of programs providing social connection for frail aged people and their carers	On-Track	Social Support services continue to operate under funding from the Department of Health and Aged Care. On 5 May 2025, Council resolved to explore transitioning the service to an alternative local provider. This process has commenced, with investigations underway to support a transition over the coming year.
Deliver the Community Transport Services Program across the Wollongong and Shellharbour Local Government Areas	Complete	Community transport continued to be provided to the community. The decision to transition the service to an alternate provider was made on 5 May 2025 and was successfully undertaken to transition the service to Coast and Country Community Services from 1 July 2025.
Investigate options for alternative service delivery models for Community Transport, in response to Commonwealth and NSW Government policy	Complete	On 5 May 2025, Council resolved to begin the transition of Community Transport Services to an alternative provider. Council declined the funding offer and completed the necessary process with Transport for NSW to transition the service to Coast and Country Community Services. This change took effect on 30 June 2025, with the new provider commencing from 1 July 2025.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Community programs deliver support to people living in the Wollongong Local Government Area. These services deliver community programs, building community capacity and wellbeing related to target groups and communities. Language Aide Services, placemaking, community safety and social planning.

Annual Progress Update

A range of community development activities and programs were delivered focussing on diversity, access, inclusion, capacity building and community safety.

Social impact and crime prevention through environmental design advice was provided on development, pre-lodgement and event applications.

The Reconciliation and Truth Telling Conference was held in May 2025 and attended by 220 delegates. During National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week the Lord Mayor's Elder's Luncheon was held.

Language services enabled increased access to Culture Mix cultural festival. The Children and Family Services Sector Interagency and Illawarra Refugee Issues Forums (IRIF) meetings were convened.

Initiatives were also supported to help reduce social isolation among older men, and Council assisted with the Koonawarra, Warrawong and Bellambi Reconciliation Walks, as well as the Saltwater Festival at Bundaleer Estate, Warrawong.

Round table sessions were held with homelessness service providers and a range of new internal and external networks, tools and processes were developed to improve the way Council responds to the homelessness crisis. Council also worked with the Wollongong Homeless Hub to plan outreach services at the Fairy Meadow Hub.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Child Safe Implementation Plan	Complete	Council continues to actively participate in the Local Government Child Safe Network. Child Safe e-Learning modules were made available to staff to support awareness and understanding of child safety responsibilities. To recognise National Child Protection Week, an event was held in Dapto Mall.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and deliver the Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023	On-Track	A wide range of reconciliation initiatives were delivered throughout the year along with supporting community led events during National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week and Reconciliation Week. The Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards were held, celebrating the contribution and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven local government areas. The Lord Mayor's Elders Luncheon was held to acknowledge and pay respect to the contribution that local Aboriginal Elders make to our community. The Reconciliation and Truth Telling Conference was held in May 2025, with 220 delegates in attendance. During Indigenous Business Month an Aboriginal Procurement Networking Event was held at Inside Industry and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo held at Wollongong Town Hall. The planning and delivery of the 2025 Business Expo has been transferred to an Aboriginal business with ongoing support from Council. A new Student Summer Program was launched, providing paid work experience for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students. Culture Mix celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and Wollongong Art Gallery (WAG), Libraries and Youth Services delivered a range of programs and initiatives to showcase and celebrate First Nation people and cultures.
Deliver a range of community development activities and programs that focus on diversity, access, inclusion, and capacity building	On-Track	The Refugee Challenge was held in partnership with Corrimal High School in partnership with Multicultural Communities Council of the Illawarra (MCCI). Living Books sessions were held at six high schools with over 470 students participating. The Lord Mayor's School Starters Picnic was held in partnership with Big Fat Smile. Support was provided for the Saltwater Festival at Bundaleer Estate, Warrawong with over 800 people in attendance. Support was provided for the Old Boys Social Club which includes a range of activities for older men to connect such as a volunteer led weekly gatherings in the library. The Paint the Gong ReAD tent was delivered at various events and locations.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025	On-Track	A check-in with the community about the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) was held. This provided an opportunity to engage with people with disability and their carers on what has been achieved, what is planned, and ways to engage in the development of the new Plan. Culture Mix featured a range of access provisions to support people with disability to participate. A Quiet Space was provided at Comic Gong which was held at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre and Library. Autism awareness staff training was delivered. A Community Social Procurement workshop was held with local social enterprises and Council staff. A calendar of events to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disability was delivered in partnership with Shellharbour City Council. Video Social Stories were developed for Wollongong Art Gallery and Wollongong Youth Centre. Social stories help autistic people to learn about social situations and help them learn how to prepare to participate in these situations.
In partnership with South32 develop a plan that reflects the values and aspirations of the Mt Kembla and Kembla Heights stakeholders	Complete	Kembla Vision: A Plan for the Future was finalised and shared with the community and key stakeholders.
Deliver the Community Safety Action Plan 2021 2025	On-Track	During the year, Council delivered additional upgrades through the Safer Cities: Her Way Project and supported community safety campaigns like Reclaim the Night and 16 Days of Activism. The Community Safety Survey was delivered and planning began for the next Community Safety Plan. Graffiti prevention efforts continued with community partnerships, mural projects, and Graff Off events. Safety audits were conducted across several public spaces and recommendations provided to improve local areas. Crime prevention messaging was updated and a SCAMS awareness session was held in partnership with Libraries and ID (Identity Theft) Support NSW. Council remained active in regional safety networks, sharing crime data and supporting community engagement through surveys, workshops, and events aimed at improving public safety and awareness.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Initiate opportunities and projects to support the community	On-Track	Connecting Neighbours Grants were available to support an event or activity that connects people to each other. ClubGRANTS were made available to support a variety of services and initiatives aimed at improving the living standards of people experiencing disadvantage or living on low incomes. An oral history project about Hill 60 was delivered in partnership with local Aboriginal people. National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) small grants for not-for-profit groups holding community events during NAIDOC Week were provided. This program aims to get as many people as possible involved in NAIDOC Week and celebrate the history, culture and achievements of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Initiatives supporting older men to build social connections and reduce isolation were also supported. As part of Refugee Week, Council supported the Vietnamese community to host an exhibition at Wollongong Library, showcasing the experiences, achievements and contributions of early arrivals to Wollongong over the past 50 years. In partnership with the Illawarra Indigenous Business Network, an Aboriginal Business Expo was held in Indigenous Business Month, showcasing a wide array of Aboriginal owned businesses. A range of events and activities were supported as part of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence including the Reclaim the Night March, Women's Creative Expressions Competition and a Rose Vigil in MacCabe Park, Wollongong.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Corporate Strategy

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

Corporate Strategy responds to the community's needs from engagement, prepares, monitors and reports on Council's progress to our community, coordinates research and performance measurement and carries out strategic and business improvement projects.

Annual Progress Update

A significant achievement for the year was the development and subsequent adoption of the *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035* Integrated Plans, including the Community Strategic Plan 2035, Resourcing Strategy 2025-2035, new four year Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 on 30 June 2025.

Four Quarterly Review Statements were completed and adopted by Council during 2024-2025. As part of the development of the *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035* Integrated Planning documents, Council undertook a comprehensive review of community indicators and performance measures, resulting in a refined and more meaningful set of measures that will guide progress tracking over the coming years.

An extensive review of Council's internal performance measures was also completed during the financial year. Organisational research continued, with a range of internal surveys supported throughout the year. The Project Management Framework continues to be implemented and promoted throughout the organisation. During 2024-2025, seven training sessions were delivered to 125 staff to uplift organisational capability.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate Council's Service Optimisation Program	+On-Track	The first stage of Customer Service – Service Optimisation Program has progressed well during the year, commencing with Rates. This service assessment looked at the entire process customers go through when interacting with Council rates to identify pain points, current service gaps and improvement opportunities. This included reviewing customer service calls received, customer request data, the various customer online portals, website content, communications to customers and associated internal processes. The main goal was to enhance customer service, make it easier for the community and customers to access rates information, understand and navigate the various payment methods available and know where to go for assistance. To help support the findings, we undertook interviews with residents/ community members, to understand their experiences. Recommendations have been made and will move into implementation during the 2025–2026 financial year. In addition, implementation of the recommendations from the Development Assessment Service Optimisation (concluded in the previous financial year) have progressed well, with almost all completed. This phase will conclude with a customer survey, to determine levels of satisfaction with the improvements made. A review of the Pits / Drains customer interface also commenced in 2024-2025 and is well progressed. It is due to be completed in the next financial year.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Corporate Strategy Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate the preparation and review of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan	Complete	Following the September 2024 Local Government elections, a new four year Delivery Program, consisting of four Operational Plans is required to be developed and adopted by the new Council by 30 June the following year. Initial planning for this project commenced in July 2024, with a timeline developed with key stakeholders. A cross organisational review of the status of all Supporting Documents was completed during the September quarter, to inform the development of the Delivery Program. Draft documents were informed by significant input and consultation with a range of community engagement and research. Following development of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan, the draft was endorsed by Council to be placed on public exhibition from the 9 April to 7 May 2025. Over 100 submissions were received from the community during the exhibition period that assisted and informed the finalisation of the Plan. At the Council meeting on 30 June 2025, Council adopted the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 including attachments: Budget 2025-2026, Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 and Revenue Policy, Rates, Annual Charges and Fees 2025-2026. Adoption by Council marks the completion of this Operational Plan action.
Facilitate the review of the Community Strategic Plan	Complete	Planning for this project commenced in July 2024. Following the September 2024 Local Government Elections, an extensive Councillor induction program was conducted for the new Council, and phase 1 of community engagement 'Listening to our Community', was completed during the period 18 October to 18 November 2024. 10,199 voices were heard as part of this phase that included 5,858 from previous relevant engagements. A range of internal and external data sources also informed the draft Plan, including community engagement feedback; previous Community Strategic Plans; United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; stakeholder strategic plans; Council's Supporting Documents; census data; stakeholder engagement; community satisfaction and wellbeing Surveys; State and Regional Plans; staff meetings and workshops and current priorities. The draft *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035* Community Strategic Plan was exhibited during the period 9 April to 7 May 2025, as part of the Phase 2 'Checking In' of community engagement. A total of 50 submissions were received from the community during the exhibition period that assisted and informed the finalisation of the Plan. On 30 June 2025, Council adopted the Community Strategic Plan as part of the *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035* suite of documents.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Integrated Customer Service

Responsibility *Manager Customer and Business Integrity*

About this Service

Provision of a professional and efficient customer service experiences with Council through a variety of methods.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the year, Council continued to strengthen operations within the Customer Service Centre, with an ongoing focus on improving clarity, consistency and responsiveness across all service channels. The onboarding of the new Customer Experience Manager has brought renewed leadership to customer service initiatives. The implementation of the Genesys call centre platform has improved service capability and provided greater data insights to support continuous improvement. Council has adopted a First Contact Resolution approach, which has enhanced the quality and efficiency of interactions at the first point of contact, whether by phone or in person.

To support staff capability and consistency, a dedicated training support role was created and targeted training sessions were delivered. The Customer Service Policy was revised and a new Customer Service Charter was developed, reinforcing Council's commitment to service excellence. The Charter will go to Council in 2025-2026. Enhancements to the Online Services portal were implemented, including clearer communications to support the registration process and improvements to the user experience. Council also supported the Development Assessment and Certification team in delivering customer-facing improvements, such as updated website content and streamlined request processes.

Several forward looking projects are currently underway. These include the planned rollout of Multi-Factor Authentication for Online Services to enhance account security, improvements to the Pensioner Rebate request process, and enhancements to how animal related requests are captured and triaged.

The Customer Service Knowledge Base has been significantly expanded enabling staff to resolve more enquiries without referral and improving the accuracy of triaged requests. Council has also reviewed and updated the information provided to the after-hours service provider to ensure efficient and accurate call handling.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and enhance Council's customer service and engagement channels with a focus on inclusion and participation	On-Track	Significant progress was made in reviewing and enhancing the customer service and engagement channels, with a strong focus on accessibility, inclusion, and responsiveness. The Customer Service – Service Optimisation Program, launched in July 2024 has provided a structured and data informed approach to identifying service improvement opportunities. The Rates function is currently the focus area and has progressed through analysis and into the recommendations phase. This work is identifying valuable insights into customer interactions and service challenges, which will help shape more targeted improvements aligned with community needs. Implementation of recommendations from the earlier review of the development application customer interface is also well underway. These changes are already contributing to a more streamlined and user-friendly experience, supporting better transparency and ease of access for a wider cross-section of the community.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

		As the program progresses, the integration of data-driven insights alongside staff and community feedback continues to guide the development of practical, people-centred improvements. This work supports a stronger foundation for ongoing transformation in the way Council connects with and supports its diverse community.
Review the customer service journey across targeted, high priority operations as part of the Service Optimisation Program and identify opportunities for improvement	On-Track	The Service Optimisation for customer service was undertaken this year progressing in line with the established project plan. Work also continued in collaboration with business units to strengthen processes that support First Contact Resolution. This includes expanding the information and resources available to Customer Service staff to reduce the need for transferring calls or requests to other teams, ultimately improving responsiveness and customer experience.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries

Responsibility *Manager Libraries and Community Facilities*

About this Service

Wollongong City Libraries delivers information, learning outcomes and access to resources for residents and visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area. The service is delivered from seven libraries and 10 street libraries across the city and through the Home Library Service and a range of online services.

Annual Progress Update

A new membership campaign was launched to grow engagement, with initial outreach through flyer inserts in rates notices, followed by a city centre poster campaign and social media promotion. The campaign highlights the many benefits of library membership and aims to reach new audiences.

Library visitation was over 521,000 across seven locations. Physical Loans surpassed 1,000,000 for the first time since 2018–2019 and online loans were over 365,000 for the year. Digital communications saw an average of 48,000 website visits each month across the year and 56,000 interactions each month across the library's social media channels, Facebook and Instagram.

Throughout the year, the evaluation platform Culture Counts was implemented. This is a tool designed to measure the social and cultural value of events. The staff learning portal/intranet webpage is in the final stages of development and will continue to upskill staff.

Pride programming featured across all ages during the year, including preschool Storytimes, children's craft sessions, and social events for young adults and adults, to support and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Library App continues to see strong engagement by customers, and an integration of digital tools has been integrated into the library app, so customers can seamlessly access eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Work also continued on preserving and promoting the Local Studies Collection cataloguing 5,112 images, maps, manuscripts, serials and monographs, and digitised 3,636. Separately, 2,922 images were catalogued and 1,328 digitised under the grant funded Illawarra Mercury image digitisation project, with 26 new oral histories added.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Comic Gong Festival	Complete	On 24 May 2025, more than 8,000 people attended Comic Gong at the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre and Library for a celebration of pop culture. The event featured cosplay competitions, glitter tattoos, face painting, badge making and a wide variety of comics, art and merchandise across 67 stalls. Popular attractions such as Batman and his Batmobile, Cosplay Guardian, the 501st Legion and Sydney Lego Users Group returned for another successful year. The cosplay competition, supported by Friends of the Library, the Illawarra Mercury and Illustris Models, attracted 90 entrants and drew over 1,000 spectators. Across the day, 150 glitter tattoos, 190 face paintings and 338 badges were made, while the Quiet Space welcomed 300 visitors. Community groups including Rainbow South Coast engaged more than 200 people. Survey feedback showed 83% of visitors and stallholders had a positive experience, with 80% feeling safe and welcomed, and 72% feeling a connection to others. Almost all stallholders and 81% of visitors expressed interest in returning to a future event.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Wollongong Learning City Project based on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization framework and principles	Complete	Several internal workshops were conducted throughout the year with a range of stakeholders with feedback now reflecting in a broad range of learning activities across Council. In June 2025, Council submitted its application to join the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Network of Learning Cities. Ongoing implementation of the Learning City approach will continue as part of Libraries core business and operations.
Deliver tailored library programs to facilitate access and participation of people with disability	Complete	This year saw a continued focus on inclusive programming, with new initiatives and ongoing activities designed to welcome and support people living with disability. A social evening was added in the June quarter's program for people living with disability to come together and connect. At Wollongong Library, the regular Knit Stitch Yarn program continues to welcome a group from a care home each week, along with a participant supported by their National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) carer. Comic Gong also attracted many diverse attendees, including people attending with carers, reinforcing the event's reputation as inclusive and welcoming. Other inclusive programs included a 'Let's Draw with a Drag Queen' event at Wollongong City Library with an Auslan interpreter, which attracted 29 participants. Ukrainian doll making and cookie decorating workshops designed for people living with disability drew 31 attendees across two sessions. Corrimal Library's ongoing Quiet Hour continues to offer a peaceful, low-sensory environment for visitors who may find busy spaces overwhelming. Vision Impaired Yarners held three sessions with 17 participants, supported by Guide Dogs Australia. Three library tours at Dapto Library were held with the Disability Trust and enjoyed by 21 participants.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Libraries Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver library programs that recognise, reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of our community	Complete	In partnership with NSW Health and the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI), a World Café event exploring cultural humility was held, with 13 participants attending. Relationships with multicultural communities have been further strengthened through Tech Savvy funding, which enabled Community Connections and Learning to deliver watercolour workshops for the Chinese community following digital literacy sessions. Many cultural events were celebrated including Ukrainian Cultural Workshops, a Vietnamese Migration Exhibition commemorating 50 years since refugee migration, and libraries hosted events for the Culture Mix Festival, including Ukrainian dumplings, Aboriginal weaving, K-Pop dancing, Bollywood displays, and Korean puppetry. Digital literacy support was provided through our Tech Savvy Programs with multilingual sessions delivered in Mandarin, Persian, Indian, and Karenni languages. Youth and families were supported through our various programs such as High School Tutoring (MCCI), Homework Club and parenting workshops for the Burmese community. As part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement there were craft outreach sessions for Elders, Computer Classes at Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation, Christmas Craft Sessions and NAIDOC Family Fun Day Outreach sessions.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Property Services

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service

This service manages over 450 leases and licenses on behalf of Council and includes the management, development, maintenance and disposal of Council owned property in order to meet Council's statutory requirements and contribute to the expansion of Council's revenue base. Leases and licenses also ensure the effective management and coordination of community and business use of Council's public spaces, buildings and facilities.

Annual Progress Update

Council have secured new leases for prominent sites including Bulli Beach Café, Bulli Beach Tourist Park Café Kiosk, Corrimal Tourist Park Kiosk and the Auburn and Atchison Street Carpark.

Throughout the year, resolutions were made to acquire seven sites which are required for the Cleveland Road Upgrade Project and negotiations have progressed with all impacted landowners. Two properties in Lake Heights have been acquired by Council under the Voluntary Purchase Scheme for flood affected properties.

Council resolved to the grant of five separate easements across the year. Council also resolved to dispose of five parcels of land deemed surplus to needs which will proceed to the market for sale.

Council's city centre carparks continue to have a high occupancy rate.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Identify and implement business improvement initiatives to enhance commercial returns on Council's property portfolio	On-Track	There was a strong focus on commercial property tenders throughout the year which resulted in securing tenancies at market rates. An audit of Council carpark waitlist during this period have increased the utilisation of Council's licensed surface carparks. Various process improvements were implemented to streamline and create efficiencies both internally and with customers experience. This includes improved digitalisation and workflow processes within the lease management platform OneCouncil.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Youth Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Youth Services provides a program of recreation, cultural and education activities to meet the needs of young people aged 12 - 24 at Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Wollongong Local Government Area. These programs build social connections and inclusion, community engagement, information and referrals. Council funds the Neighbourhood Youth Work Program (NYWP) in two areas (Port Kembla and Berkeley) to support the needs of young people in the community.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the year, a program of recreation, cultural and education activities continued to be provided for young people aged 12 - 24 at Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Wollongong Local Government Area.

Twelve Wollongong Youth Forum members were sworn in by Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Linda Campbell at the Council Chambers following their election in November 2024. The Wollongong Youth Forum will serve a 12 month term in office. Together, the Youth Forum will deliver projects, campaigns and events based on a priority agenda developed together early in their term.

Council staff also visited local high schools to promote available youth services and programs. Support for the youth sector continued through the coordination of the Wollongong Youth Network and funding for the Neighbourhood Youth Work Program.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, inclusion, skill development, sector development and support.	On-Track	A range of youth development opportunities were delivered throughout the year, including programs such as Bellambi Connect, Study Sessions, Dungeons and Dragons, Crafts and Chat, Bundaleer Connect, Be Proud and Empowered, Teenz Connect, Youth in Fashion, and a mix of music, art, work readiness and wellbeing workshops. School holiday activities featured creative sessions including Street Art, Dungeons and Dragons, and hands-on workshops.
Provide opportunities for young people to develop skills, experience and exposure in creative industries	On-Track	Team Ignite participants supported and delivered various events with highlights including Youth Week Awards, Youth Week Markets, Teach Me How Gig, Rainbow Formal, Back to School Jams, Acoustic Sessions, Purple Fair Day and Music for the Mind. Legal Wall was regularly used by community members to create an evolving piece of public art. Two exhibitions were displayed for *Through Our Lens*. One explored the dark and light of mental health and displays powerful images and quotes. The second exhibition incorporated 2025 Youth Week theme *We are the future, and the future is now*, celebrating every young person's unique strengths with bold and bright images. The music room was regularly used by young people. The Youth Power Hour podcast made by young people, for young people developed 12 episodes and was launched this period on Spotify.

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – June 2024	Result – June 2025
Aged and Disability Services			
Number of people over 65 using community transport#	Increase	2,425	3,031
Hours of social support provided to people aged over 65*	Maintain	26,801	28,629
Proportion of residents satisfied with services for older people	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.40 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with services for people with disability	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.30 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Community Programs			
Proportion of residents satisfied with children's services	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.50 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with inclusive services	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.50 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with graffiti prevention and removal	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.40 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Integrated Customer Service			
Percentage of customer enquiries answered at the first point of contact^	Increase	New measure	51%
Percentage of customer requests responded to within 10 days^	90%	New measure	89%
Correspondence Met to Target^	90%	90%	96%
Proportion of residents satisfied with customer service centre	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.90 (result from 2023)	(next survey late 2025)

GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – June 2024	Result – June 2025
Libraries			
Visitation to library*	Increase	470,918	521,207
Number of library memberships^	Increase	81,243	84,587
Number of library loans (physical and digital)*	Increase	1,311,111	1,382,610
Number of library learning programs*	Increase	2,497	2,691
Number of participants in library learning programs*	Increase	46,646	53,947
Proportion of residents satisfied with libraries	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.40 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with library services	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.20 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Property Services			
Occupancy rates of commercial buildings^	95%	97%	97%
Youth Services			
Participation in programs and activities delivered to young people*	24,000 per annum	27,074	24,297

* Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis.

^ Figures have been prepared as an average on annual basis.

Figures represent the number of unique clients using the service. Previously reported figures included an accumulative total of clients using the service.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Objectives

There is an increase in the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our community.

Our community participation in recreation and lifestyle activities increases.

Residents have improved access to a range of affordable housing options.

Suburbs and places are liveable and safe.

Achievements

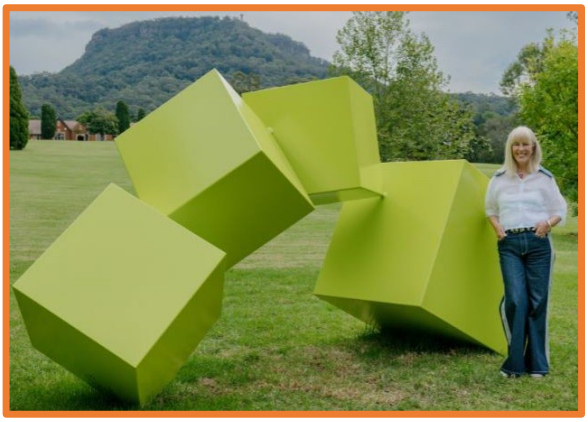
- Accepted a $41.7M tender for the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library.
- In August 2024, announced the site for the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library to be located at 53–55 Walker Street.
- Replaced the heating system at Dapto Pool improving temperature consistency since January 2025.
- Wollongong Botanic Garden welcomed 392,446 visitors and hosted several successful events including Sculpture in the Garden, the Botanic Gardens Week and Sunset Cinema.
- Responded to 535 customer requests and facilitated more than 10,000 bookings across sportsfields and parks.
- Worked with Illawarra Stingrays and Dapto Phoenix Football Clubs to establish Lakelands Oval, Dapto as a shared home ground and granted a 21-year licence to the Stingrays.
- Reached 6,500 school children through our water safety program, Surf Sense.

Highlights

Completed works at playgrounds including L-R Fred Woodward Park, Thirroul and Aristo Park, Mount Ousley.

Demolition commenced at the site of the new Community Centre and Library at Warrawong to serve Wollongong's southern suburbs.

28 September 2024 marked the start of the new patrol season and reopening of all 17 patrolled beaches and eight community pools.



Sculpture in the Garden Acquisitive Prize winner for 2025, Jenny Reddin, with her work Affinity.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Aquatic Services

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council operates 17 patrolled beaches, two heated swimming pools at Dapto and Corrimal, six free public swimming pools located at Helensburgh, Thirroul, Western Suburbs (Unanderra), Continental Baths Wollongong, Port Kembla and Berkeley. We have nine ocean rock pools situated at Coalcliff, Wombarra, Coledale, Austinmer, Bulli, Woonona, Bellambi, Towradgi and Wollongong Gentleman's pool. Aquatic Services also provides ocean and pool lifeguard services and surf education programs.

Annual Progress Update

Aquatic services across the city continued to see steady community engagement throughout the year, with overall visitation broadly in line with historical trends. While some fluctuations were recorded at individual facilities, attendance levels remained consistent.

Beach visitation was stable, supported by warm weather and major events such as the Australian Junior Surfing Titles. Lifeguards played a vital role in public safety, performing more than 545 rescues and providing over 1,500 instances of first aid. Preventative actions remained significant, with more than 54,000 swimmer advisories issued.

Operationally, the service delivered successful seasonal transitions, extended service hours during peak periods, completed winter maintenance, and replaced the heating system at Dapto Pool improving temperature consistency since January 2025. A trial program offering free pool entry for children during the school holidays encouraged youth participation at Corrimal and Dapto pools. Council's water safety program, Surf Sense, reached 6,500 school children. Marketing and communications support helped boost awareness through the Splash into Summer campaign.

Work continues to enhance data accuracy through improved attendance tracking, ensuring aquatic services continue to meet community needs safely and effectively.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Work with the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club to explore storage options	Delayed	Council has continued to work with the North Wollongong Surf Club throughout the year to identify a suitable off-site boat storage solution. A preferred site has been proposed, with further discussions with the club to be undertaken on storage requirements and building layout. The Club has requested Council to reconsider the boat storage opportunities. The project will remain delayed until such time this is resolved.
Plan, design and undertake renewal works at Council's Community, Commercial Pools and Ocean Rock Pools in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Program	On-Track	Heating upgrades were completed at Dapto Pool during the year. At Helensburgh Pool, works are scheduled to progress over the coming months, with completion anticipated by 31 December 2025. These works are being delivered in stages and are supported by grant funding from the NSW Government's Multi Sport Community Facility Fund. All aquatic sites require ongoing maintenance and renewal to ensure they remain safe and fit for purpose. Sand removal from ocean pools also continued during the year, with progress influenced by tidal and wave conditions.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Aquatic Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Progress concept plans, investigations, and detailed designs for a Community Recreation & Aquatic Centre at Cleveland to service the Southern Suburbs	Deferred	Several strategic considerations still require further deliberation before concept planning can be finalised. During the financial year, Council commenced a feasibility review of the Beaton Park Regional Precinct Masterplan, alongside the development of the Aquatic Facilities and Indoor Sports Strategy. These documents aim to guide future investment and service delivery. Once adopted, they will provide updated insights to inform and align the progression and finalisation of concept planning. The project will remain deferred until the finalisation of the above strategies, expected in March 2026.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*

About this Service

The Botanic Garden and Nursery service involves managing and promoting the conservation, education, recreation and aesthetic values of the main 30-hectare site in Keiraville, including the maintenance of the Gleniffer Brae grounds and the three natural area annexes of Mt Keira, Puckey's Estate and Korrungulla Wetland. Environmental education programs and interpretation are conducted at the Discovery Centre.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the financial year, the Wollongong Botanic Garden welcomed 392,446 visitors. The Friends of the Botanic Garden contributed 4,435 volunteer hours across the year, supporting a range of activities. The Nursery produced 54,258 new plants and distributed 65,514 plants, including 25,460 plants purchased by 2,954 Greenplan customers. All plants were locally sourced native species.

The Botanic Garden and annex sites, including Korrongulla Wetland, Puckey's Estate Nature Reserve and Mount Keira Summit Park, were maintained to a high standard throughout the peak summer visitation period.

Annual pruning works were also completed along the shared pathway at Puckey's Estate to maintain necessary clearance and support safe access.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver priority actions from the Urban Greening Program	On-Track	Throughout the year, Council facilitated a range of opportunities for community participation in urban greening initiatives. These included National Tree Day, Poem Forest events with local schools, and community planting activities across key locations such as Lake Illawarra, Puckey's Estate, foreshore areas and other public open spaces. Project highlights included the Glossy Black Cockatoo food tree planting initiative, support for the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council's Planting Purrah Bay: Community Day Restoring Lake Illawarra Foreshore, and the Streamhill Community Day.
Enhance Botanic Garden visitor experience with programs, interpretation, education, events and priority actions from the Masterplan	On-Track	The 2024–2025 year marked a period of renewal and growth for Council's education service, both at the Botanic Garden and through outreach programs. This included a review and refresh of school programs, the development of new school holiday and community education initiatives, updated waste education content, and the onboarding of new education providers to support program delivery. A key highlight was the successful launch of Nature Shake, a new environmental education event. With strong foundations now in place, Council is well positioned to deliver high-quality environmental education both on-site at the Botanic Garden and at external community venues. The Botanic Garden also hosted several successful events during the year, including Sculpture in the Garden, the Botanic Gardens Week Community Event, and the popular Sunset Cinema summer series. The Garden continued to attract broader attention, featuring in local and national media, including on ABC's Gardening Australia.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement priority actions from the Botanic Garden Masterplan	On-Track	Design investigations for the restoration of Kawasaki Bridge continued throughout the year, while stage one of heritage restoration works on the Gleniffer Brae building were completed. Pathway renewals were also undertaken to address trip hazards and improve visitor safety. The draft Botanic Garden Masterplan was finalised and placed on public exhibition for community feedback. Enhancements to the Living Collection included the planting of a rose named Inspirational Women, commissioned by Rotary Life Member Dot Hennessey. A ceremonial planting event was held and attended by Rotary volunteers, the former Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency David Hurley AC CVO DSC, Her Excellency Linda Hurley, and Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown.
Manage the Mt Keira Summit Park in accordance with the Plan of Management	On-Track	The Botanic Garden team undertook significant landscape maintenance throughout the year and hosted the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand regional Curators' excursion, which included a walk on Country at Mount Keira led by local Elder Aunty Joyce Donovan. A storm event in October 2024 caused significant tree damage at Summit Park however, all damaged trees have since been pruned or removed. Regular servicing of site facilities has continued to support tourism and visitor use.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Community Facilities

Responsibility *Manager Library and Community Facilities*

About this Service

This service manages and operates 56 Council-owned community facilities across the Wollongong Local Government Area. This includes Neighbourhood Centres, Senior Citizens Centres, Childcare Centres, Libraries, Community Centres and Community Halls.

Annual Progress Update

Community participation and venue hire at Council's community facilities continued to build steadily throughout the year. The district facilities at Dapto, Corrimal and Thirroul reported strong and diverse booking interest, including walk-ins from small business operators and a wide range of local community groups.

These venues hosted a variety of events that reflected the diversity of our community, including the Federal Election, NSW Local Government Elections, Citizenship Ceremonies, Comic Gong, Thirroul Seaside Festival, and programs by the Illawarra Muslim Youth Girls, Wollongong Embroiders Guild, Indian Australian Cultural Group, Illawarra Kerala Society, Dress for Success and the Vietnamese Association of Wollongong.

During the year, the location of the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library was announced, and the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library project tender was accepted, and preliminary construction works commenced.

Upgrade works were also delivered at a number of community centres across the city, including Corrimal, Dapto and Thirroul, as well as Bellambi, Wests Preschool, Bulli, Kemblawarra, Unanderra, Helensburgh, Koonawarra, Balgownie, Port Kembla, Otford, Wongawilli and Coledale.

Delivery of the 'Places for the Future: Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2023–2036' continues, with the majority of scheduled projects either underway or completed.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Plan for a new Community Centre and Library at Warrawong to serve Wollongong's southern suburbs	On-Track	Council accepted a $41.7 million tender for the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library. The package of works includes the finalisation of design and construction of a three-storey building containing a community centre, district library, lease holder accommodation and support function areas, landscaping and public domain works, and car parking. Council has engaged a contractor to undertake contaminated soil investigations and prepare a Remedial Action Plan to guide future remediation. In support of the project's delivery, Council has submitted a grant application for $4 million under the NSW Government Regional Economic Development and Community Infrastructure Program and is currently awaiting the outcome.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Community Facilities Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Plan for a new Community Centre and Library to meet the needs of the community in Helensburgh and surrounding suburbs	On-Track	Work is progressing on the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library, to be located at 53–55 Walker Street. Since the site was announced in August 2024. Community engagement activities have included a Neighbourhood Forum 1 briefing in Otford, a Helensburgh Library Drop-in Day and a community presence at the Helensburgh Fair. Across these events, more than 350 people participated and provided feedback to help shape the design. NSW Public Works has been engaged to deliver procurement and project management services for both the design and construction phases, with a project inception meeting held in May 2025. A dedicated project website has also been launched to provide regular community updates as planning progresses. In the meantime, the existing Helensburgh Community Rooms continue to attract strong demand, with a growing number of regular hirers and confirmed bookings.
Progress planning and construction of Wongawilli Hall extension and refurbishment	On-Track	Planning and design for the refurbishment of Wongawilli Community Hall continued throughout the year. Site visits were completed in May 2025 to confirm the scope of works, and concept design is currently underway, with detailed design to follow. The refurbishment is scheduled to take place across the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 financial years, as outlined in Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program.
Develop and deploy 'Places for People' Forward Directions Plan 2022-2036 (Implementation Plan)	On-Track	Throughout the year, progress was made across multiple sites. The development application for Otford Community Hall is under assessment by the Local Planning Panel. At Dapto Ribbonwood Community Centre and Library, the declined lift replacement tender is now under negotiation. Demolition of onsite structures at the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library is complete. NSW Public Works has been appointed to manage the design and construction of the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library. At Thirroul District Community Centre and Library, plans to repurpose the former café space and remove an internal wall are included in the 2025–2026 Infrastructure Delivery Program, with a project nomination submitted for adjacent footpath works. Work continues on the interim layout for the Darkes Town Centre Sports and Community Hub, with Stage 1 scheduled to commence in the next financial year. Wongawilli Community Hall refurbishment will now span the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 financial years, following a revised scope focused on upgrading the existing facility. The feasibility study for Bong Bong Community Centre and Library will begin once the structure plan is complete. At Yallah Marshall Mount Community Centre, a site feasibility study has been finalised.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Leisure Centres

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*

About this Service

This service involves the provision of commercially operated recreation centres at Beaton Park Wollongong and Lakeside Leisure Kanahooka.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the year, Council's leisure facilities recorded a total of 427,083 visits, reflecting continued growth in participation and program usage. This increase was supported by strong Learn to Swim program occupancy, and steady membership growth. Facility improvements included refurbishment of the pool concourse and safety signage at Beaton Park, completion of additional car parking, and ongoing sauna works, all enhancing the user experience across both centres.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the renewal and relocation of Beaton Park Tennis Courts in accordance with the Beaton Park Master Plan	Delayed	The renewal of Beaton Park Tennis Complex is nearing completion, with courts now operational and in use. Rectification works will be undertaken as part of the final stage.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service

This service provides memorial, burial and funeral service facilities at six sites across the Local Government Area. These include Wollongong Memorial Gardens, Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, Wollongong Cemetery, Bulli Cemetery, Scarborough Cemetery and Helensburgh Cemetery. The service also maintains three non-operational sites of historical and cultural significance. These include Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery, Settler's Cemetery and Waterfall General Cemetery.

Annual Progress Update

A key focus this year was the implementation of the Industry Interment Scheme. This involved significant updates to contracts, pricing structures, maintenance practices, and customer service processes, ensuring alignment with reporting and licensing requirements. Changes also included the introduction of an interment levy and the revised application of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on interment rights. Together, these adjustments contributed to a busy year of administrative transition and community education.

New community volunteer days were introduced and well received, with almost 50 participants across two events. Staff are exploring further opportunities to involve the community across other cemetery sites. These activities support the work of long-established 'friends' groups at Berkeley and Scarborough cemeteries, who continue to provide valuable contributions to the broader community.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage Council's commercial businesses to optimise service delivery at Wollongong Memorial Gardens and cemeteries	On-Track	The Industry Interment Scheme has now been fully implemented across Council's cemeteries, with a five-year licence to operate issued to Council. New infrastructure was delivered at the Memorial Gardens and Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, including the completion of stage four of the front garden and construction of five new beams. At Scarborough Cemetery, the new garden completed in June 2024 generated strong community interest, with over 100 reservations made in July and more than $300,000 in sales. Ground penetrating investigations are continuing across Council's closed cemeteries to identify potentially suitable sites for future use. To date, more than 30 burial sites have been made available as a result of these works.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*

About this Service

This service operates 493 parks, 65 sports fields, 220 playing fields, 7 outdoor fitness stations, 9 turf wickets and 154 playgrounds across the Wollongong Local Government Area and includes Russell Vale Golf Course. Provision of passive access to community parks and playgrounds and affordable and equitable access to sports fields and facilities. Twenty-two sports fields are licensed by volunteer or semi-professional sporting clubs.

Annual Progress Update

Throughout the year, Council responded to 535 customer requests and facilitated more than 10,000 bookings across sportsfields and parks. Support was provided for a range of major events, including the National Youth Football Championships, National Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, and the Australian Touch Football training camp. JJ Kelly Park, Wollongong, hosted the Battle of the Countries event and was used as a practice venue for the Women's NSW Open Golf Championship. Council also assisted numerous sporting clubs by providing letters of consent to support infrastructure funding applications. Planning progressed on the transition to a new remote sportsfield lighting system to enhance efficiency and reliability.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Progress the development of the Lang Park Masterplan	On-Track	Throughout the year, the project progressed steadily, with refinements to the scope, completion of the project plan, and finalisation of the consultant brief and procurement processes. Internal stakeholder engagement was undertaken, and discussions commenced with Venues NSW regarding future land development. The completed project plan will support upcoming community consultation and the development of a draft concept plan. This action is included in Council's adopted 2025–2026 Operational Plan, and the draft Masterplan is expected to be presented to Council for endorsement in 2026.
Finalise the Bulli Showground Masterplan	Deferred	The Bulli Showground Masterplan remains on hold while Council awaits updates from Greyhound Racing NSW and Transport for NSW. Greyhound Racing NSW is currently reviewing the number and location of racing tracks across the state as part of its 'Racing Footprint Optimisation' strategy, which is expected to be released and implemented in 2025–2026. Transport for NSW is also progressing a study into the proposed Bulli Bypass, including an extension of Memorial Drive to ease traffic through the town centre. This work is assessing various locations and design options to support long-term transport and land use planning in the area. Once this information is available, the Bulli Showground Masterplan will be reviewed to ensure consideration of the outcomes of both projects.
Implement the Landscape Masterplan recommendations for Hill 60 Reserve, Port Kembla	On-Track	Progress continues on the Hill 60 Landscape Masterplan, with detailed design and investigations underway for two key areas to support future staged funding. Stage 1A has been completed, delivering formalised car parking, pedestrian pathways, a viewing area, landscaping, and public art. Consultants are currently refining the Tunnel Options project for Council's review.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Collaborate with Destination Wollongong and the Australian Baseball League to establish Wollongong as a home base location for a National Baseball League team	On-Track	Council progressed site investigations throughout the year to assess the feasibility of hosting a National Baseball League team in Wollongong. This work included reviewing two potential sportsfield locations against infrastructure requirements and collating supporting data. These investigations have informed early engagement with stakeholders and provided a foundation for future discussions with the Australian Baseball League and Destination Wollongong.
Progress the planning and development of a Wollongong City Centre Skate Park	Delayed	Council has met with key stakeholders to discuss potential locations for a city centre skate park within MacCabe Park, Wollongong. The scope of the project is currently under review to ensure it aligns with community needs and the broader vision for the site.
Deliver funded sportsfield irrigation and drainage infrastructure projects	On-Track	Drainage improvement works progressed across several sportsfields during the year. Projects at Lakelands Oval, Dapto and King George V Oval, Port Kembla were completed, with the latter funded through the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund. Contractors have been confirmed for upcoming works at St James Park, Coledale, which are scheduled to begin in August 2025, and at JJ Kelly Park, Wollongong, where works are expected to commence later in the year following the conclusion of the Rugby League season.
Progress the planning and development of a Northern Suburbs Skate Park	Delayed	The project timeline is delayed as funding and consultation for the Port Kembla Skate facility was expedited, and the Northern Suburbs required further comprehensive review of potential locations in the Northern Suburbs. Council has engaged a consultant to identify a suitable site for a new skate park in the Northern Suburbs, with four potential locations analysed. Detailed site investigations and feasibility studies are ongoing, alongside preliminary stakeholder engagement. The consultant's report is currently under review, and once finalised, concept planning for the preferred site and broader community consultation will commence.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Figtree Oval, Figtree	Delayed	Council has progressed the renewal of the amenities building at Figtree Oval throughout the year. Early engagement with the two local sporting clubs helped define the scope of the project, with building requirements now being finalised and incorporated into the procurement documentation. Preparation for tender is underway, with procurement expected to commence in the December 2025 quarter.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Thomas Gibson Park, Thirroul	On-Track	The tender process for construction was completed, and construction is underway for planed completion in 2026.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Install funded sportsfield lighting at priority locations in accordance with the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027	Delayed	Council has continued planning for new floodlighting at Towradgi Park throughout the year. The project is structured into two stages, combining the renewal of Field 1 lighting with upgrades to outer field lighting. Procurement was initially delayed to allow the integration of main field lighting replacement with the original outer field upgrade. These works will now proceed as one coordinated project, delivered in two stages, with the main field prioritised for delivery.
Support the Illawarra Stingrays Football Club with establishing a home ground location at Lakelands Oval, Dapto by delivering funded drainage upgrades, finalising a long-term licence and supporting the Club with carrying out their grant funded works	On-Track	Council has worked closely with the Illawarra Stingrays and Dapto Phoenix Football clubs to establish Lakelands Oval, Dapto as a shared home ground. A 21-year licence has been granted to the Stingrays following public exhibition and Council adoption, with a Heads of Agreement also signed. Improvement works are currently underway to support the long-term use of the site.
Deliver complementary infrastructure to support increased visitation and activation resulting from the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Network	Delayed	Council is currently investigating access points to trail network in conjunction with local sports clubs who currently occupy end of trail locations for Phase 2 of the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Strategy. National Parks and Wildlife Service is expected to complete trail network as scheduled during the December 2025 quarter.
Preparation of the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan	Deferred	Council continued to engage with external stakeholders including the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Sydney Water and Homes NSW. Feedback on potential road access and alignment within the precinct has been received from relevant stakeholders. Council is awaiting future plans from the NSW Government regarding boating and foreshore infrastructure to inform further planning.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Public Health and Safety

Responsibility *Manager Regulation and Enforcement*

About this Service

This service conducts and manages the registration, inspections and monitoring of premises regulated under the Food Act and Public Health Act with the aim of ensuring compliance. Development of the environmental and public health and safety policies, community education programs and customer information.

Annual Progress Update

Staff delivered a range of public health and safety services throughout 2024–2025, including the implementation of health, parking compliance and environmental programs.

A total of 359 inspections were completed across hairdressers, beauty salons and cooling towers to ensure compliance with the Public Health Act. Council also received and assessed 26 applications to install onsite wastewater management systems and 176 applications to operate existing systems.

The school zone parking program continued throughout the year, with more than 400 patrols conducted at local primary schools. Staff focused on the safety of children and education of parents and carers, issuing 383 fines for unsafe or illegal parking and undertaking 230 educational conversations with drivers. Parking-related customer service requests were also responded to, with 3,971 requests completed during the year.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Inspect all medium and high-risk retail food premises annually	On-Track	A total of 2,142 inspections were completed during the year, meeting Council's commitments under the Food Regulation Partnership with the NSW Food Authority. Where non-compliances were identified, 49 Improvement Notices were issued, along with three Prohibition Orders under the Food Act.
Maintain inspection programs for public swimming pools, places of shared accommodation and mortuaries	On-Track	During the year, staff completed 47 inspections of public swimming pools, four inspections of mortuaries and 25 places of shared accommodation were inspected. A high level of compliance was observed throughout the year, and with the annual inspections program completed in full.

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – June 2024	Result – June 2025
Aquatic Services			
Visitation to Council commercial heated pools (Corrimal and Dapto)*	At least 180,000 per annum	227,093	243,866
Proportion of residents satisfied with patrolled beaches	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.50 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with ocean rock pools	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.20 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with Council commercial heated pools	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.10 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with public swimming pools (free)	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.10 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Botanic Garden and Annexes			
Visitation to Wollongong Botanic Garden*	At least 400,000 per annum	261,863	392,446
Proportion of residents satisfied with Botanic Garden	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.60 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Community Facilities			
Hours of use of Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)*	Increase	34,793	36,002
Visitation to Direct-Run District Level Community Facilities (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)*	Increase	229,637	228,976
Hours of use of community halls/ centres *	Increase	10,280	11,559
Visitation to community halls/ centres*	Increase	32,412	21,394

GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – June 2024	Result – June 2025
Community Facilities Continued			
Proportion of residents satisfied with community centre at Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.30 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with community halls/centres	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.90 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Leisure Centres			
Proportion of residents satisfied with leisure centres	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.90 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Parks and Sports Fields			
Proportion of residents satisfied with parks, open spaces and sports fields for active sport or recreation activities	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.00 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with parks, open spaces and sports fields for passive recreation purposes	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.10 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with children's playgrounds	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.90 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with hours Council public toilets are open	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.60 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with Russell Vale Golf Course	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	4.20 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*

* Figures (including comparatives) have been prepared on an accumulative, annual basis

.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Objectives

There is an increase in sustainable transport use including public transport, walking, and cycling.

Transport links and connection to Sydney, the South Coast and Southern Highlands are strengthened.

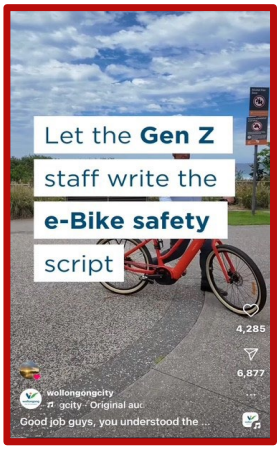
The community have access to a safe, affordable and reliable transport network.

Achievements

- Wollongong e-scooter trial, in its second year has recorded over 98,000 trips taken, covering 173,000 kilometres.
- Work continued on the Cycling Network Plan and Program, which supports multiple actions under the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030.
- Delivered community-focused road safety events including school banner fence programs, Walk to School Day, and local activities for Road Safety Week, including the lighting of the lighthouse.
- Continued to actively pursue external funding to support planned Infrastructure Delivery Program projects, including applications to the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program, Get NSW Active 2025–2026.
- Processed 669 National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) requests.
- Twelve Local Traffic Committee meetings were held, with 131 agenda items assessed and 95 locations referred to NSW Police as part of the Dob in a Hoon program.
- Progressed the Safer Routes to School Program with 19 reports finalised during the year.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Highlights



E-bike safety social media reel targeted at Gen Z users.

Footpath repairs along Keira Street, Wollongong.

Work is underway on major road upgrades to Fowlers Road between Fairwater Drive and Cleveland Road, West Dapto. These works form Stage 1 of Cleveland Road upgrade and include road-widening, new shared paths, stormwater works, street lighting and tree planting to improve access for traffic and pedestrians.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

This service provides the delivery, management and advocacy of transport infrastructure. The service aims to provide a transport network that is safe, efficient, equitable, effective and sustainable. The service supports the community through creating the provision of transport access for residential, business, recreation, leisure and tourism activities.

This Service also includes provision of road safety, traffic and integrated transport planning support and advice. Road Safety Education Programs and promotion is a critical activity implemented across all aspects of our transport services.

Annual Progress Update

Council's Safer Routes to School Working Group continued to deliver audits at key school locations and worked closely with school principals, parents and carers to develop Safer Routes to School Reports. A comprehensive, costed action list is being compiled to support a Councillor Notice of Motion and guide advocacy with Transport for NSW and the NSW Department of Education.

Council is actively pursuing external funding to support planned Infrastructure Delivery Program projects, including applications to the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program, Get NSW Active 2025–2026, the 2025–2026 Black Spot Program and the Active Transport Fund.

During the year, Council processed 669 National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) requests. Council is also working closely with Transport for NSW and the NHVR to support implementation of the Heavy Vehicle Automated Access Program. A Memorandum of Understanding is now in place to support data collection for future automation, which is expected to significantly reduce the volume of manual consent requests. Council has also contributed to the NSW Roads Act Review through the Peer Reference Group, industry workshops and a formal submission.

Twelve Local Traffic Committee meetings were held, with 131 agenda items assessed and 95 locations referred to NSW Police as part of the Dob in a Hoon program. Council has also implemented process improvements in response to stakeholder feedback and continues to respond to a high volume of customer, Councillor and Member of Parliament requests.

Council maintained ongoing engagement with Transport for NSW across a range of strategic projects, including improved access to decision making tools such as tube counts, intersection data and expanded place-based movement insights through the Place Intelligence platform.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Collaborate with the New South Wales Government to fund and deliver the Safe Routes to School Program	On-Track	Council's Safer Routes to School Working Group continued its program of onsite audits, school engagement and report development throughout the year. Engagement has included meetings with school principals and Parents and Citizens (P&C) Associations across the Wollongong Local Government Area. Nineteen reports were finalised during the year, with six currently under school review and a further 27 in progress. Identified actions are included in Council's Infrastructure Request List for future funding consideration. Council's dedicated Safer Routes to School webpage was updated to improve accessibility and transparency. The refreshed page now includes completed school reports, as well as a list of locations where reports are currently being prepared.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement actions from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030	On-Track	Council has finalised its engagement with the consultant delivering the Cycling Network Plan and Program, which supports multiple actions under the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030. Work is progressing on the final version of the Plan, with workshops being developed to engage the cycling community, Councillors and internal teams. The final Plan, incorporating community feedback, is expected to be released in late 2025. The Cycling Network Plan will outline a 10-year forward program for the delivery of new cycleways and identify strategic routes to support grant funding applications. Routes from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 map will be assessed through this study, along with standard design elements, cost estimates, and the suitability of different facility types based on existing road environments. Following completion of the Cycling Network Plan, work is expected to begin on a Footpath Network Plan, subject to funding. This Plan will complement the cycling and Safer Routes to School programs by helping identify key priorities and addressing network gaps in Wollongong's active transport infrastructure. Council continues to collaborate with the NSW Government on the development of Strategic Cycling Corridors. Feedback was provided on the current proposals to align them with the Cycling Network Plan, ensuring integration between local and regional cycling routes. The Strategic Cycling Corridors Illawarra–Shoalhaven Overview identifies three key connections within the Wollongong Local Government Area. Detailed design work is required to inform a future business case for implementation funding. A concept design for the Figtree to Coniston Train Station route has also progressed, with Council providing input and awaiting next steps from the project team. Meanwhile, Council continues to progress delivery of priority Infrastructure Delivery Program projects, including community engagement and implementation of grant-funded works such as the Grand Pacific Walk in Austinmer and shared path upgrades along Murray Road, East Corrimal.
Develop and implement the Integrated Transport Strategy	On-Track	Following exhibition of the draft Integrated Transport Strategy community feedback was reviewed, with further engagement undertaken through targeted consultation, including with young people via the Youth Forum. During the June 2025 quarter, Council was briefed on the feedback and a revised draft Strategy. Final Councillor engagement is scheduled for early 2025–2026. Following this, the Strategy will be finalised and presented to Council for adoption.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Work with key agencies and partners to progress the Illawarra Regional Transport Plan	On-Track	Forty-six of the 71 initiatives outlined in the current plan are of direct benefit to the Wollongong Local Government Area. Three major Transport for NSW projects progressed during the year: the Mount Ousley Interchange, the M1 South Facing Ramps at Dapto, and the Bulli Bypass. Transport for NSW has commenced redevelopment of the existing regional plan, only three years into its intended lifespan. The new draft, titled the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan, is expected to be placed on public exhibition in mid-2025. Council will prepare a formal submission, continuing to advocate strongly for improved public transport planning and investment across the city. Council staff have continued to collaborate with Transport for NSW on key projects, including the Strategic Business Case for the Bulli Bypass and associated consultation on the Bulli Town Centre Streetscape Improvements. Council also remains an active stakeholder in the Mount Ousley Interchange project, providing detailed design feedback on current documentation and community priorities, particularly regarding the proposed active transport connection between Dumfries Avenue, Mount Ousley, and the University of Wollongong. Recommendations for traffic calming along Dumfries Avenue have also been submitted, with outcomes expected shortly.
Develop road safety programs, education and promotion of sustainable multi-modal transport options	On-Track	The Wollongong e-scooter trial, in its second year, continues to provide a smart, sustainable transport option across key areas of the city. Since launch, over 98,000 trips have been taken, covering 173,000 kilometres. During the June 2025 quarter alone, more than 15,800 trips were recorded. The trial has been extended until January 2026 and continues to be monitored, with additional designated parking zones installed to help improve compliance and safety. Council has provided input into the NSW Government's legislative review and is awaiting further advice before expanding the trial area. Council continued its education campaign targeting e-bike users. This included updated signage highlighting road rules and safety responsibilities, and a social media campaign aimed at Gen Z riders, which achieved strong engagement across platforms. Several community-focused road safety events were delivered throughout the year. These included a joint online learner driver workshop with Shoalhaven City Council, a regional motorcycle safety event in partnership with Sutherland and Georges River Councils, the continuation of the 'Breakfast Torque' and school banner fence programs, Walk to School Day, and local activities for Road Safety Week, including the lighting of the lighthouse.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Review the management of road signage as part of the Service Optimisation Program	Delayed	Initial stakeholder engagement for the Road Signage Service Optimisation has been undertaken. The deep dive analysis will be completed once the outcomes of the Intelligent Defect Management review is finalised.
Develop and deploy a pilot program to slow vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian safety at key crossing locations throughout the city	On-Track	Council staff are developing standardised, shovel-ready designs, approvals and guidelines to support the delivery of small-scale projects that improve pedestrian safety and create slower speed environments. The approach includes the use of innovative materials and modular systems to support more efficient implementation. Draft guidelines are in development, including an assessment matrix applied to the traffic facilities request list and templates for design and approval. Over the next two years, eight traffic calming locations, four kerb ramp sites, two bike parking areas and one accessible parking space have been identified to progress through this program. Scoping is complete, with designs now progressing toward construction.

GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		June 2024	June 2025
Transport Services			
Proportion of residents satisfied with maintenance of local roads	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	2.80 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with maintenance of footpaths, cycleways and shared use paths	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.30 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*
Proportion of residents satisfied with availability of footpaths, cycleways and shared use paths	At least 3.75 on a scale of 5.00	3.60 (result from 2023)	*(next survey late 2025)*

Image: Hydrogen bus,
© State of New South Wales
(Transport for NSW)

SUPPORT SERVICES

Achievements

- As part of Council's commitment to Work Health safety, 46 risk assessments were developed and/or reviewed to ensure alignment with current operational hazards and control measures.
- Adopted Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, Financial Sustainability Policy and Resourcing Strategy 2025–2035; Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025–2026, including Draft Budget 2025–2026 and Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025–2026 to 2028–2029; and the Revenue Policy, Rates, Annual Charges and Fees 2025-2026.
- Onboarded 26 new cadets, apprentices and trainees as part of the 2025 program intake.
- Inducted a new Council following the Local Government election on 14 September 2024, with polls declared on 2 October.
- Successfully secured over $26 million in grant funding including $19.9 million for the upgrade of Cleveland Road in the West Dapto Urban Release Area and $5 million for Stage 2 of the Darkes District Sporting and Community Hub.
- Installed new technology to monitor soil moisture across six sportsfields to support the development of benchmarks for field closures as part of the sportsfield monitoring program.
- Adopted the Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 which is Council's largest ever proposed capital budget supporting delivery of projects such as the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library and Helensburgh Community Centre and Library.

Highlights

On 14 October, 12 Councillors and the Lord Mayor of Wollongong Councillor Tania Brown (pictured left) took the Oath/Affirmation of Office at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council. Councillor Linda Campbell (pictured right) was elected Deputy Lord Mayor.

The Resourcing Strategy, a key strategic document, which explains how Council manages its core resources – finance, assets, workforce, and digital technology to implement the Delivery Program, was adopted by Council on 30 June 2025.

Council onboarded 26 new cadets, apprentices and trainees as part of the 2025 program intake.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services

Responsibility *Senior Manager People and Culture*

About this Service

Council's Employee Services provides support, advice and information to staff, including staff attraction and retention, health and wellbeing initiatives, and ongoing learning and development. This service fosters a safe and equitable work environment where people are skilled, valued and supported.

Annual Progress Update

Council continued to progress key workforce initiatives to support the delivery of strategic human resource functions and quality services to the community The Workforce Management Strategy 2025–2029 was adopted as part of the Resourcing Strategy 2025-2035 on 30 June 2025. The strategy focuses on four priorities: inclusive and engaged workforce; aligned and accountable teams; capable and enabled workforce; and a healthy and safe work environment.

Recruitment efforts focused on enhancing accessibility, diversity, and system efficiency. Achievements included expanded advertising reach, inclusive hiring pilots, a successful recruitment system upgrade, and strengthened collaboration with other councils. Council is now participating in the NSW Veteran Employment program. Council also onboarded 26 new cadets, apprentices and trainees as part of the 2025 program intake.

Key initiatives aligned with the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan were delivered, including disability employment through the IncludeAbility program for which Council received a Highly Commended LGNSW Business Excellence Award. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth placements via the Parks Summer Program, and participation in key diversity events also supported the Plan.

Learning and awareness continued through a refreshed induction program and ongoing engagement with external diversity networks. Council is a member of the Australian Disability Network.

A refreshed Employee Recognition Program was launched to celebrate and acknowledge staff contributions across the organisation. A Staff Survey was conducted to measure engagement and alignment, and to capture feedback to inform future workforce initiatives.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and implement the Workforce Strategy 2022-2026	Complete	The draft Workforce Management Strategy 2025-2029 went out for public exhibition during the June quarter. This key document forms part of Council's Our Resourcing Strategy 2035 and will support the implementation of the draft Delivery Program 2025-2029. The document was adopted by Council on 30 June 2025.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Enhance Council's Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Programs	On-Track	Throughout the year Council remained focused on delivering Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives aligned with Council's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan. A highlight was receiving a Highly Commended award at the Local Government NSW Business Excellence Awards for the employment of a person with disability through the IncludeAbility program. Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) invited Council to co-present at the Local Government NSW Human Resources Network meeting in March. The opportunity enabled Council to showcase our partnership with AHRC and The Disability Trust through the IncludeAbility program. Learning and awareness continued through a refreshed induction program and ongoing engagement with external diversity networks. Council promoted and built awareness of significant Diversity and Inclusion days such as International Women's Day, Neurodiversity Celebration Week, National Apology Anniversary and National Close the Gap Day. New employees are introduced to Diversity and Inclusion through a refreshed Corporate Induction Program along with ongoing training for all staff in Cultural Intelligence and Autism Awareness. Informal learning continues to be promoted and supported through our refreshed Diversity Hub, LinkedIn Learning, and memberships with the Diversity Council of Australia (DCA) and Australian Disability Network (ADN).
Implement Safety and Wellbeing Programs	On-Track	In late 2024, Council officially endorsed its Work Health and Safety Management System. This is a significant framework that comprises 32 procedures, and more than 40 operational tools. Council partnered with University of Wollongong to deliver education on psychological safety and psychosocial hazards in the workplace. This will enable ongoing positive duty toward health in the workplace with its leadership team. An Occupational Violence program was launched to be implemented for the next two years. Council also developed its Psychosocial Hazard Procedure, which will be implemented throughout 2025-2026. A preventive approach was taken through ongoing Mental Health First Aid Officer training and networking, and the implementation of a new manual handling training package. Work continued on the development of mandatory accreditation profiles and enhanced reporting for use of access for leaders. Work Health Safety Operations completed a project on updating risk assessments, with a total of 46 risk assessments being developed and/or reviewed to ensure alignment with current operational hazards and control measures.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Refresh Council's Attraction and Retention Strategies	On-Track	Recruitment processes and strategies continue to be improved to ensure Council attracts and retains high-quality candidates who can support service delivery to the community. Achievements included expanded advertising reach, inclusive hiring pilots, a successful recruitment system upgrade, and strengthened collaboration with other councils. Council is now participating in the NSW Veteran Employment program. Council also onboarded 26 new cadets, apprentices and trainees as part of the 2025 program intake.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Financial Services

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council is a large and diverse organisation that provides services from the funding it receives from its community through rates, grants, fees and charges. Financial sustainability, conservation of Council's capital and operational efficiency are aims of this service. This is achieved through financial strategy, policy, budgets and controls; while ensuring Council meets its taxation obligations, investment return and internal and external reporting that provides transparency about decision-making. A key focus of the service is to maintain a high level of customer service to its internal and external stakeholders

Annual Progress Update

Council has finalised and adopted the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents following community engagement. These include the Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, Financial Sustainability Policy and Resourcing Strategy 2025–2035; Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025–2026, which includes the Budget 2025–2026 and Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025–2026 to 2028–2029; and the Revenue Policy, Rates, Annual Charges and Fees 2025-2026.

Council also submitted the annual Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) return to the Australian Taxation Office and met all other taxation compliance requirements for the quarter. Across the 2024–2025 period, financial planning and reporting functions have been delivered as scheduled, including the annual budget, quarterly reviews and monthly financial reporting. Financial support services to the organisation continued as required.

Supplier payments have remained consistent, with weekly payment cycles maintained for suppliers. Monthly financial and investment reports have been provided to both Council and the community. Council's Rates and Sundry Debtors have been managed effectively with rate notices issued as agreed and debt recovery and hardship practices considerate of customer needs.

Operational Plan 2024-2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review the rating structure to align to legislative changes	Deferred	Council has reviewed its rating structure and pricing as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting process and determined its Revenue Policy based on that review. The rating structure remained unchanged as the anticipated legislative change, that is required to provide further relevant options for Council, has not been progressed.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Governance and Administration

Responsibility *Manager Customer and Business Integrity*

About this Service

The Governance and Administration Service includes policy, internal audit, legal, insurance, claims management, supply chain, risk management, business paper functions and corporate governance. The service also captures the Office of the General Manager and Executive Group, support for Councillors and the Professional Conduct Coordinator.

Annual Progress Update

Ongoing support continued to be provided to the organisation with the governance, Councillor support and risk management functions. Support was provided for fourteen Council meetings and four Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meetings.

Throughout the year a range of guiding policies and documents were approved by the Council, including the Councillor Expenses Policy, Privacy Management Plan and the Risk Appetite Statement. Several significant submissions were made to the Office of Local Government in relation to the proposed changes to the Code of Meeting Practice and Code of Conduct.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Internal Audit Program	Delayed	The 2024-2025 Internal Audit Program was completed with the exception of one internal audit which has been drafted but not yet finalised. This was due to the unexpected and unavoidable absence of key staff. This audit is expected to be complete by end of August 2025. The 2025-2026 internal audit plan was endorsed by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting on the 12 March 2025.
Facilitate the Local Government Elections in September 2024 and onboarding of the new Council	Complete	The Local Government election was held on 14 September 2024, with polls declared on 2 October. Councillors have completed a comprehensive induction and development program.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Management and Technology

Responsibility *Chief Digital and Information Officer*

About this Service

This service delivers digitally enabled, information driven and secure services that empower our customer community.

Annual Progress Update

The Information Management and Technology (IMT) Digital Strategy 2025–2029 was endorsed by Council as part of the Resourcing Strategy 2025–2035. The Digital Strategy outlines seven key focus areas that will guide Council in categorising a wide range of transformational and improvement initiatives across the technology landscape.

Council continues to implement its Cyber Security Strategy, with significant progress made. Key activities included phishing simulations, password strength assessments, and an internal systems penetration test. Insights from these exercises are informing the prioritisation of initiatives aligned with recommendations from Council's Essential Eight self-assessment.

Council's Cloud Transformation Program is nearing completion. The transition has significantly reduced the footprint of on-premise servers and storage infrastructure, thereby lowering physical risks and enhancing the agility and resilience of IT services.

Council has reached a major milestone with the successful completion of the OneCouncil project—our most significant technology transformation to date. The program has delivered improvements across a wide range of business functions. The delivery of OneCouncil represents a major shift from multiple legacy systems to a unified Enterprise Resource Planning solution. This new platform integrates Council's core systems, improving access to data and enabling more secure, efficient and flexible ways of working.

This achievement enhances Council's ability to serve the community, improve service delivery and safeguard important information. The outcome reflects a sustained and collaborative effort across many areas of Council and marks a significant step forward in modernising operations.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Cyber Security Strategy	On-Track	Council has completed an audit of systems containing personal information, supporting our ongoing commitment to privacy and data security. Council remains on track to meet Level One maturity under the Australian Government's Essential Eight cyber security framework.
Finalise the Information Technology Cloud Transformation Program	Complete	All legacy data was migrated into an archive platform. This platform has been handed over to staff to ensure they have access to the historic records not held in the transactional system. Legacy systems have now been decommissioned, further mitigating cyber security risks posed. All corporate directories have been migrated to the cloud and are now available from any secured device, at anytime, anywhere. Next steps will include procuring and configuring a small on-premise footprint for those services that cannot be migrated to the cloud.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Management and Technology Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Implement the CCTV Strategy	Complete	Project is complete and maintenance activities have been embedded into business-as-usual operations.
Pilot and expand the use of robust SMART technologies across Council	On-Track	The Intelligent Defect Management project links defects raised through the system to work orders which are prioritised using 'required by' dates. People counting solutions have been implemented for City Mall, Libraries, Wollongong Art Gallery, and Thirroul Community Centre using Closed Circuit Television technology. A sensor-based approach has also been trialled for the Botanic Garden and pools across the local government area. A number of enhancements have been made to the Whole of Emissions dashboard which continues to support Council in adhering to the Climate Change Mitigation Plan and simplify carbon accounting requirements. Work also continued on dam monitoring systems, with investigations underway to determine the most appropriate power source based on site-specific conditions. At six sportsfields, remote sensors for soil moisture are now operational. Data collection has commenced to support the development of benchmarks for field closures, which will inform future stages of the sportsfield monitoring program.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Infrastructure Strategy and Support

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

This service includes the strategic management and technical planning of Council's infrastructure that supports all Council Services.

Annual Progress Update

Council's draft Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 was placed on public exhibition from the 9 April to 7 May 2025. Several amendments were made to the draft based on community feedback and new information received during the exhibition. The Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 was adopted on 30 June 2025.

The Program is Council's largest ever proposed capital budget supporting delivery of priority projects such as the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library, Helensburgh Community Centre and Library, Darkes Sporting and Community Hub (Stages 1 and 2), West Dapto Road Upgrade (Stages 1-4) and North Wollongong Seawall (Stage 2). It lists over 480 projects with a total value of $553.2 million.

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and regularly review Asset Management Plans to ensure appropriate investment in Council's asset base	On-Track	A comprehensive review has been completed and an asset management plan covering all assets has been drafted. It considers the future demands, challenges and risks that influence decisions regarding investment over the lifecycle of assets. The plan includes over 180,000 assets across transport, stormwater and floodplain, open space and recreation, buildings, plant and equipment, library collection, information management and technology, and artwork. On 5 May 2025, Council resolved to exhibit the draft Asset Management Plan 2025-2035 for community feedback. Exhibition closed on 4 June 2025, with one submission received supporting the draft. Council subsequently adopted the Plan on the 30 June 2025.
Seek external funding to support core services that Council provides in the Infrastructure Delivery Program	On-Track	More than $50 million in funding applications were submitted to various NSW and Commonwealth government funding programs throughout the year to support major projects such as the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library at Warrawong, Towradgi Park Sportsfield Lighting, shared user paths in Port Kembla and Russell Vale, the Helensburgh Pool Changing Place, Warrawong Town Centre Precinct, City Voluntary House Purchasing Scheme, and the upgrade of the Wollongong Art Gallery and Town Hall. Council was successful in securing over $26 million in grant funding during the year, with significant funding awarded including $19.9 million for the upgrade of Cleveland Road in the West Dapto Urban Release Area, $5 million for Stage 2 of the Darkes District Sporting & Community Hub, $742,500 for Stage 1 of the Ursula Rd Flood Mitigation Scheme, and $765,000 for North Beach Kiosk Building Repair Works and the Military Road Shared User Path.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Infrastructure Strategy and Support Continued

Operational Plan 2024 - 2025 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Progressively implement the Asset Management Improvement Program	On-Track	A revised Asset Management Improvement Program has been documented in Council's Asset Management Plan, adopted by Council on 30 June 2025 as part of the new Resourcing Strategy. Several key actions within the program are already underway. These include consideration of adjustments to the useful lives of stormwater assets, the commencement of condition assessments for swimming pool assets across the Wollongong Local Government Area, and the revaluation of all open space and swimming pool assets.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		June 2024	June 2025
Financial Services			
Available funds[#]	3.5% to 5.5% Operational Revenue (Pre-Capital)	$40.2M or 12.5%	$46.5M or 13.5%
Operating result pre capital income, including depreciation[#]	Small Operational Surplus (average over 3 years)	-$39.3M	-$55.7M[3]
Information Management and Technology			
Formal GIPA Applications Processed Within 20 Days[^]	100%	98.6%	98.3%
Records and Information Management maturity (as defined by NSW State Archives and Records Authority)	Increase	65%[1]	Not available[2]

[#] Result as at 30 June 2025.

[^] Figures have been prepared as an average on annual basis.

[1] Result exceeds the NSW State benchmark of 60%.

[2] NSW State Archives and Records Authority changed reporting requirement from mandatory annual reporting to biennially. Reporting will recommence in the first quarter of 2025-2026.

[3] The reported Operational Result (Pre-Capital Income) deficit reflects several one-off and non-cash accounting adjustments. These include asset depreciation, the return of unspent grant funds associated with the transition of the community transport service to a new provider, the write-off of prior-year capital works in progress, and the reclassification of some current-year capital expenditure to operating. In addition, some employee costs have remained operating rather than being allocated to capital projects, primarily due to resources being directed toward natural disaster response.

Image: Holborn Skate Plaza, Berkeley

Image: Sunrise at Lake Illawarra

Statutory Reporting

Senior Manager Remuneration

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), the report must include a statement of the total remuneration package of the General Manager (GM).

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(c)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), the report must include a statement of the total remuneration packages of all senior staff members (other than the General Manager), expressed as the total (not of the individual members).

As determined by a resolution of Council in September 2023, the General Manager, four directors and 16 senior managers are defined as senior staff under the *Local Government Act 1993*, *section 332*. The remuneration packages of senior staff include the:

- total value of the salary component of the package
- total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of the salary component
- total amount payable by Council by way of the employer contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the manager may be a contributor
- total value of any non-cash benefits for which the manager may elect under the package
- total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits,

Position	Period	Total Value $
General Manager	1-07-24 to 30-06-25	510,239
Directors (4) Community Services Corporate Services Infrastructure and Works Planning and Environment	1-07-24 to 30-06-25	1,343,778
Senior Managers (16) Chief Financial Officer; Chief Digital and Information Officer; General Counsel, Legal Services; Manager Customer and Business Integrity; Manager City Strategy; Manager City Works; Manager Commercial Operations and Property; Manager Community, Culture and Engagement; Manager Development, Assessment and Certification; Manager Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning; Manager Library and Community Facilities; Manager Open Space and Environmental Services; Manager Project Delivery; Manager Regulation and Enforcement; Manager Sport and Recreation; Manager People and Culture	1-07-24 to 30-06-25	4,020,661

Councillors

Councillors are not employees or officers of Council. Their role is to make decisions about the running of Wollongong City Council and ensure the General Manager and Council officers carry out decisions made at Council meetings.

Councillors Attendance at Meetings

Council has resolved that Councillor attendance at Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings, Section 355 Committees, as well as Councillor Briefing sessions, be recorded and reported in the Annual Report.

During the period under review, there were 13 Ordinary Council meetings, one Extraordinary Council meeting and 23 Councillor briefings.

Following the Local Government Elections held on 14 September 2024, Wollongong City Council welcomed a new term of elected representatives. The election marked a significant transition, with eight new Councillors joining the Council and four returning Councillors continuing from the previous term. The table below includes both outgoing and incoming Councillors, with attendance recorded from the beginning of the financial year through to the end of June 2025.

Councillor	Council Meetings Attended	Councillor Briefings Attended
Councillors elected October 2024		
Councillor Andrew Anthony	12/12	20/21
Councillor Kit Docker	12/12	16/21
Councillor Dan Hayes	12/12	18/21
Councillor Ryan Morris	12/12	17/21
Councillor Tiana Myers	10/12	15/21
Councillor Thomas Quinn	12/12	21/21
Councillor Deidre Stuart	11/12	21/21
Councillor Jess Whittaker	12/12	19/21
Returning Councillors		
Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown*	14/14	23/23
Councillor David Brown	14/14	22/23
Councillor Linda Campbell	14/14	23/23
Councillor Ann Martin	14/14	22/23
Councillor Richard Martin	14/14	22/23
Non-returning Councillors (term concluded Sept 2024)		
Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM	2/2	2/2
Councillor Elisha Aitken	2/2	1/2
Councillor Cath Blakey	2/2	2/2
Councillor Mithra Cox	2/2	2/2
Councillor John Dorahy	2/2	2/2
Councillor Dom Figliomeni	2/2	2/2
Councillor Janice Kershaw	2/2	2/2
Councillor Cameron Walters	2/2	2/2

* Declared Lord Mayor 1 October 2024

Attendance at Section 355 Committees

City of Wollongong Awards Committee	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown	4	4
Councillor Kit Docker	4	2

Expenses and Provisions of Facilities to Councillors

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(a1)(i),(ii),(iii),(iv),(v),(vi),(vii),(viii), the report must include the total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to Councillors in relation to their civic functions (as paid by the Council, reimbursed to the Councillor or reconciled with the Councillor).

The Lord Mayor and Councillors are paid an annual fee that is within the limit set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

Council has adopted a policy on the payment of expenses and provision of facilities. The policy is addressed under the Statutory Reporting section. It outlines the services and facilities provided to the Lord Mayor and Councillors to enable them to carry out their civic duties.

The total cost of payment of fees and expenses and provision of facilities to the Lord Mayor and Councillors (from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025) is **$713,290**. This consists of the following:

Fees	**$555,463**
Expenses and facilities	**$157,827**

Specific costs as required by Section 217(1)(a1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* are as follows:

i/ii Provision of dedicated office equipment, including mobile and data plans **$18,225**

iii Conferences and seminars **$41,413**

iii(a) Induction and Professional Development **$26,168**

iv Other Training and Development **$0**

v Interstate travel and expenses **$1,619**

vi Overseas travel **$0**

vii Partner, spouse or accompanying person **$**0

viii Family Care **$273**

Other expenditure relating to expenses and facilities included in the total (above) are:

a Superannuation paid to Councillors **$58,032**

b Attendance at meetings, functions and events **$3,700**

c Local Travel **$5,777**

d Newspaper subscriptions **$2,444**

e Insignia of Office $**176**

Councillors Induction, Training and Ongoing Professional Development

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 186, the report must include information about induction training and ongoing professional development for Councillors.

- The Lord Mayor and all 12 Councillors have been made aware of professional development opportunities available to them and have been involved in selecting appropriate opportunities to be undertaken towards their professional development.
- Council issued a total of 16 Office of Local Government Circulars to Councillors during 2024–2025.

Councillor attendance during 2024–2025 at activities delivered as part of the ongoing professional development program include:

Detail	Councillors attending	Date/s
Code of Meeting Practice for Councillors – Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW)	Cr Deidre Stuart Cr Jess Whittaker	20 May 2025 25 March 2025
Understanding Local Government Finances for Councillors – Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW)	Cr Thomas Quinn	17 December 2024
Chairing Effective Committee Meetings – Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW)	Cr Linda Campbell	28 January 2025
Media and Presentation Training – Premier Communications Group	Lord Mayor, Cr Tania Brown	22 April 2025

Overseas Visits by Councillors and Council Staff

There were no overseas visits undertaken by Councillors in 2024-2025.

The following overseas visits were taken by Council staff or other persons representing council (including visits sponsored by other organisations):

Name and Position: Kerry Hunt – Director Community Services

Name of Conference/Travel and Location: World Triathlon Championship Finals 2024 – Torremolinos, Spain

Purpose of Travel: Representing Wollongong City Council to promote the 2025 World Triathlon Championship Final in Wollongong.

Dates: 13 - 25 October 2024

Expense	Cost to Council
Registration	N/A
Accommodation	$3,313.98
Flights	$8,435.00
Expenses – Transport, Food, Other	$414.19
Expenses – Shuttle from Airport to Home	$235.18
Total	**$12,398.35**

Name and Position: Joanne Page – Director Infrastructure and Works, Paul Tracey – Manager Open Space and Environmental Services, Nathan McBriarty – Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning

Name of Conference/Travel and Location: Auckland and Tauranga, New Zealand

Purpose of Travel: Collaboration on Waste, Stormwater, Parks and Project Management Systems functions with Auckland Council and Taranga City Council New Zealand.

Dates: 1 September 2024 – 5 September 2024

Expense	Cost to Council
Registration	N/A
Accommodation	$3,281.85
Flights	$4,051.84
Expenses – Transport, Food, Other	$1,422.47
Expenses – Car Hire	$419.75
Total	**$9,175.91**

The following overseas visits were taken by Council staff at nil cost to Council.

Name and Position: Daniel Pretzler – Financial Services Manager
Name of Conference/Travel and Location: Government Finance Officers Association, Washington DC, USA.
Purpose of Travel: Attend conference under a scholarship from Local Government Professionals NSW
Dates: 25 June 2025 – 5 July 2025
Cost to Council : Nil

Name and Position: Jessica Bruce, Wollongong City Libraries Manager
Name of Conference/Travel and Location: Generations United/Harbour House, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Purpose of Travel: Contributing to Colin Mills Scholarship Project, Jessica Bruce presented alongside representatives from the Australian Institute of Intergenerational Practice. All expenses were funded as part of Scholarship funds.
Conference Dates: 25 June 2025 – 27 June 2025
Flight Dates: 16 June 2025 – 28 June 2025
Cost to Council: Nil

Cyber Security Annual Attestation Statement

CYBER SECURITY ANNUAL ATTESTATION STATEMENT FOR THE 2023 - 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR FOR WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

I, Greg Doyle, General Manager of Wollongong City Council am of the opinion that Wollongong City Council has managed cyber security risks in a manner consistent with the requirements set out in the Cyber Security Guidelines for Local Government.

Governance is in place to manage the cybersecurity maturity and initiatives of Wollongong City Council. Risks to the information and systems of Wollongong City Council have been assessed and are managed.

There exists a current Cyber Incident Response Plan for Wollongong City Council which has been tested during the reporting period. Wollongong City Council has a Cyber Security Framework (CSF) in place.

Wollongong City Council has done the following to continuously improve the management of cyber security governance and resilience:

- Continued to work with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation and Chief Information Security Officer to progress implementation of the Wollongong City Council's Cybersecurity Strategy.
- Hiring of an additional Cybersecurity Analyst-Trainee in-progress.
- Assessed and continuously improving our cybersecurity maturity against the November 2023 changes with the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Essential Eight Maturity Model requirements.
- Attended to and completed internal and external audits that include assessment of cyber security controls.
- Regularly reported to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee identified threats and vulnerabilities and the corresponding Risk Treatments and/or mitigations.
- Undertaken regular training on cyber security awareness for all staff.
- Reviewed and updated Council's "crown jewels" list using the NSW Crown Jewel Identification Framework.
- Completed updating Council's Cybersecurity Policy to align with NSW Cyber Security Policy 2024.
- Leveraged Cyber Security NSW's Exercise-as-a-Service to test Council's Cyber Incident Response Plan.
- Continued implementing controls for identified cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities in line with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.
- Continued actively working with Cyber Security NSW and the Council's Executive Management Team in times of heightened cybersecurity risks.

20 November 2024

Contracts Awarded

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217 (1)(a2), (i), (ii), the following is a list of contracts awarded (other than employment contracts and contracts less than $150,000)

Tender No.	Name of Contractor	Contract Description	Estimated Contract Amount Payable (inc. of GST over the life of contract)
CN101060	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd, Bitupave Limited Asphalt	Road Resurfacing, Patching and Maintenance-Primary Suppliers	42,000,000.00
CN101058	Abergeldie Contractors Pty Ltd	West Dapto Road Upgrade Stages 1A and 2-4	26,991,688.90
CN101000	The Pet Ranch Animal Accommodation Fees	Animal care and impounding services - The Pet Ranch	2,550,000.00
CN100984	Confident Services Pty Ltd Cleaning Services	Facade cleaning services	2,091,633.00
CN101085	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Thomas Gibson Amenities Construction	2,082,626.19
CN101013	Grindley Construction Pty Limited	Early Works - Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library	1,647,437.51
CN100994	Flagstaff Group Limited	Tourist Park Linen Service	1,500,000.00
CN100997	Illawarra Animal Hospital Animal Control & Related Services	Animal care and impounding services - IAH	1,440,000.00
CN100983	Bellcorp Management Pty Ltd	Project Management Services for SSCCL	1,161,600.00
CN101089	Cadifern Pty Ltd	EMBANKMENT STABILISATION WORKS - 65 CORDEAUX ROAD	1,093,468.20
CN100985	Bellcorp Management Pty Ltd	Project Management Services for SSCCL	885,720.00
CN101087	Public Works Advisory	125353 - HCCL NSWPW Project Management	824,670.00
CN100992	Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd Workshop Spares	Supply of 3 x 4WD Backhoe Loaders	770,000.00
CN101093	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Port Kembla Beach Stormwater Quality Improvement	763,136.66
CN101090		Acquisition of 63 Mirrabooka Road, Lake Heights	740,000.00
CN101086	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Roof Replacement - Bulli Beach Cafe	680,628.24
CN100996	Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd	Replacement of Multi-Function Devices and Print Management Service	646,428.24
CN101079	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Hibiscus St Bridge Repair - Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort	639,225.40
CN101002	Halbuild Pty Ltd	Unanderra Community Centre and Library Roof Replacement	617,001.45

Tender No.	Name of Contractor	Contract Description	Estimated Contract Amount Payable (inc. of GST over the life of contract)
CN101071	Source Separation Systems Pty. Ltd Batteries	Supply of FOGO liners for Wollongong residents	600,381.71
CN100998	Paradise Pet Group Pty Ltd Animal Accommodation Fees	Animal care and impounding services - Paradise Pet Group	600,000.00
CN101031	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Mount Keira Rd Retaining Wall Rehabilitation	599,920.20
CN101073	Select Civil Pty Ltd	Debris Control Structure Memorial Drive Bellambi	537,388.00
CN100999	Gerringong Pet Accommodation Animal Accommodation Fees	Animal care and impounding services - Gerringong Pet Accom	525,000.00
CN100977	Metrocorp Technologies Pty Ltd Construction Services	Stanwell Park Brick Arch Culvert Renewal	488,087.15
CN101070	The RIX Group Pty Ltd	Camp Gully Headwall Rehabilitation	436,661.50
CN101018	The Trustee for TAI Discretionary Trust	Waste Project Design Support	415,668.00
CN101099	Data # 3 Limited	Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (3 Years)	402,631.02
CN101023	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Retaining Wall - Fairwater Drive Horsley	387,628.76
CN101110	Rapid Map Services Pty Ltd	Open Space and Recreation Asset Data Collection and Valuation	377,520.00
CN101057	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Wollongong Memorial Gardens Stage 4	342,846.21
CN100993	Marriott Tree Equipment Pty Ltd Engineering	Supply of 2 x Trailer Mounted Woodchippers	328,211.40
CN101029	Cadifern Pty Ltd	Wollongong Memorial Gardens Stage 4	287,846.21
CN101094	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	Bulli Community Centre - Lighting and Fire Compliance Upgrade	264,925.56
CN101066	Programmed Property Services	Coledale Community Centre Maintenance	256,478.53
CN101069	Regional Workshop Pty Ltd	131011 Principal Design Consultancy New Austinmer RFS Stn	246,301.00
CN101021	SportENG Engineering Design Consulting Services	Darkes District Sporting and Community Hub Design Services	244,854.50
CN101034	Datacom Systems (AU) Pty Ltd	Zscaler Annual Licensing Renewal	231,140.25
CN101047	GHD Pty Ltd	Dam Safety Management Activities - 2025	209,660.00
CN100986	M & A Lukin	Berkeley Pool Winter Works 2024	207,601.90
CN101004	Studio GL Pty Ltd Consultant	Built Form Controls for Centres	198,616.00
CN101024	Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd Landscaping	Sportsfield Drainage Design and Construction - St James Park	190,795.00
CN101056	Precast Civil Industries Pty Ltd	Fowlers Road Construction - Stormwater Pits and Pipes	190,659.70
CN101041	M & A Lukin	Bellambi NHC Coffee Cart Works 2025	179,088.47
CN101025	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Embankment Stabilisation 53 LHD, Stanwell Park	173,589.11
CN101027	Moduplay Group Pty Ltd	JJ Kelly Park Playground Renewal	170,500.00
CN101054	M & A Lukin	Beaton Park Leisure Centre Autumn Works 2025	167,738.67
CN101092	LP Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Design Services for WWARRP Private Sewer Line Upgrade	150,000.00

Controlled Entities

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(a7), the report must include a statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which council held a controlling interest.

There are no controlled entities in the financial statements for 2024-2025.

Council has significant influence over the following entities but do not consolidate due to their immaterial value and nature:

- Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Limited;
- Wollongong City of Innovation Limited (trading as Destination Wollongong); and
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation.

Partnerships, Cooperatives or Joint Ventures

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(a8), the report must include a statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which Council participated during the year.

Wollongong City Council was part of joint ventures with CivicRisk Mutual Ltd, whose principal activities are insurance. From 1 July 2021, the CivicRisk entities were reconstituted to form CivicRisk Mutual Ltd, a company limited by guarantee. This entity is not recognised as a joint venture.

Financial Assistance to Persons for Council Functions

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1))(a5) and Act section 356 the total amount contributed or otherwise to financially assist others include:

	$
Community events and activities	342,954
Arts and cultural activities	22,500
Educational and environmental activities	8,800
Sporting activities	232,010
Heritage grants	73,761
Transport Services	410,520
Total	**1,090,545**

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' to its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government.

The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 Government Policy statement on the Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government.

The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses 'A Guide to Competitive Neutrality' issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard of disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents; Council subsidies; return on investments (rate of return); and dividends paid.

Declared Business Activity
In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses 'A Guide to Competitive Neutrality' Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

CATEGORY 1 (where gross operating turnover is over $2 million):

a. Waste Disposal - Manages the disposal of solid waste generated within the city.
b. Tourist Parks - Operation, management and development of Tourist Parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang.
c. Health and Fitness - Responsible for the management and upkeep of Council's Leisure Centres.

Competitive Neutrality Complaints
Underpinning competitive neutrality is the need to properly recognise the full costs of Council's business activities. This allows comparisons to be made with competitors in the same marketplace and provides information that will allow Council to determine pricing policies for each business.

Wollongong City Council has a process distributing indirect costs and overheads attributable to the declared business activities which are shown in the Special Purpose Financial Reports.

Rates and Charges Written Off

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 132, the report must outline the amount of rates and charges written off during the year

	$
Postponed Rates	10,443
Postponed Interest	1,189
Council Voluntary Pension Rebate	233,939
Rates written off due to Crown Lease cancelled	-
Total	**245,571**

Companion Animal Management

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217 (1)(f), the report must include a statement on activities required relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animals Regulation 2018.

During 2024–2025, Council fulfilled all statutory obligations by submitting a comprehensive Pound Data Return to the Office of Local Government within the required timeframe. This submission included detailed records of companion animal management activities across the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA), including incidents involving dog attacks and impounding outcomes.

Key data reported included:

- 453 aggressive dog/dog attacks recorded across the LGA.
- 469 companion animals were seized by Council officers.
- 72 animals were successfully reunited with their owners; the remainder were transferred to Council's Animal Care and Impounding Services.

The 2024–2025 period marked the first full financial year of operation for Council's dedicated Animal Care and Impounding Service. Throughout the year, Council provided care for 986 animals, comprising 436 dogs and 550 cats. The service continued to prioritise animal welfare through proactive rehoming efforts and the expansion of the Community Animal Foster Care Program. Council maintained a commitment to best practice standards in animal care, ensuring humane treatment and responsible management of all impounded animals.

Significant outcomes achieved during the year include:

- 433 animals successfully rehomed through Council's rehoming program.
- 367 animals placed in foster care while awaiting permanent outcomes.
- 109 animals transferred to approved Rehoming Organisations following their impound period.

Council's Companion Animal Hardship Policy was actively utilised during the reporting period. This policy supports pet owners experiencing financial hardship by offering flexible payment arrangements to facilitate the release of their animals from Council care, promoting reunification and responsible pet ownership.

In partnership with the Animal Welfare League NSW and, a local animal rescue organisation, Lost & Found Pets Illawarra, Council developed a targeted initiative to support financially vulnerable residents. This program will provide free de-sexing procedures for cats and free microchipping for both cats and dogs and is scheduled for rollout in the 2025–2026 financial year.

Council expended a total of $3,535,785.78 in companion animal management activities during 2024–2025. All revenue received from the Office of Local Government's Companion Animal Fund was reinvested directly into these services, reinforcing Council's commitment to animal welfare and community safety.

Council undertook an audit of the companion animal signage along beach and foreshore areas and specifically around the Lake Illawarra foreshore. Council will continue to upgrade companion animal signage in these areas as required.

Council's Foreshore Animal Compliance Officers worked throughout 2024-2025 with a focus on the busy beaches and foreshore parkland areas. A tiered beach patrol program across the City's beaches was enforced, with the program operating seven days per week. The program focused on compliance and education around Council's Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy.

The current list of declared off-leash beaches are:

- Perkins Beach, Windang (extending from Shellharbour Road/Wattle Street beach walkway north to access way south of Port Kembla Surf Life Saving Club southern car park)
- MM Beach, Port Kembla
- Coniston Beach, Coniston (south of Bank Street)
- Beach area directly east of Puckey's Estate, Fairy Meadow (walkway north of Fairy Creek lagoon to walkway south of playground at Fairy Meadow Beach)
- East Corrimal Beach (from northern side of Bellambi Lagoon to Bellambi Point)
- Bellambi (between Bellambi ramp and ocean pool)

- McCauley's Beach, Bulli and Thirroul
- Little Austinmer Beach, Austinmer
- Sharkey's Beach, Coledale (from the car park, south toward the rock outcrop)
- Stanwell Park Beach (north of northern lagoon).

In addition, Council also has a number of off-leash dog areas in the following parks and reserves:

- Figtree Oval, Figtree
- Proud Park, Helensburgh
- Riley Park, Unanderra
- Eleebana Reserve, Koonawarra
- King George V Park, Port Kembla
- Reed Park, Dapto (fenced dog park)

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

In accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, section 7.5(5), the report must include particulars of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year.

Agreement Description	Property Description	Agreement Date	Particulars of compliance with and effect of
Bulli Brickworks Land dedication and onsite works.	Lot 2, DP 582940 and Lot 207, DP 228538, Princes Highway, BULLI	5/6/2013	No effect this period.
Vista Park Subdivision Monetary contributions, land dedication and onsite works.	Lots 1, 2, 5 and 6 DP 1169628, Lot 4 DP 1178706, Lot 2 DP 1175865, known as 60 Smiths Lane, WONGAWILLI	25/07/2013	Monetary contributions of $1,828,539.79 received during the period.
Alkira Estate, Horsley Monetary contributions, land dedication and onsite works.	Lots 3, 5, 6 and 9 in DP 33650, Lot N in DP 103642 and Lot 4 in DP 661032 otherwise known as 80, 88, 94, 104 Shone Avenue and Lot 9 Iredell Road, Horsley.	8/09/2015	No effect this period.
Calderwood Monetary contributions of six staged payments toward the construction of Marshall Mount Road, Yallah Road and new road NR1-NR3	Lot 2 DP 2534, Lots 1-4 and 8 DP 259137, Lot 112 DP 851153, Lots 21,22 and 23 DP 1224293, Lots 21 and 22 DP 809156, Lot 1 DP195342, Lot 1 DP 558196, Lot 10 DP 619547, Lot 42 DP 878122, Lots 1101-1175, 1177 and 1182 DP 1202087, Lots 1201, 1222-1225, 1227, 1233 and 1234 DP 1206166, Lots 1301-1377, 1379-1380 and 1382-1383 DP 1206167, Lots 1401-1450 DP 1206168, Lot 2 DP 158988, Lot 1 and Lot 2 DP 608238, Lot 1 DP 1044038, Lot 1 DP 998349.	13/12/2017	Monetary contributions of $1,337,984.24 received during the period. .
University of Wollongong Public domain works.	Lot 2 DP 252694, Murphy's Avenue, KEIRAVILLE	7/9/2018	No effect this period.
128 North Macquarie Road, Calderwood Monetary contributions	Lot 8 DP 259137, 128 North Macquarie Road, Calderwood	14/8/2019	No effect this period.

Agreement Description	Property Description	Agreement Date	Particulars of compliance with and effect of
81 Escarpment Drive, Calderwood Monetary contributions	Lot 1 DP 558196, 81 Escarpment Drive, Calderwood	14/8/2019	Monetary contributions of $149,100.80 received during the period.
347 Calderwood Road, Calderwood Monetary contributions	Lot 1 DP 608238, 347 Calderwood Road, Calderwood	3/11/2020	Monetary contributions of $734,371.32 received during the period.
Corrimal Coke Works Public Open Space, Affordable Housing.	Corrimal Coke Works Railway Street CORRIMAL	13/12/2022	No effect this period.
Wilkies Walk, Thirroul Modification to the existing pedestrian walkway and the dedication of land	Lot 101 DP 268549	08/01/2024	The agreement was entered into during the period. Monetary Contributions of $5,937.36 received and works completed during this period.
Former Port Kembla Public School Provision of 6 affordable housing dwellings	Lot 1 DP811699	1/10/2024	The agreement was entered into during the period.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, section 54P(1), the report must include particulars of any environmental upgrade agreements entered into by Council.

Nil. This is not a service offered by Wollongong City Council.

Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans

Under the Fisheries Management Act 1994, section 220ZT(2), councils identified in a recovery and threat abatement plan as responsible for implementation of measures included in the plan, must report on actions taken to implement measures as to the state of the environment in its area

Nil. Wollongong City Council is not identified in a plan.

Coastal Protection Services

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(e1), the report must include a statement detailing the coast protection services provided (if levied).

Nil. Wollongong City Council do not have a levy for Coastal Protection Services.

Swimming Pool Inspections

In accordance with the Swimming Pools Act 1992, section 22F(2), and the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018, section 23, the report must include details of inspections of private swimming pools.

The *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and regulations together with Australian Standard 1926 establish the safety standards for 'backyard' swimming pools. Council's role in this regulatory program is to:

- Ensure notification and registration of all swimming pools in the City.
- Establish a swimming pool inspection program to assist in ensuring owner compliance.
- Investigate safety concerns and complaints.
- Promote awareness of the requirements in having a swimming pool.

Inspection of swimming pool safety barriers has continued with a focus on inspections generated by the sale or rental of residential properties and significant risk inspections following referral from Private Certifying Authorities. Officers also actioned customer service requests and enquiries regarding swimming pool safety barriers and compliance matters.

As part of the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier program, an education program was developed and implemented which included social media messaging regarding the importance of swimming pool safety being promoted.

Educational information regarding swimming pool safety was provided to all residential properties within the Wollongong LGA. The information was distributed via the third quarter rates notice and contained key safety and compliance information.

Inspections of pool barriers located at tourist and visitor accommodation	9
Inspections of pool barriers upon premises with two or more dwellings	10
Total number of compliance certificates issued	101
Total number of non-compliance certificates issued	48

Stormwater Management Services

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(e), the report must include a statement detailing the stormwater management services provided (if levied).

Stormwater Management Charge

Council levies a stormwater management charge on all parcels of rateable land within the urban area of the City of Wollongong categorised for rating purposes as 'Residential' or 'Business' (including all sub-categories), not being vacant land, or land owned by the Crown, or land held under a lease for private purposes granted under the *Housing Act 2001* or *The Aboriginal Housing Act 1998*.

The following charges apply:

- Land categorised as residential (not being a strata lot) $25.00.
- Residential strata lot $12.50.
- Land categorised as business (not being a business strata lot) $25.00 per 350 sq metres or part capped at a maximum of $100.00.
- Business strata lot $25.00 per 350 sq metres or part of the area of land upon which the lot exists capped at a maximum of $100.00 and divided by the number of business strata lots on that area of land.

Projected Versus Actual Expenditure on Stormwater Infrastructure

Stormwater Management Service	Expenditure $'000	Funding * $'000
Projected - Operational Plan 2024-2025	2,041	2,024
Actual costs 2024-2025	2,162	1,910
Difference	**121**	**114**

***** Stormwater Management Service Charge revenue*

Allocation of Stormwater Management Service Charge Funds

Income from the Stormwater Management Service Charge is allocated as follows:

Category	Planned Expenditure 2024-25	Final Expenditure 2024-25	Reasons for change
Stormwater Quantity Management	936	783	Works across the year focused on maintenance activities and strategic planning.
Stormwater and Watercourse Quality Management	-	-	
Dam Safety Management	254	368	The increased expenditure is attributable to accelerated progress on dam safety engineering contracts and supporting activities such as survey. Higher-than-usual maintenance costs, including arborist assessments and general maintenance also contributed to increased expenditure.
Stormwater Operational Management	850	1,012	Works across the year focused on maintenance activities and strategic planning.
Stormwater Asset Management	-	-	
Floodplain Structures	-	-	
Total:	**2,041**	**2,162**	

Stormwater Management Service Charge Funded Works

Stormwater Quantity Management

Construction of new or enhanced stormwater drainage services to address current needs.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding $
Stormwater Quality Management	Delivery of stormwater drainage services to address current needs.	782,933
Total		**782,933**

Stormwater and Watercourse Quality Management

Project Location	Work Description	Funding $
N/A		0
Total		**0**

Stormwater Infrastructure Restoration and Replacement
The replacement and/or upgrading of existing stormwater drainage assets due to the condition of the asset or to address current needs.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding $
N/A		0
Total		**0**

Dam Safety Management

Planning, engineering investigations and undertaking operational activities associated with managing the risk of Council's Declared Dam Asset portfolio.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding $
Dam Safety Emergency Management Plans	Delivery of engineering studies and investigations for Council's Declared Dam asset portfolio.	367,598
Total		**367,598**

Stormwater Operational Management

Planning and undertaking operational activities including cleaning of debris, risk management and pollution control assets.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding $
Stormwater Operational Management	Completing engineering assessments of stormwater Inlet Hazard Risk, and affecting both risk mitigation and maintenance works across the Local Government Area.	1,011,839
Total		**1,011,839**

Stormwater Asset Management System

Collection of asset management data on the stormwater drainage network, the urban drainage (pits and pipes), creeks/ waterways, flood attenuation and management structures and pollution/ debris control structures. This information is used to refine and update the asset management plan including maintenance, capital renewal and augmentation programs.

Project Location	Work Description	Funding $
N/A		0
Total		**0**

Floodplain Structures

Planning and undertaking detailed design and reviews of floodplain risk management plans, required to inform future flood mitigation structures

Project Location	Work Description	Funding $
N/A		0
Total		**0**

Condition of Public Works

Financial information on the condition of public works is reported in Council's 'Our Asset Plan 2025-2025' (adopted 30 June 2025) and the General Purpose Financial Statements through Note C1-8 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment, Note E2-1 - Fair Value Measurement; and Special Schedule - Report on Infrastructure Assets.

Work Carried Out On Private Land

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section, 217(1)(a4) and the Local Government Act 1993, section 67 and 67(2)(b), the report must include resolutions made concerning work carried out on private land.

A council may, by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land, carry out on the land any kind of work that may lawfully be carried out on the land.

Examples of the kind of work under this section include Paving and roadmaking; Kerb and guttering; Fencing and ditching; Tree planting and tree maintenance; Demolition and excavation; Land clearing and tree felling; Water, sewerage and drainage connections; and Gas and electricity connections. This work is carried out in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges and does not apply to work carried out by a council, or by two or more councils jointly, for another council or for a public authority, or for any graffiti removal work carried out in accordance with Part 4 of the *Graffiti Control Act 2008*. Any works to be carried out on private property that would not be in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges would require a resolution of Council.

Throughout 2024-2025, Council resolved to carry out works on private land as detailed below:

Date and Resolution of Council	Summary of Works	Cost of Works
5 May 2025, ITEM 8 - ILLAWARRA ESCARPMENT MOUNTAIN BIKE SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE - CONSTRUCTION OF INFORMAL CAR PARKING FACILITY - PRIVATE WORKS	Council undertook Private Works at Nil cost to the owner of the land including resharing and placement of gravel materials on Park Lot 3 in DP 1103666 to support public parking as permitted under a Licence Agreement, subject to relevant statutory planning approvals.	The works were fully subsidised by council as the upgraded parking will be available for use by the public.

Public Interest Disclosures

Public authorities are required to report annually to Parliament on their obligations under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022.* The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 (PID Act)* sets in place a system to encourage public officials to report serious wrongdoing. The conditions around this reporting are set out in Council's Public Interest Disclosures Policy.

Public Interest Disclosures received and investigated by Council during 2024-2025 include:	
Number of public officials who made PIDs	1
Number of PIDs received	1
Alleged Corrupt Conduct	0
Number of PIDs finalised	0

During 2024-2025, Council undertook the following actions:

- Staff participated in annual Code of Conduct training.
- All new Senior Management appointees are required to undergo public interest disclosure training

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act* introduced on 1 July 2010 facilitates access to information that Council holds in the following ways: Mandatory release of information via Council's website (Open Access), authorised proactive release via Council's website, informal release subject to an informal access application and release subject to a formal access application.

Any person wishing to obtain information held by Council is encouraged to contact our Right to Information Officers for assistance. Several open access documents are easily accessible via our website, including Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, management plans, annual reports, annual budgets, plans and policies, meeting agendas and minutes and graffiti, contracts and land registers.

The following table specifies the number of formal access applications received during the 2024-2025 period.

Month	Number of Applications Received	Applications processed within the statutory timeframe of 20 working days
July	7	7
August	8	6 **(T)
September	12	12
October	7	6**
November	4	4
December	6	6
January	3	3
February	8	7 (T)
March	9	8 *
April	5	5
May	10	9 **
June	8	3 ***

Note:
* One application was deemed refused as it was not processed within the statutory timeframe.
** Three applications were withdrawn by the applicant prior to determination.
*** Five applications remain under assessment on 1 July 2025.
(T) Two applications were transferred to another agency.

The above table does not include invalid or reviewed applications.

Where a formal access application is received, and it is likely to be of interest to members of the public, Council may make the details available by publishing the content to its disclosure log. The disclosure log contains non-personal information only and can be viewed on Council's website via the following link www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/your-council/access-to-information/information-registers/disclosure-log.

Summary of Legal Proceedings

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217(1)(a3), the report must include a summary of the amounts incurred by the council in relation to legal proceedings.

Particulars	Finalised	Expenses Including GST $	Receipts Excluding GST $
Liability Litigation Against Council			
Commercial Litigation	No	$90,000	$2,700
Personal Injury	Yes	$258,396.18	
Personal Injury	No	$32,284.12	
Professional Indemnity	Yes	$40,861.35	
Professional Indemnity	No	$0.00	
Council Initiated Litigation			
General Prosecutions	Yes	$12,000	
Land + Environment Court Enforcement Proceedings	Yes	$3,000	
Land + Environment Court Enforcement Proceedings	No	$6,000	
Debt Recovery	N/A	$4,765	
Planning Appeals Against Council			
Refusal of Development Applications	Yes	$1,017990	$9,000
Refusal of Development Applications	No	$159,000	

External Bodies That Exercise Functions Delegated By Council

During 2024-2025 the following external bodies assisted Council with the exercising of its functions as allowed under *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217 (1)(a6) section 355 of the Local Government Act, 1993.*

Body	Function
Open Space and Environmental Services	
Allen Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Alvan Parade Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Arunta Drive, Thirroul	Asset Protection Zone Maintenance
Balmer Crescent FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Banksia Bushcare (Stanwell Park)	Bushland restoration
Bill Madden Park	Bushland restoration
Bellambi Beach Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Bellambi Dune Bushcare	Dune/lagoon restoration
Blue Divers Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Blue Lagoon Bushcare	Coastal/riparian restoration
Brandy and Water Creeks Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Brickyard Point Bushcare	Coastal headland restoration
Brooks Creek Upper	Riparian restoration
Buttenshaw Place Bushcare	Bushland restoration

Body	Function
Byarong Creek (Mt Keira) Bushcare	Riparian restoration
City Beach Dunecare	Dune restoration
Clifton Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Coachwood Bushcare Unanderra	Bushland restoration
Coledale Bushcare	Sea cliff restoration
Colvin Street	Bushland restoration
Compton Street	Bushland restoration
Compton St FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Emperor Court Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Farmborough Waterfall Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Figtree Oval Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Friends of the Botanic Gardens	Through active volunteering, the Friends foster community interest in the garden, promote the role of education in the garden, and support the development of the garden by raising funds for specific projects.
Garden Avenue Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Garden Avenue FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Gilmore Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Gipps Road FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Greenhouse Park Bushcare	Revegetation
Guest Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Harry Morton Park - FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Helensburgh Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Hewitts Creek Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Hewitts Ck (Armagh Parade) FiReady	APZ maintenance
Hooka Point Bushcare	Saltmarsh/riparian restoration
Judy Masters Oval Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Keira Oval Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Kelly Street Bushcare	Bushland Restoration
Kelvin Road Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Kulgoa Road Bushcare	Riparian Restoration
Kurrimul Creek Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Lower Hill Street FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Mangerton Park Bushcare	Dry rainforest
Mangerton Park Project	Dry rainforest
Mount Kembla Pathway Project	Maintenance of Memorial Track
Melaleuca Park	Bushland restoration
Milne Crescent, Coniston	Bushland restoration
Murray Garden Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Nyrang Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Odenpa Road Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Port Beach Dunecare	Dune Restoration

Body	Function
Puckeys Estate Bushcare	Dune/lagoon restoration
Purrungully Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Rae Crescent Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Reed Park Bushcare	Bushland Restoration
Richardson Park Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Riveroak Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Sharkies Beach Dunecare	Dune Restoration
Stephen Drive FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Stockyard Slope Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Sunninghill Circuit FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Tathra Park Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Throsby Drive Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Towradgi Dune Bushcare	Dune restoration
Underwood Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Upper Hill Street FiReady	Asset Protection Zone maintenance
Wharton's Creek Bushcare	Riparian restoration
Whipbird Reserve Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Windang Dunes South Dunecare	Dune restoration
Wisemans Park Bushcare	Woodland restoration
Wollomai Point Bushcare	Bushland restoration
Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort Dunecare	Dune restoration
Wombarra Creek Bushcare	Riparian Restoration
Wombarra Pool	Bushland restoration
Yanderra Bushcare	Riparian Restoration
Sport and Recreation	
Surf Life Saving Illawarra	To provide lifesaving and rescue services to Council in accordance with the executed service agreement.
Commercial Operations and Property	
Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Group	Undertake minor maintenance and works to the grounds and improvements of Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery.
Friends of Scarborough Cemetery	Undertake minor maintenance and works to the grounds and improvements of Scarborough cemetery.
Libraries and Community Facilities	
Friends of Wollongong Library	To encourage an interest in books, build links between the library and the community, promote library services and collections, and sponsor special events to build community interest in reading and the library.
Wollongong City Library Volunteers	Broadly working in libraries to gain skills undertaking administrative and customer service tasks such as IT training and events.

Body	Function
Community Culture and Engagement	
Community Transport Volunteers	To transport eligible older people and their carers and people that are transport disadvantaged in their own vehicles or Council's vehicles.
Living Books	To be a "living book" as part of Councils Living Book program which includes sharing their story with young people and members of the Community at Living Book events.
Social Support Services Volunteers	To provide social support in the community for eligible people. To provide respite care for eligible carers of people living with dementia.
Culture Mix	To assist with set up and running of Culture Mix Festival.
Wollongong Art Gallery Volunteers	Gallery Guides facilitate discussion and provide information about the exhibitions for pre, primary and high schools students and other members of the community; including: adults, tertiary students, disability groups and community groups. Customer Service, assist at the Gallery reception desk, assist staff with general administration, assist visitors providing information regarding gallery programs and activities.

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section (1)(a9), the report must include a statement of activities undertaken to implement Council's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan.

Council are committed to upholding our Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) responsibilities and recognise that a workforce that reflects the diversity of our community is better positioned to understand the needs of our community and deliver high quality services. Our Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Statement of Commitment underpins several supporting strategies and plans including:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2022-2026)
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan

The EEO Management Plan promotes equity and equal employment opportunities for underrepresented groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and people with disability. It aligns with Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) and Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), reinforcing our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and belonging.

Our strategic pillars under the EEO Management Plan are:

- Attracting, recruiting and retaining people with diverse abilities, skills, experiences and backgrounds.
- Empower and enable our employees by removing barriers in our systems, policies and practices; building awareness; valuing and utilising the contributions of all our employees and supporting a flexible workplace.
- Creating an environment where everyone belongs and they can authentically represent themselves, where contributions are valued and recognised; and they feel they belong.

The following EEO initiatives were implemented across Council:

- Embedding new entitlements in our Enterprise Agreement 2025-2027 that enhance family support and flexibility provisions.
- A holistic review of our talent acquisition processes to embed contemporary, accessible, and fit-for-purpose recruitment strategies. This included enhancing the candidate experience, refining assessment methods, and tailoring recruitment approaches to improve accessibility. Council continues to explore ways to attract diverse talent and includes our Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Statement in all recruitment packs, encouraging candidates to request reasonable adjustments. Participation in careers expos has supported engagement with job seekers and school leavers, promoting Council's services and diverse employment opportunities.
- Responding to under-representation of people with disability in our workforce and the need to build supervisor confidence in fostering inclusion, we integrated the Inclusion Works Project and IncludeAbility Pilot to create a tailored, inclusive employment pathway for a person with intellectual disability. The initiative featured staff training, Easy Read resources, flexible applications, and accessible assessments. Council was invited to co-present the project at the NSW Local Government HR Network Meeting and received a Highly Commended award for Organisational Diversity and Inclusion at the NSW Local Government Excellence Awards.
- Refined our employee development, performance, and recognition programs to provide accessibility for all staff. Training and resources are regularly shared with employees and leaders, who are encouraged to set Development Goals and engage in ongoing performance conversations. Staff continue to access learning opportunities through the Tertiary Assistance Scheme and Corporate Training Calendar, including but not limited to, Diversity Awareness, Cultural Intelligence, Autism Awareness and Cultural Awareness training. Memberships with Diversity Council Australia and Australian Disability Network supported access to research and resources to strengthen internal expertise. Staff learning was further supported through LinkedIn Learning and the Diversity Hub, which offers tools, peer collectives, and content on diverse

communities including Aboriginal culture, disability, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and multicultural awareness.

- An Inclusive Language Guideline and Workplace Adjustments Guideline were introduced, supported by training and resources. Uptake of gender and gender-neutral pronouns in email signatures and platforms like Yammer and Teams increased. Flexible work arrangements such Hybrid Work, Care Plans, and Workplace Support Plan, continue to support staff needs, with supervisors and external experts providing tailored support as required.
- Continue to acknowledge and/or organise events on Days of Significance including National Sory Day; Reconciliation Week; and National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week. Neurodiversity Celebration Week; Internal Women's Day; International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT); and PRIDE month.
- Peer Collectives remained active for People with Disability and Carers, LGBTQIA+ and Allies, Women, and First Nations staff. Awareness events included morning teas for International Day of Disability and Wear It Purple Day, and a staff video campaign during Inclusion @ Work Week highlighting what makes employees feel included.
- Two mental health awareness eLearning programs for staff and leaders were developed and are scheduled for rollout in 2025–2026. Identified Mental Health First Aid Officers continue to receive regular mentoring and training. An Occupational Violence Prevention Program was implemented and a Psychosocial Hazard Procedure endorsed, with related training to be delivered in the upcoming year.
- Thirty new cadets, apprentice and trainees placements were supported by NSW Fresh Start Grant funding, with two for people with disability and three for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates. A Parks Summer Program provided 12 female and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with six weeks of paid employment.
- Financial sponsorship continues to be provided to Wollongong Mentor Walks, a bi-monthly event that provides women with the opportunity to be mentored by a local senior female executive in businesses across the Illawarra. Senior staff from Council have volunteered their time to act as mentors.
- Our continued commitment to achieving gender equity is reflected in a gender pay gap result of 0.2% or $220.84 in favour of women.

Human Service Agency /Carers Recognition

In accordance with the Carers Recognition Act 2010 (CR Act), section 8(2), councils considered to be 'human service agencies' must report on compliance with the CR Act for the reporting period.

Council remains committed to supporting people with carer responsibilities by fostering a flexible and inclusive workplace that adapts to individual needs and life circumstances.

Notable provisions and achievements included:

- Embedding enhanced family support and flexibility provisions within our Enterprise Agreement 2024-2027, including:
  - recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship and grandparent as immediate family;
  - increasing carers and compassionate leave, extending our care approach
  - increasing paid maternity and paternity leave
  - supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to participate in Sorry Business
  - new religious and cultural Leave enabling staff to participate in NAIDOC Week or other events of significance.

1. Continuation of flexible work arrangements such as hybrid work; temporary work arrangements; rostered days off and flex time; employee care plans; and access to a variety of leave entitlements, including at short notice.

2. Maintaining our *People with Disability and Carers* Peer Collective that provides a network for employees with lived experience to meet and support each other.

3. Reviewing and developing resources for leaders so they may independently understand and support employees from a foundation of care and responsiveness. This includes as an example, refinement of our domestic and family violence guidelines to support employees impacted by domestic and family violence.

4. Council's Preventative Health Specialist continuing to support staff and leaders with workplace adjustments and mental health conversations.

   - Enhancement of information and resources on our Diversity and Wellbeing intranet hub pages. Additional support is provided by the platform Lifeworks App, which is underpinned by Council's Employee Assistance Service provider, including free and confidential counselling services.

Report of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

In accordance with its Charter, the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) is required to report at least annually to Council on its activities, with a copy of the report included in Council's annual report. This report is provided below.

Background

This report covers the activities of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 and provides an assessment of the Committee's performance.

The ARIC is a key component of Council's governance framework. The objective of the ARIC is to provide independent assistance and advice to the General Manager and Council by overseeing and monitoring Council's governance, risk and control frameworks, and its fulfilment of external accountability requirements.

It operates under a Terms of Reference which informs its annual and strategic work plan. The ARIC Terms of Reference is considered appropriate for the size and scope of the committee and conforms with the OLG Guidelines.

Membership and Conduct

There was a quorum for each of the meetings held in 2024-2025. Meetings were held on 13 August, 3 September, 15 October, 10 December, 11 March and 3 June.

Two of these meetings (August and October) were extraordinary meetings to consider the financial statements.
Wollongong City Council's ARIC comprised a total of three independent voting members in 2024-2025. Two non-voting Councillors also attended (a new Councillor was appointed to the ARIC after the Council election).

All external independent members have completed written conflict of interest declarations and confidentiality agreements.

The ARIC meeting attendance for the 2024-2025 financial year was:

Member	Role	Term Ends	Meetings Attended/ Eligible to Attend
Donna Rygate	Ind. Chair	31 Oct 2027	6/6
Carl Murphy	Ind. member	31 Oct 2028	6/6
Robert Lagaida	Ind. member	31 Oct 2026	6/6
Cr Tania Brown	Councillor Observer	October 2024	1/2
Cr Thomas Quinn	Councillor Observer	Term of Council	2/3

All independent members have extensive experience in corporate governance and/or risk management in addition to relevant financial experience. Councillors have appropriate qualifications and experience to allow them to undertake their roles.

Recognition of Council Achievements

Council's key achievements from an ARIC point of view include progress made on asset management and cyber security, as well as its ongoing work on long-term financial sustainability. Other achievements from a governance, risk and financial perspective include the following:

- A seamless transition to the new statutory regime
- Council's Service Optimisation Program delivering results
- A successful risk appetite re-set

Summary of ARIC's Role and Activities

The responsibilities and functions of the ARIC are to monitor and seek assurance on aspects of Council's operations such as its compliance and governance processes; risk management and fraud control frameworks; strategic plan implementation; delivery program and strategies; performance measurement systems; outcomes of service reviews and business improvement initiatives; financial management; and internal and external audit.

These arrangements have operated soundly during 2024-2025. As a result of activities undertaken during 2024-2025 (as outlined below), the ARIC is satisfied that management responses and actions in relation to the above Council operations have been effective.

Compliance and Governance processes

Key ARIC activities included:

- Bi-annual review of the Gifts and Benefits, conflicts of interest and secondary employment registers
- Consideration of strategic risks facing Council and monitoring risk treatment plans established to reduce or mitigate those risks
- Review of Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics
- Monthly review of Executive KPIs
- Monitoring Councillor Expenses

Risk management and fraud control.

The ARIC monitors Council's Strategic Risks to ensure that a comprehensive risk management framework is in place and that management is implementing a program to manage all significant risks by identification, prioritisation, and implementation of mitigation strategies.

In 2024-2025 ARIC considered reports on topics including:

- Personal Identifying and Sensitive Information
- Risk Appetite
- Business Continuity
- Council Elections and Councillor Induction
- 2024-2027 Enterprise Agreement
- Cyber Security, Phishing and Simulation Exercises
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention
- Avian Influenza H5N1
- Strategic Risks
- Workers Compensation - State Insurance Regulatory Authority Audit (SIRA)
- WHS Accreditation Profiles
- Planning Risks – Reforms in the Planning Sector; Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Policy

The ARIC also seeks to ensure that Council has adequate fraud prevention strategies in place. It receives and discusses reports on the findings of any matters investigated by Council's Professional Conduct Coordinator in relation to:

- fraud
- corrupt conduct
- maladministration
- serious and substantial waste of public money.
- serious misconduct issues

Internal Audit

The Internal Auditors have reported at each quarterly ARIC meeting on the status of the internal audit plan. In 2024-2025 the ARIC has reviewed the following Internal Audit Reports, as well as the practicality of recommendations and the adequacy of management responses:

- WHS Mini Audit – High Risk Construction
- Regulatory Compliance – Caravan Parks
- WHS Mini Audit – Aquatic Services
- Climate Change Adaption
- Outgoing Grants Management and Financial Assistance
- Councillor Expenses
- Waste Levies

Key ARIC activities in relation to Internal Audit included:

- Reviewing and endorsing the annual and longer term internal audit plans and monitoring progress
- Monitoring the implementation by management of recommendations arising from audit reports
- Monitoring, through internal and external audit results, the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control structure
- Holding 'in camera' meetings with the internal auditors

The ARIC has found that during 2024-2025 the internal audit function has operated appropriately and effectively, and the activities have been value adding and appropriate for the size and scope of Council. The internal audit plan considered strategic, operational and emerging risks in its development and delivery.

External Audit

The Audit Office of NSW has engaged EY as the External Audit provider for Wollongong City Council under the *Local Government Act 1993.* Key ARIC activities included:

- Reviewing the annual Engagement Plan, Management Letter and Engagement Closing Report with a view to ensuring action was planned and implemented as necessary
- Holding 'in camera' meetings with the External Auditors

Progress continues in implementing recommendations from both Internal and External Auditors and other relevant reviews. ARIC continues to monitor and review the progress in implementing recommendations, with particular focus on high priority issues. The ARIC reviews progress reports at each meeting.

Financial Management

Key activities for the ARIC this year included:

- Reviewing monthly and quarterly management financial, investment and performance reports
- Reviewing the annual financial statements for completeness and consistency with the Committee's knowledge of operations and application of accounting policies and principles
- Reviewing Council's financial performance against the Budget as approved by Council (both operating and capital budgets)
- Reviewing long-term financial strategies developed by management
- Receiving briefings on significant matters with the potential to affect the financial position of Council

Innovation and Improvement

Key activities for the ARIC this year included:

- Updates on Council's Service Optimisation Program and reviews undertaken
- Reviewing Monthly KPI reports
- Reviewing Council's report on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

PROGRESS AGAINST THE COMMITTEE'S KEY PERORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

The Committees KPIs are set out in section 13 of the Strategic Four Year Workplan. At least once each council term, the elected Council will conduct a review of the effectiveness of the Committee with reference to these KPIs in conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards.

During 2024-2025, the Committee made appropriate progress against the KPIs and can confirm:

- The Committee has complied with its terms of reference and maintained effective relationships with Council.
- Each Committee member has appropriate skills and experience and prepares and contributes and contributes appropriately both within meetings and when advice is requested.
- The composition of the Committee is appropriate for the size and scope of the Council.
- Internal and External Audit work with the Committee and Council and have effective processes and relationships to be able to improve risk management and support Council in this area.
- The Committee has effectively reviewed matters in section 428A of the Local Government Act under its remit.
- The Committee is performing appropriately regarding ensuring it delivers quality and timely advice to Council and is effective in meeting its responsibilities.
- Each Committee member has demonstrated during the year appropriate understanding of Council's key risks and internal controls and has acted objectively and independently.

OUTLOOK FOR 2025-2026

Council's Internal Audit Plan takes into consideration Council's strategic risks as well as issues currently faced by Council. Council, in conjunction with the ARIC, will continue to review the internal audit plan.

Management and the ARIC members are committed to remaining up to date with developments in the local
government sector as well as ensuring current processes in audit, risk, finance and governance are challenged to ensure Council continues to develop best practice in its business models whilst maintaining robust internal controls.

The ARIC's charter and annual activities conform with the Office of Local Government's guidelines, as required so the General Manager can sign the 2024-2025 Annual Attestation on Council's behalf.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Committee members, management and staff, the internal auditors, and the external auditors for their valuable contributions.

Donna Rygate
Chairperson
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
30 June 2025

Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement for the 2024-2025 financial year for Wollongong City Council

I am of the opinion that Council has an audit, risk and improvement committee, risk management framework and internal audit function that operate in compliance with the following requirements except as may be otherwise provided below:

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

	Requirement	Compliance
1.	Council has appointed an audit, risk and improvement committee that comprises of an independent chairperson and at least two independent members (section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, section 216C of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021)*.	Compliant
2.	The chairperson and all members of Council's audit, risk and improvement committee meet the relevant independence and eligibility criteria prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and have not exceeded the membership term limits prescribed under the Regulation (sections 216D, 216E, 216F, 216G of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
3.	Council has adopted terms of reference for its audit, risk and improvement committee that are informed by the model terms of reference approved by the Departmental Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government and the committee operates in accordance with the terms of reference (section 216K of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
4.	Council provides the audit, risk and improvement committee with direct and unrestricted access to the general manager and other senior management and the information and resources necessary to exercise its functions (section 216L of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
5.	Council's audit, risk and improvement committee exercises its functions in accordance with a four-year strategic work plan that has been endorsed by the governing body and an annual work plan that has been developed in consultation with the governing body and senior management (Core requirement 1 of the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*).	Compliant

	Requirement	Compliance
6.	Council's audit, risk and improvement committee provides the governing body with an annual assessment each year, and a strategic assessment each council term of the matters listed in section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993* reviewed during that term (Core requirement 1 of the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*).	Compliant Strategic Assessment – Not Yet Due. Due 2028.
7.	The governing body of Council reviews the effectiveness of the audit, risk and improvement committee at least once each council term (Core requirement 1 of the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*).	Not yet due. Due 2028

Membership

The chairperson and independent membership of the audit, risk and improvement committee are: Chairperson	Donna Rygate	30 October 2020	31 October 2027
The chairperson and independent membership of the audit, risk and improvement committee are: Chairperson	Donna Rygate	30 October 2020	31 October 2027
Independent member	Robert Lagaida	1 November 2022	31 October 2026
Independent member	Carl Murphy	1 November 2022	31 December 2028

Risk Management

	Requirement	Compliance
8.	Council has adopted a risk management framework that is consistent with current Australian risk management standard and that is appropriate for the Council's risks (section 216S of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
9.	Council's audit, risk and improvement committee reviews the implementation of its risk management framework and provides a strategic assessment of its effectiveness to the governing body each council term (section 216S of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Not yet due. Due 2028

Internal Audit

	Requirement	Compliance
10.	Council has an internal audit function that reviews the council's operations and risk management and control activities (section 216O of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021)*.	Compliant
11.	Council's internal audit function reports to the audit, risk and improvement committee on internal audit matters (sections 216M, 216P and 216R of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021)*.	Compliant

	Requirement	Compliance
12.	Council's internal audit function is independent and internal audit activities are not subject to direction by the Council (section 216P of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
13.	Council has adopted an internal audit charter that is informed by the model internal audit charter approved by the Departmental Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government and the internal audit function operates in accordance with the charter (section 216O of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
14.	Council has appointed a member of staff to direct and coordinate internal audit activities (section 216P of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
15.	Internal audit activities are conducted in accordance with the International Professional Practices Framework, which now have been replaced with the Global Internal Audit Standards (Core requirement 3 of the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*).	Compliant
16.	Council provides the internal audit function with direct and unrestricted access to staff, the audit, risk and improvement committee, and the information and resources necessary to undertake internal audit activities (section 216P of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Compliant
17.	Council's internal audit function undertakes internal audit activities in accordance with the four-year strategic ARIC work plan that has been endorsed by the governing body and an annual work plan that has been developed in consultation with the governing body and senior management (Core requirement 3 of the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW*).	Compliant
18.	Council's audit, risk and improvement committee reviews the effectiveness of the internal audit function and reports the outcome of the review to the governing body each council term (section 216R of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*).	Not yet due. Due 2028

Non-compliance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

As at 30 June 2025, no item has been documented as a non-compliance on the Council.

Greg Doyle

General Manager

26 August 2025

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Lord Mayor and Councillors - Council Policy

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to adopt a policy that allows for Councillors to receive adequate and reasonable expenses and facilities to enable them to carry out their civic duties as elected representatives of their local communities.

Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Council Policy can be found at https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/8858/Councillors-Expenses-and-Facilities.pdf

Sponsorship of Wollongong City Council Events

The following table provides a list of all sponsorship, as per Council's Sponsorship Policy.

(Figures reported excluding GST).

Sponsors	New Years Eve $	Australia Day $	Comic Gong $
For Health	12,500		
Cram Foundation	2,200	2,000	
Blue Scope		2,500	
NADC Funding		15,000	
Friends of Wollongong City Libraries			3,500
i98FM			10,950
Illawarra Mercury			10,560
Illustris Models and 3D Printing			2,350

Unsolicited Proposals

From time to time, Council is presented with Unsolicited Proposals from the community, businesses or other government agencies. To assist in appropriately managing governance and probity issues that arise in such circumstances, as well as seeking to ensure that Unsolicited Proposals are of benefit to the City of Wollongong, Council publicly reports on all Unsolicited Proposals that progress to Stage 2 assessment under Council's Unsolicited Proposals Policy.

During 2024-2025, there were no unsolicited proposals that progressed to Stage 2 assessment.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2025

In accordance with the Disability Inclusion Act 2014, section 13(1), the report must include information on the implementation of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Council is striving to make Wollongong an inclusive city that provides equal opportunity for people with disability to participate in all aspects of community life. Our aim is to be a leader in promoting and supporting the social and economic participation of people with disability. Our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (Plan) sets out what we will do to support inclusion of people with disability in our city. It was developed through extensive community engagement to make sure the priorities reflect what is important to our community.

The Plan will assist us to meet requirements for Local Government in the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014.

Our Plan has 91 Actions across four focus areas

1. Create liveable communities
2. Improve access to services through better systems and processes
3. Promote positive community attitudes and behaviours
4. Support access to meaningful employment

Progress to date

Completed	Ongoing	In progress	Not started
22	52	14	3

Highlights for 2024-2025

This report provides a summary of what we did in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Create Liveable Communities

Council delivered a range of projects to improve access to the built environment for people with disability, including:

- New facilities at Lindsay Mayne Park, including two accessible toilets.
- Upgrades at the Wollongong Memorial Garden.
- Constructed an accessible viewing area at Hill 60 in Port Kembla.
- Extended the shared pedestrian path network in West Wollongong.
- Installed two new footpaths.
- Upgraded 20 footpaths.
- Constructed 43 kerb ramps as part of the footpath and shared path works.
- Made improvements to seven intersections, with the inclusion of pedestrian refuges, raised crossings and/or speed humps.
- Installed one new bus shelter.
- Installed two new carparks including accessible parking spaces.
- Renewed five car parks including accessible parking spaces.
- Upgraded JJ Kelly Park Playground, which included a footpath, fencing and inclusive play elements.
- Renewed four playgrounds which included improving access in the surrounding area by building new footpath.

Council delivered a range of planning and design projects, including:

- Continued to develop a footpath network plan, which will include the collation of 'missing links' across the network.
- An audit of all bus stops to inform future upgrades.

Improve Access to Services through Better Systems and Processes

Council revised policy and planning documents to strengthen and support access and inclusion outcomes, including:

- Inclusive Accessible Public Domain Guidelines are being drafted. The development of the Guidelines included two sessions of training delivered to relevant staff by Guide Dogs NSW.

Council undertook projects to improve our systems and increase access to information, by:

- Created a system for booking our accessible beach wheelchairs.
- Updated the map of accessible parking spaces on the website.
- Provided information on accessible features at major events such as Comic Gong, Culture Mix and New Year's Eve including accessible parking, bathrooms, dedicated viewing areas and quiet spaces.
- Developed and promoted accessible video tours of Wollongong Art Gallery and Wollongong Youth Centre.
- Promoted Council services at the Illawarra Disability Options Expo.
- Promoted the accessible features at Wollongong City Tourist Parks on the website.

Council has continued to engage people with disability, including:

- Notified community members registered with the Register of Interest – Access of community engagement projects.
- Engaged people with disability on many council projects, some include the Community Strategic Plan, City Centre Movement and Place, Safer Cities Her Way and the Community Safety Plan.
- Ran two community check in sessions where we updated participants on our progress against our current Disability Inclusion Action Plan and asked people with disability about how we could involve them in the development of our next Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
- Engaged people with disability in the Living Books program and learning and development sessions for staff, like, Diversity Awareness Training.

Promote Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours

Council delivered a range of projects to promote positive community attitudes and behaviours towards people with disability, including:

- Delivered a workshop for people with Autism at the Wollongong Botanic Garden Discovery Centre.
- Hosted vocational information sessions in the form of guided tours of the Wollongong Botanic Garden for school leavers with a disability.
- Continued the monthly 'Visually Impaired Knitters' group at Wollongong City Library in partnership Guide Dogs NSW.
- Hosted a social night for people with disability at Wollongong Library.
- Delivered a range of programs at our libraries that were AUSLAN interpreted, including Let's Try, Drawing with a Drag Queen and an identity safety workshop.
- Incorporated a designated quiet space into the Wollongong Library's Pride Night event.
- Upgraded and developed new sensory kits to use as part of library programming and events to support the participation of people with sensory processing needs.
- Continuing to provide a weekly Quiet Hour at Corrimal Library.
- Provided access provisions at 'Comic Gong' including a viewing area for Cosplay competition, social stories, pre-tours for high school students, 'The Quiet Space' and accessible signage and information on the website.
- Provided access provisions at 'Culture Mix' including a social story, 'The Quiet Space' and a program of guided activities for d/Deaf and Low Vision communities. Physical access inclusions across the festival were provided, including continuous accessible paths of travel, accessible

drop off zone, accessible toilets, accessible viewing area and access map, as well as community transport and seating for participating seniors. Performers with Disability – 21 Step and SALCO were featured on the Celebration Stage.

- Delivered a collage artmaking workshop for members of the d/Deaf community and another for carers at Wollongong Art Gallery. These artworks were displayed in the Community Access Gallery and an interpreter was employed as part of the workshops and the official opening of the exhibition.
- Delivered 'Art and Dementia Tour' program for people with dementia to have meaningful engagement with Wollongong Art Gallery exhibitions and collections, this is supported by the 'Care for the Carer Program' where carers are invited to participate in art therapy as respite.
- Partnered with Kidswish to deliver a program for children with disability and/or illness at Wollongong Art Gallery.
- Provided an excursion experience including guided tour and artmaking workshop at Wollongong Art Gallery for homeschool students with disability.
- Delivered an audio described tour and artmaking workshop for people who are blind or have low vision at Wollongong Art Gallery.
- Partnered with Bus Stop Films to deliver the Creative Wollongong Short Film Festival and showcased short films created by and featuring people with disability. This event was AUSLAN interpreted and hosted by a person with disability, celebrity judge Michael Theo.
- Developed and introduced new studio residency for a local artist with disability as part of the Creative Wollongong Artist in Residence program and provided a fully subsidised studio for 12 months.
- Introduced a range of access improvements to Sculpture in the Garden Wollongong including audio descriptions, guided tours, easy read signage and promotional material. In addition to this, targeted workshops were held for people who are blind or have low vision connecting to Fe Heffernan's brail sculpture.
- Supported the 'EMBER' program focussed on emergency preparedness for people with disability and their carers.
- Partnered with the Disability Trust to deliver an exercise program at Lakeside Leisure Centre during school terms.
- Continued a partnership with Rainbow Club, a social swimming club for children and young adults with disability.
- Supported the Academy of Sport 'Athletes with Disability' program for scholarship holders and coaches at Beaton Park and Lakeside Leisure Centres.
- Delivered 'Belong Workshops' to local high school support units and groups as a soft entry to Wollongong Youth Services and to remove barriers for people to access mainstream programs.
- Delivered 'Lego Build and Connect' and 'Dungeons and Dragons' programs designed for young people who are neurodiverse to socialise and connect.
- Delivered Barista 101 programs to support students with disability to develop new skills.
- Delivered live music and events as part of youth week that included soft/quiet starts to the event.

Support Access to Meaningful Employment

Council has provided opportunities for people with disability to gain employment and participate in work experience, including:

- Provided an initial 12-week temporary appointment in Regulation and Enforcement as part of the 'IncludeAbility' project which was extended to a 12-month placement. Following this, a permanent position was established with the recruitment targeted specifically at people with intellectual disability. This recruitment included an Easy Read information pack, meet and greet and customised interview and onboarding process.
- In the 2025 intake of Cadets, Apprentices, Trainee and School Based Trainees, three people identified with disability.
- Continued to support employment opportunities for people with disability as part of our commitment to social enterprises. This included procuring services through social enterprises

that employ people with disability, continuing the contract with a social enterprise to provide the café in the Administration building and industry tours of agencies supporting employment for people with disability.
- Engaged external expertise to support the development of new resources such as Easy Read Position Descriptions and the Workplace Adjustment Guideline.
- Finalised a Workplace Adjustment Guideline.

Council has delivered a range of learning and development opportunities for Council officers to promote and support their understanding of disability, including:

- Staff participated in training and refresher courses delivered by Accessible Arts.
- Delivered three Diversity Training sessions and two Autism Awareness sessions.
- Staff participated in Audio Description Training.
- Completed the design of a new mental health awareness training program for employees and supervisors.
- Endorsed a Psychosocial Hazard Procedure, with training to be deployed to staff soon.
- An Inclusive Communication training session was held with staff followed by the sharing of relevant resources.
- Managers were informed about workplace adjustments via an information session. Following this workplace adjustment information was then embedded into our onboarding processes including Corporate Induction and New Leaders Induction.
- Continued the People with Disability and Carers Peer Collective which meets regularly, provides feedback on policy, procedures and guidelines and hosts events such as a morning tea to recognise International Day of People with Disability.
- Delivered a program of events including highlighting days of significance for people with disability via the General Managers message and internal hub posts.
- Hosted learning events for staff and shared resources as part of Inclusion @ Work Week and Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

- Maintained membership to the Diversity Council Australia and established a new membership with Australian Disability Network. We continue to promote and share their resources to staff via the Diversity Hub.

Labour Statistics

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 217 (1)(d),(i),(ii),(iii),(iv) the report must include the total number of persons who performed paid work for them on a "relevant day" to be fixed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment each year.

The following provides a table under *section 217* of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* of the total number of persons who performed paid work for Council on the "relevant" day fixed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment each year. In 2024-2025, the "relevant" day for reporting was Wednesday, 4 December 2024.

No. of persons directly employed by Council:	
On a permanent full-time basis	942
On a permanent part-time basis	234
On a casual basis	441
On a term contract	201
Apprentices, Trainees and School-Based Trainees*	16
Senior staff for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). Does not include General Manager	20
No. of persons engaged by council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person	55
No. of persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee	0

* Apprentices, trainees and school-based trainees are also included under a term contract

Obligations Under the Modern Slavery Act 2018

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, section 428(4)(c)(d)the report must contain a statement detailing the action taken by the council in relation to any issue raised by the Anti-slavery Commissioner and steps taken to ensure that goods and services procured by and for the council during the year were not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the Modern Slavery Act 2018

PART A.GENERAL INFORMATION

A.1 Reporting Details	
Reporting entity	Wollongong City Council
Reporting period – start date	1 July 2024
Reporting period – end date	30 June 2025

A.2 Procurement Spend Details		
A.2.1 What was your entity's total procurement spend in this reporting period, to the best of your knowledge?		$183,552,234.00
A.2.2 GRS Due Diligence Level	**Identified procurement spend**	**Categories procured**
Heightened	$9,413,028	Cleaning, Cleaning Supplies, General Fleet Vehicles, End user computing and Peripherals, Computer accessories, Medical Supplies and Consumables, Food Catering and Consumables, Copiers and Printers, Security Services, Flooring and Carpeting, Uniform and Workwear

A.2 Procurement Spend Details		
Standard	$35,924,802	Contingent Labour, Couriers, Electrical Services, Tier 2, General Retail, Bridgeworks, Roadworks, Interior decorating, reconfiguration and repair, Plumbing Repairs and Maintenance, Damage Repair and Flooding, Telecommunications
Light	$138,214,404	Accommodation, Advertising Agency, Magazine Newspaper, Radio TV Cable and Internet, Air Travel, Financial Services - Advisory and Accounting, Audit, Quality Assurance, Probity and Risk, Government and Business Strategy, Business Related, Demolition, Rails and Fencing, Traffic Management, Funeral Services, Community Services, Body Transportation, External Building Materials, Concrete, Steel, Educational Equipment, Educational, Sports and Recreation, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, HVAC, Elevators and Escalators, Employee Related, Environmental Services, Weed Control, Exempt Other, Public Enterprises Management or Financial Services, Debt Recovery, Liability Insurances, Workers Compensation Insurance, Fire Service and Maintenance, Freight Carriers, Fuels and Lubes, Furniture, Government Agencies, Community Grants, Landscaping and Arborists, Building and Grounds, Support Services, Data Provision Services, End User Devices, Architecture, Design Specialist, Civil Engineering, Planning Advisory Consulting, Land Surveying, Spatial, Property Acquisition and Valuation, Indoor Plants, Flowers, Legal Services, Marketing Agencies, Marketing, Promotional Gifts, Event Management - Non Educational, Interpreters and Transcript Services, Non Vendor/Staff Reimbursement, Not for Profit / NGO, Safety, Records Management, Office Equipment General and Accessories, General Office Supplies, Office Equipment General and Accessories, Painting, Pest Control, Industrial Equipment and Construction Equipment Hire, General Plant and Equipment Repair, Earthmoving and Excavations, Postage, Commercial Print, Real Estate Management Services, Lease and rental of property or building, Scientific, Services and Maintenance, Speciality Building Maintenance and Repairs, Inspections and Other Remedial, Locksmiths and Non Electric Locks and Keys, Roofing and Siding, Specialized tools and trade items, Tools and trade items-, Talent Search, Internet, Temporary Allocation - Laundry, Traffic Control Services, Conferences, Seminars, Events and Special Meetings, Training Expenses, Oil And Gas Utilities, Utilities, Vehicle Registration, Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance, Council Waste Services
Minimal	$ -	

PART B. ANNUAL MODERN SLAVERY REPORTING

B.1 Significant Operational Issues (section 31(1)(a) of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW))	
Identify any 'significant operational issue' that has been identified as such to your entity, during the reporting period, by the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner, and explain the steps taken to address this issue.	None

B.2 Reasonable Steps		
Reasonable Steps taken	**Form of response for annual reporting**	**Wollongong City Council response**
1 Commit		
1.1 Stakeholder Engagement		
What steps did your entity take to engage with stakeholders during this reporting period in relation to modern slavery?	Describe steps taken	Engaged suppliers in completing Modern Slavery information in appropriate heightened risk tenders.
Did you engage with external stakeholders on modern slavery risks in this reporting period?	Yes/No	Yes
1.2 Identify salient risks at the organisational level		
What steps did your entity take to identify salient modern slavery risks at the organisational level (i.e. across all operational and procurement activities) during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Cross identified heightened risk Modern Slavery categories with internal categorisation, Procurement ensuring that high risk Tender and Formal Quotes have appropriate Modern Slavery awareness.
Did you conduct or update a Salient Modern Slavery Risk Assessment in this reporting period?	Yes / No	No
1.3 Modern Slavery Policy		
What steps did your entity take to adopt a Modern Slavery Policy during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Modern Slavery is mentioned within Council Code of Business Ethics, Council's Purchasing Terms and Conditions, and Contract Management Framework.
Do you have a modern slavery policy, approved by your senior governing body (e.g. Agency Head / Secretary), in place?	Yes / No	Yes (as part of the above approved policies and procedures).
1.4 Modern Slavery Risk Management Plan		

B.2 Reasonable Steps		
What steps did your entity take to adopt a Modern Slavery Risk Management Plan during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	None
Do you have a modern slavery risk management plan, approved by your senior management, in place?	Yes / No	No
2 Plan		
2.1 Identify and map your supply-chain risks for each procurement		
What steps did your entity take to identify and map your modern slavery risks at the supply-chain level during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	New suppliers are added to categories which relate to their Modern Slavery Risk, Council also asks as part of our third-party contract verification procedures for information on if a business needs to report and part of Modern Slavery legislation.
2.2 Develop a risk-reducing sourcing strategy		
What steps did your entity take to develop a modern slavery risk-reducing sourcing strategy during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Created a modern Slavery questionnaire to add to heightened risk tenders as a mandatory assessment criteria
3 Source		
3.1 Select appropriate suppliers		
What steps did your entity take to address modern slavery risks when selecting suppliers during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	New Suppliers commencing work with Council need to state if they are required to report on Modern Slavery under the Modern Slavery Act (Cth) 2018. Some suppliers on established contracts are badged with their Modern Slavery risk rating on our regularly used procurement platform. Investigating Modern Slavery training and education as part of Council procurement and contract management training for internal buyers.
3.2 Adopt a shared responsibility approach to contracting		
What steps did your entity take to adopt a shared responsibility approach to modern slavery risks, in contracting during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	None
4 Manage		
4.1 Monitor and evaluate supplier performance		

B.2 Reasonable Steps		
What steps did your entity take to monitor and evaluate supplier performance relating to modern slavery, during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Modern Slavery information added to draft Contract Management Framework, explaining Modern Slavery and expected outcomes to Councils contract managers. This information has been included in the Contract Management Framework, Guidelines and associated training.
Has your entity required any of your Tier 1 suppliers to undergo an audit addressing modern slavery risks in this reporting period?	Yes / No	No
4.2 Develop supplier capabilities		
What steps did your entity take to develop supplier capabilities relating to modern slavery risks during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Provided links to the Modern Slavery - information for businesses as part of the "Doing Business with Council" package.
5 Remedy		
5.1 Provide or enable access to effective grievance mechanisms		
What steps did your entity take to provide or enable access to effective modern slavery grievance mechanisms during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	None
5.2 Take safe immediate steps to remedy harm		
What steps did your entity take to safely and immediately remedy modern slavery harms to which you were connected during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	None
5.3 Use leverage to remediate deficient practices		
What steps did your entity take to use leverage to remediate deficient modern slavery risk management practices during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Included information on Modern Slavery and best practices for staffing were included within the Cleaning of Council Facilities Tender to ensure compliance and best practice.
5.4 Withdraw responsibly		
What steps did your entity take to withdraw responsibly during this reporting period, in connection to modern slavery risks?	Describe steps taken	None
6 Report		
6.1 Establish a victim-centred reporting protocol		

B.2 Reasonable Steps		
What steps did your entity take to establish a victim-centred modern slavery reporting protocol during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	None
Do you have a modern slavery reporting protocol in place that prioritises the interests of the victim/survivor?	Yes / No	No
6.2 Report on your modern slavery risk management efforts		
What steps did your entity take to report on your modern slavery risk management efforts during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Codified new suppliers based on the Inherent Risk tool within Councils Procurement Categories to ensure accurate reporting within the annual report. Approved Modern Slavery contract management information within the new Contract Management Framework.
Did your entity report on modern slavery in its prior Annual Report?	Yes / No	Yes
During the period, did your entity comply with its obligations to report heightened modern slavery due diligence procurements valued at $150,000 (inc. GST) or more within 45 days?	Yes / No	Yes - this is not yet a requirement.
7 Improve		
7.1 Learn lessons from your performance and others'		
What steps did your entity take to learn lessons from your modern slavery performance and others' during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	More information is required within our internal system to record the due diligence level of suppliers.
Has your entity updated its modern slavery policies or procedures based on stakeholder feedback or lessons from a grievance mechanism during this period?	Yes / No	No
7.2 Train your workforce		
What steps did your entity take to train your workforce during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Yes, introductory information on Modern Slavery is included in initial procurement training activities.
What percentage of your workforce received modern slavery training in the period?	Percentage	2-3%
7.3 Cooperate with the Anti-slavery Commissioner		

B.2 Reasonable Steps		
What steps did your entity take to cooperate with the Anti-slavery Commissioner during this reporting period?	Describe steps taken	Undertook the training modules created by and promoted by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner to see if these can be incorporated within the organisation.

Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans

Under the Fisheries Management Act 1994, section 220ZT(2), councils identified in a recovery and threat abatement plan as responsible for implementation of measures included in the plan, must report on actions taken to implement measures as to the state of the environment in its area.

Council is not identified as responsible for implementation of measures in any recovery and threat abatement plans under the Fisheries Management Act.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations

In accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Reg) cl 218A(1), (2)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g), (3)(a),(b) the report must include particulars of development contributions and levies.

West Dapto Developer Contributions

Project Number	Project Description	Contributions Plan Reference	Amount Spent	Percentage funded from Contributions	Cross Borrowing	Monetary contributions used for project	Status of Project
Transport							
126636	Cleveland Rd Upgrade	TR13 - C1-C12, B45-B51, IN36-IN40	793,118	100%		793,118	In Design
126643	Northcliffe Drive Concept Design	TR18 - NR1 - NR12, R2, R3, B1, B3 - B9, IN1 - IN5 and TR19 - NR13 - NR19, B11-B14, IN8, IN9.	206,662	100%		206,662	In Design
126646	Stage 2-4 - West Dapto Rd Upgrade	TR01 - WD10,12-17, IN10,15,17, B19,21-23	2,265,922	60%		1,359,553	In Design
126649	Marshall Mount Road and Connecting Roads Upgrade	TR16 - Y1-Y4, B63,B64, IN62. TR17 - MM1-MM6, B65-B67, IN55-IN57. TR25 - NR40-NR44, B61, B62, IN46, IN53-IN55. TR29 - NR56-NR58, B68,B69,IN61	536,776	100%		536,776	In Design
126656	Bus Shelters - West Dapto		30,298	100%		30,298	In Design
127450	Bong Bong Rd - Station St Traffic Lights	TR10 - IN27, BB1	51,320	100%		51,320	In Design
128466	Shone Ave Shared Path missing link	TR08 - S4	248,597	100%		248,597	Complete
129157	Stage 1A - West Dapto Rd Upgrade	TR08 - IN19	1,150,810	60%		690,486	In Design

Project Number	Project Description	Contributions Plan Reference	Amount Spent	Percentage funded from Contributions	Cross Borrowing	Monetary contributions used for project	Status of Project
Transport							
129158	West Dapto Rd - Stage 1B	TR01 - WD17	606,023	60%		363,614	Practically Complete
129606	Bong Bong Rd/Shone Ave Intersection Concept Design	IN30	32,854	100%		32,854	In Design
129897	Acquisition of part 480 West Dapto Rd, Kembla Grange (Nobbs)	TR25 - NR17-NR19, B14, B13, IN10	(95,455)	77%		(73,181)	Scoped
129928	Lots 301 and 302 DP1265107 - Wongawilli Rd/West D Rd/Shone Ave	TR08 - IN19	58,949	100%		58,949	Recurrent
131007	Cleveland Rd Upgrade Stage 1	TR27 - NR50-NR51, B39. TR22 - IN32. TR13 - IN36.	1,209,009	50%		604,504	In Construction
	Total Transport		**7,094,883**			**4,903,549**	
Administration							
123910	Developer Contributions Officer	AD01	38,396	100%		38,396	Recurrent
128974	Review Riparian Corridor Management Study and Policy	AD01	68,319	74%		50,510	In progress
129074	West Dapto Support for Additional Resources	AD01	581,427	24%		139,490	Recurrent
124823	LIRS 3- Interest subsidy-principal repayment WD	AD01	467,565	100%		467,565	Recurrent
124824	LIRS 3 Part 2- Interest subsidy-principal repayment WD	AD01	189,411	99%		188,070	Recurrent
	Total Administration		**1,345,118**			**884,030**	

City Centre/City Wide Developer Contributions

Project Number	Project Description	Contributions Plan Reference	Asset Class (i.e. Category)	Amount Spent	Percentage funded from Contributions	Monetary contributions used for project	Status of Project
City Wide							
122085	Developer Contributions Admin Support - Finance	122085	Not Applicable	1,009,795	1%	12,252	No Project Status
123907	Developer Contributions Planner	123907	Not Applicable	204,379	59%	120,990	No Project Status
125126	Lakelands Oval Drainage	125126	Parks Gardens And Sportfields	488,218	20%	100,000	Practically Complete
128034	Swan St; east of Corrimal St	128034	Carparks	264,845	100%	264,845	In Construction
128653	216 Princes Highway Dapto LOT B DP156856	128653	Land Acquisitions	4,300	100%	4,300	In Scoping
129028	Northern Suburbs Skate Park	129028	Parks Gardens And Sportfields	18,939	100%	18,939	In Scoping
	Total City Wide			**1,990,475**		**521,325**	
City Centre							
127575	Wollongong City Centre Wayfinding Signage - Stage 3	127575	Roads And Related Assets	33,060	100%	33,060	
	Total City Centre			**33,060**		**33,060**	

Index

A

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander *(see Acknowledgement of Country*) (p. 2, 6, 9, 29, 35, 48, 50, 53, 55, 69, 82, 86, 88, 95, 126, 161-163)

Accessibility and Inclusion (p. 36, 54, 68, 85 - 87, 91, 110, 112, 121, 156, 161, 163, 172-174)

Activation (p. 66, 67-68, 112)

Active transport (p. 11, 22, 34, 36, 118-120)

Age (d) (p.10, 84, 97-98)

Aged and Disability Services (p. 26, 40, 84, 98)

Amenities (p.4, 111, 144)

Amenity (p.21, 67)

Aquatic Services (p. 26, 40, 102, 103, 114, 166)

Asset management (p.133, 134, 152, 154, 165)

Awards (p.42, 48, 71, 75, 79, 80, 86, 97, 126, 127, 139)

B

Biodiversity (p. 22, 32, 36, 43)

Botanic Garden and Annexes (p.26, 40, 48, 60, 63, 78, 104-105, 114, 132, 158, 173-174)

Budget management (p. 6, 27, 90, 124, 129, 133, 156, 167,

Business and investment (p.8, 12, 23, 26-28, 34, 36-37, 64, 65-66, 70-71, 120, 129, 133, 147, 167)

C

Capital budget (p. 27, 133, 167)

Capital works (p. 25, 27, 135)

City Centre Management (p. 26, 32, 40, 66–68, 73)

Climate (p. 48, 49, 51, 132, 166)

Climate change adaptation (p. 32-33, 48)

Climate change mitigation (p. 32, 36, 48-49, 132)

Coastal Management and Protection (p. 32, 50)

Companion Animal Management (p. 56-57, 148)

Competition Policy (p.147)

Community engagement (p. 26, 28-29, 35, 40, 50, 71, 77- 81, 87, 90, 97, 102, 107, 119, 129,172-173)

Community Facilities (p. 6, 26, 40, 93, 106-107, 114-115, 138, 159)

Community Programs (p. 26, 40, 85-88, 98)

Community Strategic Plan (p. 3, 8, 12, 26, 28, 32, 40, 52, 80 89-90, 129, 156, 173)

Condition of Public Works (p.155)

Contact Council (p. 82, 91-92, 98 156)

Contracts Awarded (p.144-145)

Controlled Entities (p. 146)

Cooperatives (p.146)

Corporate Strategy (p. 26, 40, 89-90)

Council Services (p. 12, 26, 40, 80, 133, 173)

Councillors *(see Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Lord Mayor and Councillors - Council Policy)* (p.14, 28, 34-36, 125, 130, 139, 140-142, 164, 171)

Cultural services (p. 26, 40, 76-78, 93-95, 97, 109, 146, 163)

Cyber Security (p. 131, 143, 165)

Customer Service (p.19-21, 26, 40, 44, 56-57, 89, 91-92, 98, 109, 113)

D

Delivery Program (p. 3, 6, 8, 12, 26, 28-29, 32, 34, 35, 40, 89-90,102,107,116,118-119,125-126, 129, 133, 165)

Demographic information (p. 7, 10-11, 16, 161)

Development Assessment (p. 26, 4044-45, 48, 61, 89, 91)

Development (p. 20, 28-29, 32, 34-38, 42, 44-45, 48-49, 52-54, 56, 61, 64, 69, 71, 76-77, 80, 85-87, 89-93, 97, 103-104, 106-107, 110-111, 113, 118-120, 124, 127, 130, 132, 140-141, 147, 157-158, 161, 166-167, 173, 175, 183)

Dharawal Country (p. 6, 9; *see Acknowledgement of Country, 2*)

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020 -2025 (p. 7, 29, 32, 87, 161, 172-173)

Disaster management (p. 6, 8, 42-43, 49, 54-59, 95, 131, 143, 164-165)

Diversity (p. 6, 22, 32, 36, 48, 55, 78, 85-86, 95, 106, 126-127, 161-163, 173, 175)

E

Economic Development (p. 10, 26, 32, 40, 37, 40, 69, 71, 73, 80, 106)

Education (p.5, 36, 48, 5-51, 56, 57, 60-61, 63, 69, 74, 77, 80, 94, 97, 102, 104, 109, 113, 118, 120, 127, 146, 148, 151, 158, 177, 179)

Emergency Management (p. 26, 40, 42, 46, 47, 153)

Emissions (p.22, 34, 42, 49, 60-61, 132)

Employee Services (p. 26, 40, 126-128, 161-163, 174-175)

Employment opportunities (p.34, 37, 69, 76, 126-128, 161-162, 165, 172, 174-175)

Engagement, Communications and Events (p. 5, 20, 22, 26, 32, 34-36, 40, 48, 50-52, 60, 66-68, 71, 77-81, 87-88, 90-91,93, 95, 97, 104, 107, 110, 119, 129, 146, 172-173, 175)

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (p. 38, 56, 149, 183)

Environmental Upgrade Agreements (p.150)

Environmental Services (p. 10, 48, 61,157,177)

Escarpment (p. 32, 52, 112)

Equal Employment Opportunity Management (p. 126, 161)

Executive (p. 15, 37, 65, 70, 130, 143, 162, 165, 168, 170)

External Bodies That Exercise Functions Delegated By Council (p.157-160)

F

Families (p. 11. 66, 95, 140, 161, 163)

Fees (p. 26, 54, 90, 129, 140, 144-145, 155)

Financial management (p. 4, 8, 20, 22, 27, 32, 36, 72, 103, 129, 146, 166-168)

Financial Assistance (p. 79-80, 146)

Financial Services (p.129)

Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) (p. 22-23, 48, 60)

Funding (p. 26, 35-38, 47, 55, 71, 76, 84, 95, 97, 102, 118, 119, 133, 162)

G

General Manager (p. 3, 6-7, 15, 65, 130, 138-139, 143, 164, 168, 170, 175-175)

Goals (p. 3, 8, 14-15, 24, 28, 36, 116, 124, 161)

Government (p. 4, 6-10, 20, 22, 25, 28, 35-38, 45, 54-58, 60, 69-70, 84-86, 90, 93, 97, 102, 106, 109, 110, 112, 118-120, 127, 130-134, 138-144, 146-148, 150, 152-153, 155-157, 161, 166-172, 176-177)

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (p. 156)

Grants (26, 27, 35, 37,55, 76-77, 88, 129, 146, 166, 177)

H

Health(y) and wellbeing (p. 10-11, 13, 32, 56, 66, 69, 85, 90, 97, 102, 113, 126-127, 147, 162-163, 171, 175)

Heritage (p. 72, 82, 105, 146)

Households (p. 10-11, 48-49, 51, 60)

Housing (p. 4, 11, 32, 34, 52-54, 100, 152, 165)

How to read this document (p. 8)

Human Services (p. 163)

I

Information Management and Technology (p. 26, 32, 40, 131, 132, 133)

Infrastructure Strategy and Support (p. 26, 40, 133-134)

Integrated Customer Service (p. 26, 40, 92-92, 98)

Integrated planning and reporting (p. 3, 12, 20, 22, 79-80, 89, 98, 129)

Internal Audit (p. 130, 166-170)

Irrigation (p. 105)

J

Jobs (p. 4, 10, 64, 69, 79)

L

Labour Statistics (p. 176)

Lake Illawarra (p. 9, 28, 32, 35-36, 48, 50-51, 55, 76-77, 104, 148)

Land use planning and management (p. 26, 40, 52-54,61, 110)

Language (p. 9, 11, 51, 85, 95, 162)

Legal (p. 56-57, 97, 113, 130, 138, 157, 177)

Leisure Centres (p.19, 26, 40, 108, 115, 147, 174)

Libraries (p. 5, 6, 8, 18-19, 26, 32, 40, 82-83, 86-87, 93-95, 99, 106, 132, 142, 159, 171, 173)

Local Government Area (p. 4, 6, 10-11, 25, 34-37, 45, 47, 52, 55-57, 60, 69, 70, 72, 84-86, 93, 97, 106, 109-110, 118-120, 132, 134, 148, 153)

Localised Suburbs and Places (p. 34-35)

Lord Mayor (p. 3, 4-5, 6-7, 10, 43, 65, 82, 85-86, 105, 125, 139-141, 171)

M

Maintenance (p. 18, 21, 55, 58-59, 96, 102, 104-105, 109, 122, 132, 144-145, 152-155, 157-159, 177)

Map (p. 10, 37, 50, 70, 93, 119, 145, 173-174, 179)

Masterplans (p. 32-33, 36, 53, 103-105, 110)

Measuring Success (p. 61-63, 73, 81, 98-99, 114-115, 122, 135)

Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries (p. 18, 26, 32, 40, 109, 145)

Modern Slavery Act (p. 176-182)

N

Natural Area Management (p. 26, 40, 55, 62)

O

Open Space (p. 6, 18, 32, 48, 54-55, 60, 104, 115, 133-134, 138, 142, 145, 150, 157)

Operational Plan (p. 3, 8, 12, 26, 28-29, 32, 40, 44-60, 66-72, 76-80, 82, 84-97, 102-113, 118-121, 124, 126-134, 152)

P

Parking (p. 18, 29, 33, 52, 56, 62, 106, 108, 110, 113, 120-121, 155, 172-173)

Parks and Sportsfields (p. 18, 26, 40, 110-112, 115)

Partnership(s) (p. 35, 42-43, 48-49, 51, 55, 60, 66, 69-70, 76, 81, 86-88, 95, 113, 120, 127, 146, 148, 173-174)

Places (p. 32-33, 34, 52, 57, 63, 76, 100, 106-107, 113)

Planning (p. 3, 12, 20, 22, 28-29, 32-34, 36, 38, 44-46, 48, 52-54, 56, 58, 61, 63, 69, 76-80, 85, 85-87, 89-90, 98, 103, 107, 110-112, 118, 120, 129, 131, 133, 138, 142, 149, 152-155, 157, 165, 172-173, 176-177, 183

Pools (p. 6, 18, 25-26, 33, 57, 101-102, 113-114, 132, 151)

Population (p. 6, 10-11)

Property Services (p. 26, 40, 96, 99, 145)

Public Health and Safety (p. 26, 40, 113)

Public Interests (p. 155)

Public toilets (p. 32, 115)

Public transport (p. 34, 116, 120)

Purpose (p. 6, 8, 26, 102, 115, 141-142, 147, 152, 155, 161, 176)

R

Rates (p. 21, 26-27, 57, 63, 89-91, 93, 96, 99, 124, 129, 147, 151)

Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans (p. 150)

Regulatory Compliance (p. 26, 40, 56-57, 166)

Remuneration (p. 16, 17, 138-139)

Reporting (p 3, 8 12, 20, 22, 40-41, 45, 48, 63, 79-80, 109, 127, 129, 135, 140, 143, 147-148, 155, 163, 176, 173-182)

Risk Management (p. 4, 32, 58, 130, 153-154, 164-165, 168-170, 178-181)

Resourcing Strategy (p. 8, 12, 26, 29, 32, 40, 89, 125-126, 129, 131, 134)

Road safety (p. 118, 120)

S

Safety around our schools (p. 18, 34, 116, 118-121)

Senior Staff (p. 16-17, 138, 162, 172)

Service Optimisation Program (p. 20-21, 89, 92, 165, 167)

Services (p. 3-6, 8-9, 12-13, 15, 18-24, 26, 29, 32-33, 37, 40, 44, 46, 48-51, 55-56, 58-61, 63, 76-78, 80-81, 84-86, 88, 91, 93, 96-99, 102-104, 109, 113-114, 118-122, 124, 126-135, 138, 141, 144-146, 150, 152, 157-163, 166, 172-174, 176-177)

Significant Contracts (p. 144-145 *see Contracts awarded*)

Social support (p. 84, 98, 160)

Sponsorship (p. 70-71, 159, 162, 171)

Statistics (p. 10-11, 165, 176)

Statutory Reporting (p. 3, 8, 137, 140)

Stormwater Management (p. 4, 19, 26, 32, 40, 56, 58-59, 152-153)

Strategic priorities (p. 3, 8, 26, 34-38)

Suburbs (p. 5, 25, 34, 51, 78, 80, 100, 102-103, 106-107, 111, 124, 133, 144, 185)

Supporting Documents (strategies and plans) (p. 32-33, 90)

Support Services (p. 3, 26, 40-41, 84, 124, 126-136, 160, 177)

Sustainability (p. 22, 35-36, 51, 60, 72, 124, 129, 165)

Sustainable Wollongong (p. 32, 34-36)

Swimming Pool Inspections (p. 53, 151)

T

Tourist Parks (p. 26, 33, 40, 64, 72-73, 82, 96, 144, 147, 173)

Transport Services (p. 26, 40, 84, 118-121)

Travel (p. 36, 140-142, 173, 177)

U

Unemployment (p. 10, 69)

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (p. 90)

Unsolicited Proposals (p. 171)

V

Values (p. 6, 13, 22, 50, 87, 104)

Vision (p. 8, 12, 32, 34-35, 52, 87, 94, 111, 173-174)

Volunteers (p. 48, 51, 55, 62, 84, 105, 159-160)

W

Wards (p. 10)

Waste Management (p. 26, 40, 56, 60)

West Dapto (p. 4, 6, 25, 28-29, 32, 34, 36-38, 50, 52-54, 80, 116, 133, 144, 183-184)

Work Carried Out On Private Land (p. 155)

Workforce management (p. 32, 126)

Y

Youth Services (p. 26, 29, 40, 86, 97, 99, 174)

Our Wollongong Our Future

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.

We value and protect our environment
We have an innovative and sustainable economy
Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
We are a connected and engaged community
We have a healthy community in a liveable city
We have affordable and accessible transport

wollongong
city of innovation

Wollongong City Council
wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone (02) 4227 7111

Wollongong City Council

Annual Report 2024 - 2025
Attachment A
Financial Report

Year Ended 30 June 2025

wollongong
city of innovation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As General Manager of Wollongong City Council, I present the audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Financial Performance Overview

Council recorded a net operating deficit of $10.2 million, a shift from the $41.0 million surplus in the previous year. This result includes $45.5 million in capital grants and contributions, which support infrastructure growth but do not reflect the underlying operational performance. Excluding these, the underlying operating deficit was $55.7 million, slightly improved from the prior year's $59.8 million deficit.

This year's result was influenced by:

- Lower grant funding for capital and operational purposes
- Increased costs for materials and services
- Higher depreciation due to asset growth and revaluations
- Losses from disposal of assets, including work-in-progress items

The Net Operating Result for 2024–2025 amounted to deficit of $10.2M. This result includes significant year end, non-cash and one-off adjustments that impact on the Net Operating Result. These transactions include Prior Year works in progress expenses $16.6M (B3-2), timing of asset renewals resulting in a $6.3M asset disposal expense (B4-1), and an increase of $12.1M in depreciation resulting primarily from current year asset revaluations (C1-8). Although these transactions have impacted on the result, Council still generated an increase in Available Funds of $5.1M over the year and delivered a capital program of $87.8M. Council's forward estimates indicate minimal movements in Available Funds over the next 10 years, with Council generating sufficient cash to funds its services and deliver on infrastructure renewal requirements over the same period.

Asset Management

Council continues to manage a significant asset base, with total assets valued at $4.40 billion. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (IPPE) makes up 94% of this value, including roads, parks, community facilities, and more.

In 2024–2025, Council delivered $87.8 million in capital works, including:

- $22.5 million in new assets
- $65.3 million in asset renewals
- $13.9 million in contributed assets

A gain of $98.8 million was recognised from asset revaluations, reflecting ongoing investment in community infrastructure.

Cash and Investments

Council's cash and investment holdings increased to $214.5 million, up from $179.5 million last year. Of this, $46.5 million is available funds, representing unrestricted and uncommitted cash adjusted for working capital. This exceeds Council's financial strategy target, largely due to early receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant.

Liabilities and Provisions

Council's total liabilities stood at $165.2 million, with no outstanding borrowings at year-end. Key liabilities include:

- Provisions ($112.1 million), mainly for employee benefits, waste remediation, and workers' compensation
- Payables and contract liabilities, representing accrued expenses and unspent grants

The waste remediation provision increased due to rising cost estimates for rehabilitating waste sites, including

Whytes Gully and Helensburgh.

Rates and Charges

The percentage of Rates and Annual Charges outstanding decreased to 6.99%, down from 7.19% last year. Council remains committed to supporting ratepayers through cost-of-living pressures and aims to reduce this figure below the industry benchmark of 5%.

Looking Ahead

Council continues to maintain a strong financial position, with low debt levels and robust asset management practices. Work is ongoing to refine asset valuation processes and manage long-term infrastructure costs. We remain focused on delivering value to the community while navigating economic challenges.

Thank you to all staff involved in preparing these Statements and to the Audit Office of NSW for their independent review.

Greg Doyle
General Manager
Wollongong City Council

Financial Commentary 2024-2025

2024-2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

This report provides an overview of Council's 2024-2025 Annual Financial Statements. The Annual Financial Statements are prepared by Council to provide information to the community in relation to Council's financial performance and position.

The Financial Statements comprise of five key financial reports:

- Income Statement
- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Equity Statement
- Statement of Cash Flows

The Statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and the NSW Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting – 2024-2025. The Statements are reviewed by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, independently audited by the Audit Office of NSW, reported to Council, placed on public exhibition and then lodged with the Office of Local Government.

KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS

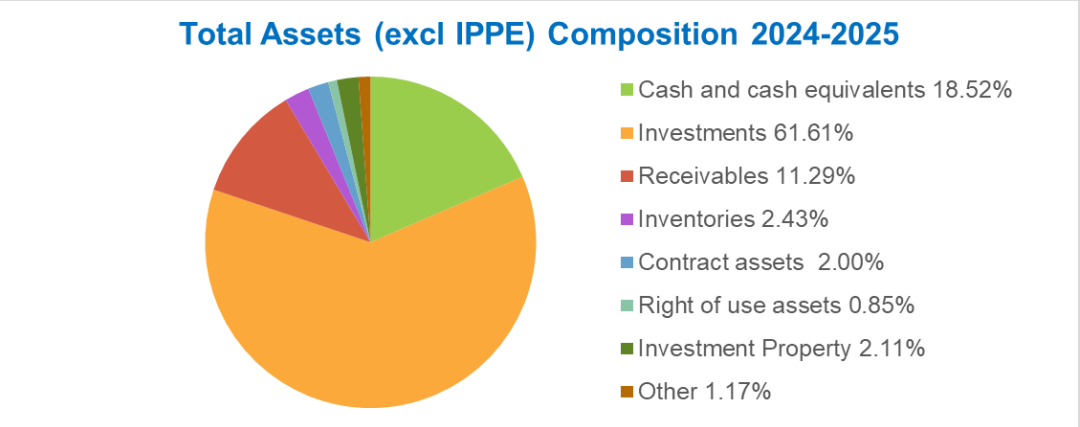
	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Income Statement		
Net Operating Result	(10,238)	40,989
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions for Capital Purposes	(55,711)	(59,808)
Capital Grants and Contributions	45,473	100,797
Statement of Comprehensive Income		
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	98,777	320,912
Statement of Financial Position		
Cash and investments	214,510	179,474
Gross infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7,034,236	7,284,376
Carrying value of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (i.e. net of accumulated depreciation)	4,133,991	4,056,151
Total equity	4,236,418	4,147,879
Available Funds		
Balance at year end	46,473	41,346

The Net Operating Result for 2024–2025 amounted to deficit of $10.2M. This result includes significant year end, non-cash and one-off adjustments that impact on the Net Operating Result. These transactions include Prior Year works in progress expenses $16.6M (B3-2), timing of asset renewals resulting in a $6.3M asset disposal expense (B4-1), and an increase of $12.1M in depreciation resulting primarily from current year

asset revaluations (C1-8). Although these transactions have impacted on the result, Council still generated an increase in Available Funds of $5.1M over the year and delivered a capital program of $87.8M. Council's forward estimates indicate minimal movements in Available Funds over the next 10 years, with Council generating sufficient cash to funds its services and deliver on infrastructure renewal requirements over the same period.

ASSETS

Council is the custodian of community assets with a total carrying value of $4.40B as at 30 June 2025. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (IPPE) makes up $4.13B of the total asset value. The value of assets excluding IPPE was $267.7M with the composition of these asset classes shown as follows:



Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (IPPE)

With a carrying value of $4.40B, IPPE is Council's most significant asset group representing 94% of total assets value. This asset group includes roads, drains, footpaths, community facilities, recreational facilities, parks and gardens.

During 2024-2025, Council delivered a capital works program of $87.8M including the construction and purchase of $22.5M of new assets and renewal of existing assets of $65.3M. In addition, $13.9M of assets were contributed to Council during 2024-2025. The gain on the revaluation of assets for 2024-2025 was $98.8M. Further financial details of IPPE are shown at Note C1-8.

Cash and Investments

Council maintains an Investment Policy that ensures all investments are made in accordance with the prevailing Local Government Ministerial Investment Order and associated Investment Guidelines.

Although Council's overall cash and investment position remains strong, a substantial portion of these funds is subject to restrictions. To better reflect Council's financial flexibility, the Available Funds metric is used that represents cash that is both uncommitted and unrestricted, adjusted for working capital.

- Externally restricted funds are those held for specific purposes mandated by legislation or funding agreements and cannot be used for general operations.
- Internally restricted funds are earmarked by Council for future strategic or operational needs.

As at 30 June 2025, Council reported Available Funds of $46.5 million. This exceeds the Financial Strategy target range of 3.5% to 5.5% of operational revenue (pre-capital), primarily due to the early receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant.

Cash and investment positions over the prior two financial years are as follows:

CASH, INVESTMENTS & AVAILABLE FUNDS ($M)	YTD Actual 30 June 2025	YTD Actual 30 June 2024
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	214.510	179.474
Less Restrictions:		
External	102.2	86.9
Internal	68.6	68.7
CivicRisk Investment	3.7	3.1
AVAILABLE CASH	40.0	20.8
Adjusted for :		
Payables	(27.5)	(22.3)
Receivables	30.2	32.4
Other	3.7	10.4
AVAILABLE FUNDS	46.5	41.3

Receivables

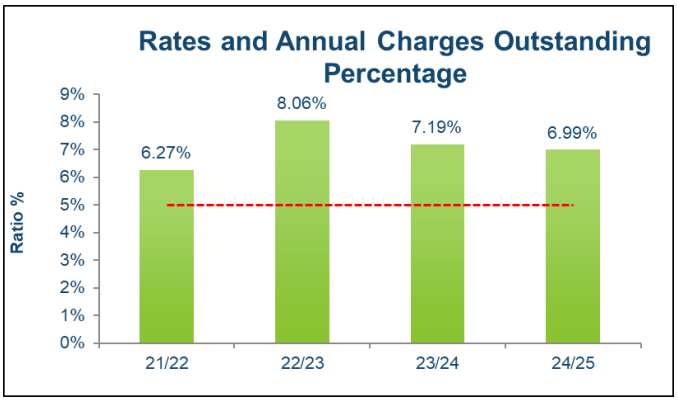
Receivables are the amount of money that is either owed to Council or funds that Council has paid in advance. At 30 June 2025, receivables totaled $30.2M, a decrease of $2.2M compared to the 2023-2024 reporting period. Full details of receivables are provided in Note C1-4.

Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage

Measures: The impact of uncollected rates and other charges on liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

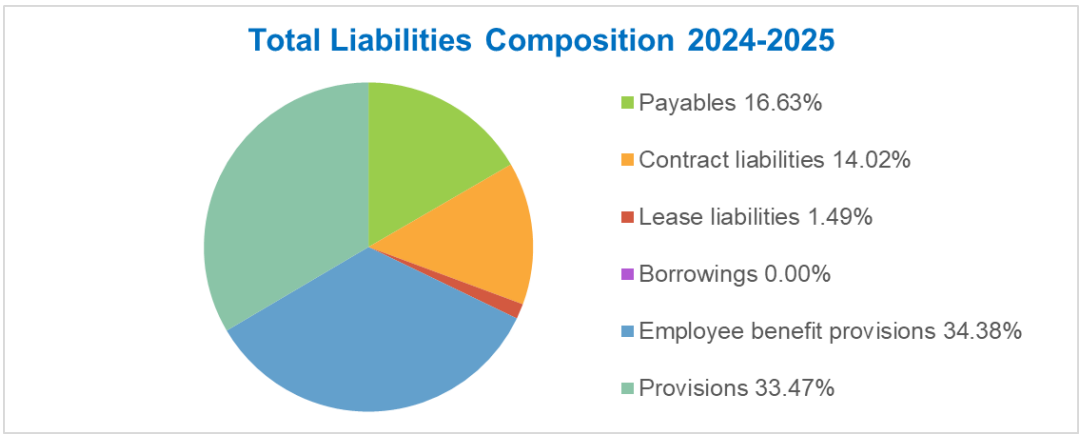
Target: Industry standard of <5%

Performance: The performance of this measure has decreased from the prior year by 0.20%. Council will continue to work with ratepayers as they navigate a high cost of living and interest rate environment.



LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2024, Council's Total Liabilities were $165.2M. The composition of Council's Total Liabilities is shown below.



Payables

Payables account for 17% of Council's liabilities. The most significant payables being accrued expenditure and expenditure incurred but not yet paid.

Contract Liabilities

Contract Liabilities account for 14% of Council's liabilities. Contract liabilities represent unexpended grants and contributions and fees received in advance of the service being delivered.

Lease Liabilities

Lease Liabilities account for 1% of Council's liabilities. Lease liabilities are recognised for land and buildings that Council leases from other organisations. Further details of leases are provided in Note C2-1 and C2-2. These are primarily made up of Dapto Ribbonwood, Warrawong Library and State Emergency Services sites.

Borrowings

Council has no outstanding loans at 30 June 2025. Council will consider borrowings as part of its Resource Strategy and Capital Budget to manage cash flow timing mismatches, fund asset investments, and ensure intergenerational equity, prioritising internal borrowing where economical. Borrowing terms will aim to align with asset life, and interest on internal borrowings will be applied to income-generating activities to reflect opportunity costs and support accurate business cases.

Provisions

Provisions represent the Council's obligation to make future payments as a result of past events. Provisions account for 75% of Council's Liabilities with the most significant provisions relating to Employee Benefits [$56.8M], Waste Landfill Remediation [$40.5M] and Workers' Compensation [$14.5M].

Provisions are revalued each financial year with any movements recognised through profit and loss. The value of provisions has increased from $110.5M in 2022-2023 to $112.1M in 2024-2025.

Council has a legal and public obligation to make, restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the open Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot and closed Helensburgh Waste Depot. A waste remediation provision is a liability recognised in a council's financial statements to represent the estimated costs of cleaning up and restoring a contaminated site, such as soil, groundwater, or surface water, due to past or current operations and construction of appropriate infrastructure (ie capping) to ensure compliance with EPA requirements. Movement in Waste Landfill Remediation provision in the current year was due to cost escalations on estimated costs of rehabilitation.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE – INCOME & EXPENSES

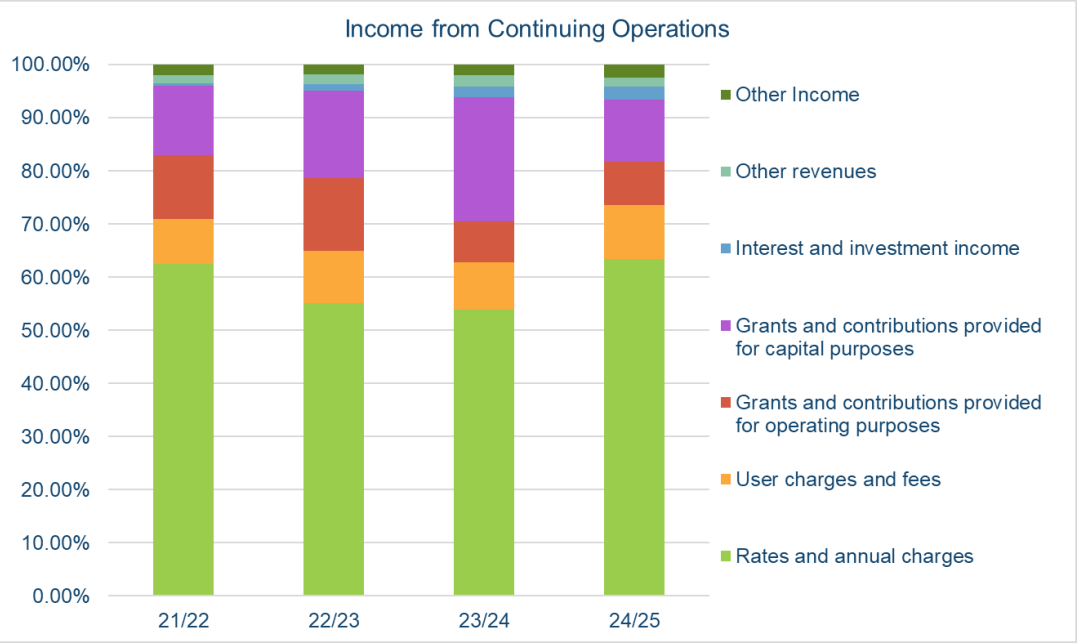
Council achieved a Net Operating Deficit from Continuing Operations of $10.2M in 2024-2025 in comparison to a surplus of $41.0M in 2023-2024. This result includes capital grants and contributions that were significantly less than the prior year.

Material budget variations from the 2024-2025 year for income and expense items are detailed in Note B5-1 of the statements.

Income

Council's Income from Continuing Operations for 2024-2025 was $390.6M compared to prior year result of $430.3M. A significant decrease in the level of capital grants & contributions received in 2024-2025 compared to 2023-2024 has impacted on this result. Refer to B2-4 within the financial statements for more detailed information.

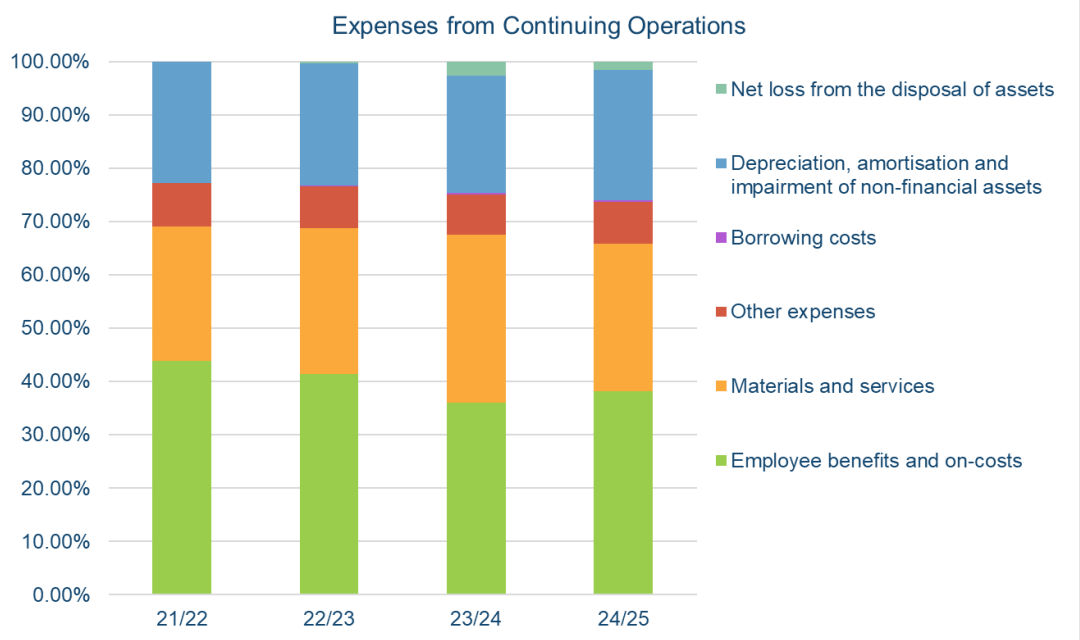
The composition of Council's revenue remained, other than the items noted above, reasonably consistent compared to previous years as depicted in the following table.



Expenses

Expenses from Continuing Operations for 2024-2025 totaled $400.9M, an increase on prior year expenditure of $11.5M.

The composition of Council's expenses remained consistent compared to previous years as depicted in the following table.



Wollongong City Council

Historical Financial Data

Income Statement

	Notes	Actual 2021/22 $'000	Actual 2022/23 $'000	Actual 2023/24 $'000	Actual 2024/25 $'000
Income from Continuing Operations					
Revenue:					
Rates & Annual Charges	B2-1	216,919	222,072	231,847	247,516
User Charges & Fees	B2-2	29,230	39,777	38,578	40,074
Other Revenues	B2-3	5,167	7,467	9,045	6,748
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	B2-4	41,841	55,030	32,772	31,646
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	B2-4	45,402	66,775	100,797	45,473
Interest and Investment Revenue	B2-5	1,689	4,695	8,711	9,756
Other Income	B2-6	6,448	7,467	8,575	9,430
Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	563	-	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations		**347,259**	**403,283**	**430,325**	**390,643**
Expenses from Continuing Operations					
Employee Benefits & On-Costs					
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	B3-1	126,077	142,039	140,458	153,272
Materials & Services	B3-2	72,910	93,752	122,542	110,545
Borrowing Costs	B3-3	437	602	747	1,144
Depreciation & Amortisation	B3-4	65,329	78,339	86,023	98,096
Other Expenses	B3-5	23,054	26,782	29,446	31,548
Fair value decrement on investment properties		-	-	-	-
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	B4-1	-	990	10,120	6,276
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations		**287,807**	**342,504**	**389,336**	**400,881**
Operating Result from Continuing Operations		**59,452**	**60,779**	**40,989**	**(10,238)**
NET OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR		**59,452**	**60,779**	**40,989**	**(10,238)**
Less:					
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	B2-4	45,402	66,775	100,797	45,473
Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes		**14,050**	**(5,996)**	**(59,808)**	**(55,711)**

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	Actual 2021/22 $'000	Actual 2022/23 $'000	Actual 2023/24 $'000	Actual 2024/25 $'000
ASSETS					
Current assets					
Cash & cash equivalents	C1-1	34,118	44,371	44,900	49,586
Investments	C1-2	88,185	99,424	56,738	57,020
Receivables	C1-4	24,674	33,100	32,372	30,217
Inventories	C1-5	461	6,486	6,524	6,512
Contract Assets	C1-6	9,711	3,795	10,771	5,366
Non-current Assets held for sale	C1-7	65	65	-	-
Other		6,881	6,351	3,561	3,144
Total current assets		**164,095**	**193,592**	**154,866**	**151,845**
Non-current assets					
Cash assets	C1-1	-	-	-	-
Investments	C1-2	39,730	33,312	77,836	107,904
Inventories	C1-5	5,972	-	-	-
Receivables	C1-4	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	C1-8	3,347,445	3,680,312	4,056,151	4,133,991
Investments accounted for using the equity method		-	-	-	-
Investment property	C1-9	5,600	5,050	5,100	5,650
Intangible assets	C1-10	76	-	-	-
Right of use assets	C2-1	1,094	718	1,332	2,276
Non-current assets classified as 'held for sale'		-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-
Total non-current assets		**3,399,917**	**3,719,392**	**4,140,419**	**4,249,821**
TOTAL ASSETS		**3,564,012**	**3,912,984**	**4,295,285**	**4,401,666**
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Payables	C3-1	27,376	22,272	22,273	27,485
Income received in advance		-	-	-	-
Contract Liabilities	C3-2	5,491	10,315	12,543	23,174
Lease Liabilities		403	129	460	395
Borrowings	C3-3	3,569	2,572	657	-
Employee benefits provisions	C3-4	51,705	58,175	56,385	56,112
Provisions	C3-5	3,891	3,262	4,440	5,408
Total current liabilities		**92,435**	**96,725**	**96,758**	**112,574**
Non-current liabilities					
Payables	C3-1	-	-	-	-
Lease Liabilities	C2-1	788	655	963	2,072
Borrowings	C3-3	3,374	657	-	-
Employee benefits provisions	C3-4	792	832	875	695
Provisions	C3-5	27,879	27,539	48,810	49,907
Total non-current liabilities		**32,833**	**29,683**	**50,648**	**52,674**
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**125,268**	**126,408**	**147,406**	**165,248**
NET ASSETS	**$**	**3,438,744**	**3,786,576**	**4,147,879**	**4,236,418**
EQUITY					
Retained earnings	C4-1	1,576,459	1,637,513	1,681,518	1,674,847
Revaluation reserves	C4-1	1,862,285	2,149,063	2,466,361	2,561,571
Council Equity Interest		**3,438,744**	**3,786,576**	**4,147,879**	**4,236,418**
Minority Equity Interest					
TOTAL EQUITY	**$**	**3,438,744**	**3,786,576**	**4,147,879**	**4,236,418**

Wollongong City Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents Page

Statement by Councillors and Management 3

Primary Financial Statements:

Income Statement 4
Statement of Comprehensive Income 5
Statement of Financial Position 6
Statement of Changes in Equity 7
Statement of Cash Flows 8

Notes to the Financial Statements 9

Independent Auditor's Reports:

On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2]) 81
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3]) 82

Overview

Wollongong City Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and has its principal place of business at:

41 Burelli Street
Wollongong NSW 2500

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and include:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement by Councillors and Management
made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board,
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 27 October 2025.

Tania Brown
Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Linda Campbell
Deputy Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Greg Doyle
General Manager
27 October 2025

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
27 October 2025

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Original unaudited budget 2025	$ '000	Notes	Actual 2025	Actual 2024
	Income from continuing operations			
247,048	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	**247,516**	231,847
39,990	User charges and fees	B2-2	**40,074**	38,578
5,872	Other revenues	B2-3	**6,748**	9,045
33,212	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	**31,646**	32,772
27,454	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	**45,473**	100,797
6,196	Interest and investment income	B2-5	**9,756**	8,711
7,231	Other income	B2-6	**9,430**	8,575
28,516	Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	**–**	–
395,519	**Total income from continuing operations**		**390,643**	430,325
	Expenses from continuing operations			
142,404	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	**153,272**	140,458
99,866	Materials and services	B3-2	**110,545**	122,542
557	Borrowing costs	B3-3	**1,144**	747
24,257	Other expenses	B3-5	**31,548**	29,446
–	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	**6,276**	10,120
267,084	**Total expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**		**302,785**	303,313
128,435	**Operating result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**		**87,858**	127,012
87,113	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	**98,096**	86,023
41,322	**Operating result from continuing operations**		**(10,238)**	40,989
41,322	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		**(10,238)**	40,989
13,868	**Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes**		**(55,711)**	(59,808)

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		**(10,238)**	40,989
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequent to operating result			
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**98,777**	320,912
Impairment (loss) relating to infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**–**	(598)
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequent to operating result		**98,777**	320,314
Total other comprehensive income for the year		**98,777**	320,314
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		**88,539**	361,303

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	**49,586**	44,900
Investments	C1-2	**57,020**	56,738
Receivables	C1-4	**30,217**	32,372
Inventories	C1-5	**6,512**	6,524
Contract assets	C1-6	**5,366**	10,771
Other		**3,144**	3,561
Total current assets		**151,845**	154,866
Non-current assets			
Investments	C1-2	**107,904**	77,836
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-8	**4,133,991**	4,056,151
Investment property	C1-9	**5,650**	5,100
Right of use assets	C2-1	**2,276**	1,332
Total non-current assets		**4,249,821**	4,140,419
Total assets		**4,401,666**	4,295,285
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	**27,485**	22,273
Contract liabilities	C3-2	**23,174**	12,543
Lease liabilities	C2-1	**395**	460
Borrowings	C3-3	**–**	657
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**56,112**	56,385
Provisions	C3-5	**5,408**	4,440
Total current liabilities		**112,574**	96,758
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	C2-1	**2,072**	963
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**695**	875
Provisions	C3-5	**49,907**	48,810
Total non-current liabilities		**52,674**	50,648
Total liabilities		**165,248**	147,406
Net assets		**4,236,418**	4,147,879
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	C4-1	**1,674,847**	1,681,518
IPPE revaluation surplus	C4-1	**2,561,571**	2,466,361
Council equity interest		**4,236,418**	4,147,879
Total equity		**4,236,418**	4,147,879

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025 Accumulated surplus	2025 IPPE revaluation surplus	2025 Total equity	2024 Accumulated surplus	2024 IPPE revaluation surplus	2024 Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July		**1,681,518**	**2,466,361**	**4,147,879**	1,637,513	2,149,063	3,786,576
Restated opening balance		**1,681,518**	**2,466,361**	**4,147,879**	1,637,513	2,149,063	3,786,576
Net operating result for the year		**(10,238)**	**–**	**(10,238)**	40,989	–	40,989
Other comprehensive income							
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**–**	**98,777**	**98,777**	–	320,912	320,912
Impairment (loss) relating to IPPE	C1-8	**–**	**–**	**–**	–	(598)	(598)
Other comprehensive income		**–**	**98,777**	**98,777**	–	320,314	320,314
Total comprehensive income		**(10,238)**	**98,777**	**88,539**	40,989	320,314	361,303
Transfers between equity items		**3,567**	**(3,567)**	**–**	3,016	(3,016)	–
Closing balance at 30 June		**1,674,847**	**2,561,571**	**4,236,418**	1,681,518	2,466,361	4,147,879

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Original unaudited budget 2025	$ '000	Notes	Actual 2025	Actual 2024
	Cash flows from operating activities			
	Receipts:			
245,637	Rates and annual charges		**247,520**	232,873
39,990	User charges and fees		**46,038**	42,526
6,197	Interest received		**9,061**	8,575
53,652	Grants and contributions		**76,854**	68,654
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		**167**	886
10,603	Other		**30,875**	29,432
	Payments:			
(139,361)	Payments to employees		**(154,007)**	(142,434)
(102,305)	Payments for materials and services		**(126,746)**	(138,853)
(29)	Borrowing costs		**862**	(127)
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		**–**	(1,352)
(24,257)	Other		**(12,712)**	1,578
90,127	**Net cash flows from operating activities**	G1-1	**117,912**	101,758
	Cash flows from investing activities			
	Receipts:			
(1,764)	Proceeds from sale or maturity of investments		**50,649**	37,813
34,278	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		**2,067**	848
	Payments:			
–	Purchase of investments		**(52,079)**	(38,090)
–	Acquisition of term deposits		**(27,050)**	–
(105,995)	Payments for IPPE		**(85,786)**	(98,797)
(73,481)	**Net cash flows from investing activities**		**(112,199)**	(98,226)
	Cash flows from financing activities			
	Payments:			
(656)	Repayment of borrowings		**(657)**	(2,572)
(112)	Principal component of lease payments		**(370)**	(431)
(768)	**Net cash flows from financing activities**		**(1,027)**	(3,003)
15,878	**Net change in cash and cash equivalents**		**4,686**	529
153,847	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**44,900**	44,371
169,725	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	**49,586**	44,900
18,858	Add: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	**164,924**	134,574
188,583	Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		**214,510**	179,474

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

A About Council and these financial statements 11
A1-1 Basis of preparation 11

B Financial Performance 13

B1 Functions or activities 13
B1-1 Community Strategic Plan Goals – income, expenses and assets 13
B1-2 Components of Community Strategic Plan Goals 14

B2 Sources of income 15
B2-1 Rates and annual charges 15
B2-2 User charges and fees 16
B2-3 Other revenues 17
B2-4 Grants and contributions 18
B2-5 Interest and investment income 23
B2-6 Other income 23

B3 Costs of providing services 24
B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs 24
B3-2 Materials and services 25
B3-3 Borrowing costs 26
B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets 27
B3-5 Other expenses 28

B4 Gains or losses 29
B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets 29

B5 Performance against budget 30
B5-1 Material budget variations 30

C Financial position 32

C1 Assets we manage 32
C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents 32
C1-2 Financial investments 32
C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments 34
C1-4 Receivables 36
C1-5 Inventories 37
C1-6 Contract assets 38
C1-7 Non-current assets classified as held for sale 38
C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment 39
C1-9 Investment properties 42
C1-10 Intangible assets 43

C2 Leasing activities 44
C2-1 Council as a lessee 44
C2-2 Council as a lessor 46

C3 Liabilities of Council 48
C3-1 Payables 48
C3-2 Contract Liabilities 49
C3-3 Borrowings 50
C3-4 Employee benefit provisions 52

Wollongong City Council

Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

C3-5 Provisions 54

C4 Reserves 56

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves 56

D Council structure 56

D1 Results by fund 56

D2 Interests in other entities 56

D2-1 Subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates not recognised 56

E Risks and accounting uncertainties 57

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held 57

E2-1 Fair value measurement 60

E3-1 Contingencies 68

F People and relationships 71

F1 Related party disclosures 71

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP) 71

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses 71

F1-3 Other related parties 71

F2 Other relationships 73

F2-1 Audit fees 73

G Other matters 74

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information 74

G2-1 Commitments 75

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date 75

G4 Statement of developer contributions 76

G4-1 Summary of developer contributions 76

G4-2 Developer contributions by plan 77

G4-3 Contributions not under plans 78

G4-4 S7.4 planning agreements 78

H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited) 80

H1-1 Council information and contact details 80

A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 27 October 2025. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the Office of Local Government (OLG) directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation), and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

i. fair values of investment property – refer Note C1-9
ii. fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-8
iii. tip remediation provisions – refer Note C3-5
iv. employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

i. Impairment of receivables – refer Note C1-4.
ii. Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.
iii. Determination of the lease term, discount rate (when not implicit in the lease) and whether an arrangement contains a lease – refer to Note C2-1.

Monies and other assets received by Council

The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

The Consolidated Fund has been included in the financial statements of the Council.

Cash and other assets of the following activities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- general purpose operations

The Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by the Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes

continued on next page ...

A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies. Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

A separate statement of monies held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the council office by any person free of charge.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Volunteer services

Council is supported by a range of volunteers for services including surf lifesaving, bush care, community transport and library programs. Volunteer services are required to be recognised in the financial statements if they can be measured reliably, are material, and would be purchased if not provided by the volunteers. In most instances, Council would not purchase the service if it was not provided by volunteers.

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2025.
As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted all accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective from the first time at 30 June 2025.

The following new standard is effective for the first time at 30 June 2025:

- **AASB 2022-10** ***Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.***

There is no material impact on the Councils' reported financial position, however Councils should review their fair value methodology to ensure that it is in accordance with the guidance included in AASB 2022-10.

B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Community Strategic Plan Goals – income, expenses and assets [1]

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
$ '000	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024
Functions or activities										
Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment	**97,684**	91,357	**124,553**	127,339	**(26,869)**	(35,982)	**28,624**	25,337	**1,127,728**	1,002,545
Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy	**10,963**	11,164	**14,583**	13,908	**(3,620)**	(2,744)	**–**	25	**4,396**	5,886
Goal 3 - Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city	**759**	1,066	**12,743**	12,124	**(11,984)**	(11,058)	**525**	688	**1,609**	2,190
Goal 4 - We are a connected and engaged community	**14,477**	13,469	**38,630**	34,569	**(24,153)**	(21,100)	**6,631**	6,519	**860,369**	859,612
Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a liveable city	**13,335**	16,879	**68,819**	63,501	**(55,484)**	(46,622)	**2,166**	7,370	**723,962**	786,886
Goal 6 - We have affordable and accessible transport	**12,071**	18,441	**70,261**	75,538	**(58,190)**	(57,097)	**10,687**	16,455	**1,423,037**	1,404,313
Support Services	**227,404**	218,657	**71,292**	62,357	**156,112**	156,300	**14,536**	17,883	**260,565**	233,853
Contributed Assets	**13,950**	59,292	**–**	–	**13,950**	59,292	**13,950**	59,292	**–**	–
Total functions and activities	**390,643**	430,325	**400,881**	389,336	**(10,238)**	40,989	**77,119**	133,569	**4,401,666**	4,295,285

(1) The functions/activities reported above are different to what has been reported in the past. The Goals listed above and described on the following page, align with Council's Community Strategic Plan – Our Wollongong Our Future 2032.

B1-2 Components of Community Strategic Plan Goals

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment

We will work together to reduce emissions and the effects of a changing climate. Our natural environments are protected, and our resources will be managed effectively. Development is well planned and sustainable and we protect our heritage.

Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy

The region's industry base continues to diversify and local employment opportunities increase. Wollongong is established as the regional capital of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven. We are leaders in innovative and sustainable research and development of new industries.

Goal 3 - Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

Creative, cultural industries are fostered and thriving. Community have access to the arts, and participation in events and festivals is increased. Strong diverse local cultures are supported.

Goal 4 - We are a connected and engaged community

Residents have easy and equitable access to information and play an active role in the decisions that affect our city. There is greater awareness and understanding of Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, heritage and histories. Our Council is accountable, financially sustainable and has the trust of the community.

Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a livable city

There is an increase in the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our community. Our community participation in recreation and lifestyle activities increases. Residents have improved access to a range of affordable housing options. Suburbs and places are livable and safe.

Goal 6 - We have affordable and accessible transport

There is an increase in sustainable transport use including public transport, walking and cycling. Transport links and connection to Sydney, the South Coast and Southern Highlands are strengthened. The community have access to a safe, affordable and reliable transport network.

Support Services

Five services form an additional group called Support Services to demonstrate that these Services support the delivery of all Community Strategic Plan goals.
Support Services include: Employee Services; Financial Services; Governance & Administration; Infrastructure Strategy & Support and Information Management & Technology.

Contributed Assets

Contributed assets relate mainly to the handover of transport and stormwater assets from various subdivisions in the West Dapto area.

B2 Sources of income

B2-1 Rates and annual charges

$ '000	2025	2024
Ordinary rates		
Residential	**144,089**	136,519
Farmland	**510**	495
Mining	**1,103**	1,046
Business	**54,607**	52,018
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(2,524)**	(2,536)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	**(234)**	(263)
Abandonments [1]	**(173)**	(568)
Rates levied to ratepayers	**197,378**	186,711
Pensioner rate subsidies received	**1,374**	1,381
Total ordinary rates	**198,752**	188,092
Special rates		
Mall	**1,264**	1,260
Total special rates	**1,264**	1,260
Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 & 611)		
Domestic waste management services	**45,971**	40,949
Stormwater management services	**1,910**	1,898
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(836)**	(840)
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Domestic waste management	**455**	488
Total annual charges	**47,500**	42,495
Total rates and annual charges	**247,516**	231,847

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising these receipts which is the beginning of the rating period to which they relate.

Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates (mandatory) relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government area that are subsidised by the NSW Government. Pensioner rebates (Council policy) relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government area that are not subsidised by the NSW Government.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates (mandatory) and are in substance a rates payment.

(1) Abandonments refer to amounts owed to Council that have been written off due to the property being exempted of rates, objections & ascertainments, postponed rates and voluntary conservation agreements as per the OLG Rating and Revenue Raising Manual 2007.

B2-2 User charges and fees

$ '000	2025	2024
User charges		
Waste management services (non-domestic)	**11,243**	10,503
Total user charges	**11,243**	10,503
Contestable building services	**419**	382
Inspection services	**334**	662
Planning and building regulation	**3,613**	3,375
Registration fees	**184**	204
Section 10.7 certificates (EP&A Act)	**601**	880
Section 603 certificate (rating certificate)	**356**	458
Section 611 charges (occupation of land)	**334**	337
Additional waste services	**162**	186
Art gallery	**24**	16
Car parking	**1,735**	1,635
Cemeteries	**2,695**	1,960
Credit card payment processing fee	**166**	126
Design review meeting application fees	**64**	203
Golf course	**1,014**	986
Health inspections	**860**	673
Library	**60**	45
Outdoor dining	**17**	10
Parking meters	**1,132**	1,111
Pre-lodgement meeting fees	**84**	106
Recreation	**4,803**	4,375
Road opening permits	**311**	240
Stallholder fees	**58**	57
Tree management requests	**111**	96
Tourist parks	**9,377**	9,612
Other	**317**	340
Total fees	**28,831**	28,075
Total other user charges and fees	**28,831**	28,075
Total user charges and fees	**40,074**	38,578
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees		
User charges and fees recognised over time	**9,377**	9,612
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time	**30,697**	28,966
Total user charges and fees	**40,074**	38,578

Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

B2-3 Other revenues

$ '000	2025	2024
Diesel rebate	**185**	248
Fines	**437**	555
Fines – parking	**3,402**	3,165
Income relating to the clean energy future scheme	**31**	–
Insurance claims recoveries	**25**	365
Legal fees recovery – rates and charges (extra charges)	**24**	–
Legal settlements	**401**	318
Outgoings reimbursements	**98**	83
Reimbursements	**400**	2,645
Sales – general	**1,348**	1,314
Sponsorship and promotional income	**33**	24
Other	**364**	328
Total other revenue	**6,748**	9,045

Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time	**–**	–
Other revenue recognised at a point in time	**6,748**	9,045
Total other revenue	**6,748**	9,045

Material accounting policy information for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2-4 Grants and contributions

$ '000	Operating 2025	Operating 2024	Capital 2025	Capital 2024
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)				
Financial Assistance Grant				
Relating to current year	**4,442**	867	**–**	–
Payment received in advance for subsequent year	**11,034**	19,374	**–**	–
Amount recognised as income during current year	**15,476**	20,241	**–**	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)				
Cash contributions				
Arts and culture	**–**	366	**–**	–
Buildings	**50**	–	**66**	–
Car parks	**–**	–	**–**	32
Community centres	**76**	–	**–**	–
Community development and support	**354**	873	**–**	–
Community services and facilities	**799**	569	**–**	–
Economic development	**–**	3	**–**	–
Emergency services	**439**	429	**–**	–
Environmental management and enhancement	**744**	337	**–**	–
Environmental programs	**2**	82	**–**	–
Footpaths and cycleways	**–**	–	**52**	–
Floodplain and stormwater management	**2,231**	280	**306**	328
Home and Community Care (HACC) community transport	**3,096**	3,151	**–**	–
Heritage and cultural	**12**	–	**–**	–
Information technology	**–**	–	**–**	1
Library	**830**	689	**–**	–
Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) subsidy	**14**	103	**–**	–
Local bus route subsidy	**85**	160	**–**	–
Natural area management	**527**	134	**–**	–
Recreation and culture	**219**	–	**–**	–
Parks, gardens and sports fields	**315**	181	**1,127**	5,410
Roads and bridges	**771**	233	**–**	–
Storm/flood damage	**–**	–	**284**	1,197
People and learning	**406**	54	**–**	–
Pollution minimisation	**293**	275	**–**	–
Recreation and culture	**–**	–	**9**	1,478
Regulatory control	**71**	–	**–**	–
Social support programs	**1,806**	1,600	**–**	–
Strategic city planning	**59**	91	**–**	–
Street lighting	**758**	743	**–**	–
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	**–**	–	**6,552**	7,957
Transport (roads to recovery)	**–**	–	**1,016**	1,731
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	**1,541**	1,506	**–**	–
Voluntary purchase scheme	**–**	–	**1,071**	–
Waste performance improvement	**–**	–	**–**	2,014
Total cash contributions	**15,498**	11,859	**10,483**	20,148
Non-cash contributions				
Dedications – subdivisions (other than by s7.4 and s7.11 – EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA)	**–**	–	**13,436**	58,757
Wollongong City Gallery collection	**–**	–	**515**	535
Volunteer Services	**672**	672	**–**	–
Total non-cash contributions	**672**	672	**13,951**	59,292
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)	**16,170**	12,531	**24,434**	79,440
Total grants and non-developer contributions	**31,646**	32,772	**24,434**	79,440

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

$ '000	**Operating 2025**	Operating 2024	**Capital 2025**	Capital 2024
Comprising:				
– Commonwealth funding	**20,065**	24,638	**1,016**	6,863
– State funding	**9,533**	6,560	**9,313**	13,820
– Other funding	**2,048**	1,574	**14,105**	58,757
	31,646	32,772	**24,434**	79,440

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

$ '000	Notes	Operating 2025	Operating 2024	Capital 2025	Capital 2024
Developer contributions: (s7.4 & s7.11 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):	G4				
Cash contributions					
S 7.4 – contributions using planning agreements		**–**	–	**2,072**	149
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services		**–**	–	**11,469**	13,887
S 7.12 – fixed development consent levies		**–**	–	**7,498**	7,321
Total cash contributions		**–**	–	**21,039**	21,357
Total developer contributions		**–**	–	**21,039**	21,357
Total contributions		**–**	–	**21,039**	21,357
Total grants and contributions		**31,646**	32,772	**45,473**	100,797
Timing of revenue recognition					
Grants and contributions recognised over time		**5,409**	2,956	**8,597**	20,148
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time		**26,237**	29,816	**36,876**	80,649
Total grants and contributions		**31,646**	32,772	**45,473**	100,797

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

$ '000	Operating 2025	Operating 2024	Capital 2025	Capital 2024
Unspent grants				
Unspent funds at 1 July	**9,701**	18,335	**2,029**	1,964
Add: Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	**551**	5,205	**854**	–
Add: funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	**451**	372	**6,786**	1,569
Less: Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	**(5,946)**	(13,094)	**(89)**	(7)
Less: funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	**(562)**	(1,117)	**(394)**	(1,497)
Unspent funds at 30 June	**4,195**	9,701	**9,186**	2,029
Unspent contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	**96**	1,984	**56,274**	45,284
Add: contributions recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	**11**	21	**24,360**	23,829
Add: contributions received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	**–**	–	**176**	206
Less: contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	**(13)**	–	**(6,342)**	(12,990)
Less: contributions received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	**–**	(1,909)	**(195)**	(55)
Unspent contributions at 30 June	**94**	96	**74,273**	56,274

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Developer contributions

Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

$ '000	2025	2024
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	**1,290**	1,252
– Cash and investments	**8,466**	7,459
Total interest and investment income (losses)	**9,756**	8,711

Material accounting policy information
Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

B2-6 Other income

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Fair value increment on investments			
Fair value increment on investments through profit and loss		**1,223**	1,306
Movement in interest in CivicRisk Mutual		**622**	255
Total fair value increment on investments		**1,845**	1,561
Fair value increment on investment properties			
Fair value increment on investment properties		**550**	50
Total fair value increment on investment properties	C1-9	**550**	50
Rental income			
Investment properties			
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)		**480**	528
Total investment properties		**480**	528
Other lease income			
Room/Facility Hire		**663**	595
Leaseback fees - council vehicles		**841**	721
Other Council Properties		**5,051**	4,493
Total other lease income		**6,555**	5,809
Total rental income	C2-2	**7,035**	6,337
Other			
Energy Saving Certificates		**–**	627
Total other		**–**	627
Total other income		**9,430**	8,575

B3 Costs of providing services

B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

$ '000	2025	2024
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	**18,819**	16,664
Salaries and wages	**126,605**	119,813
Superannuation	**15,497**	14,364
Change in workers compensation provision	**872**	506
Workers compensation – self insurance	**4,348**	3,586
Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT)	**181**	182
Payroll tax	**27**	22
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)	**971**	901
Protective clothing	**476**	479
Labour hire	**1,032**	203
Other	**497**	451
Total employee costs	**169,325**	157,171
Less: capitalised costs	**(16,053)**	(16,713)
Total employee costs expensed	**153,272**	140,458

Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

B3-2 Materials and services

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Advertising		**225**	297
Audit Fees	F2-1	**309**	286
Bank charges		**661**	808
Contractor costs [1]		**69,140**	71,415
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	**716**	687
Insurance		**5,100**	4,812
Internal audit		**136**	118
Light, electricity and heating		**2,715**	2,796
Membership fees		**188**	170
Other expenses		**3,132**	6,982
Postage		**529**	490
Prior year works in progress 'write offs' [2]		**16,646**	7,085
Provision for asset remediation [3]		**265**	13,136
Provision for self insurance claims		**(20)**	11
Raw materials and consumables [1]		**29,150**	35,386
Rental agreements		**22**	4
Royalty payments		**442**	551
Sewerage charges		**301**	316
Software maintenance and support contractor		**3,979**	3,518
Street lighting		**2,811**	3,970
Telephone and communications		**733**	620
Valuation fees		**553**	531
Volunteer reimbursements		**255**	242
Waste contractor		**28,714**	27,540
Water rates		**1,290**	1,116
Legal expenses:			
– Planning and development		**1,192**	500
– Other		**487**	424
Total materials and services		**169,671**	183,811
Less: capitalised costs		**(59,126)**	(61,269)
Total materials and services		**110,545**	122,542

Material accounting policy information

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the Council receives the goods or services.

(1) The Contractor & Consultancy Costs and Raw Materials & Consumables includes expenditure related to the capital program. The delivery of capital projects is dependent on the types and size of works that may be delivered through contracts or internally. There are significant variations year on year in this allocation process.

(2) Capital expenditure previously included in Works in Progress was transferred to operating expenses during 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. This includes capital works to deliver assets not under the control of Council such as traffic facilities and street lighting and identified operational expenses incurred and allocated to capital projects in the course of construction of associated assets.

(3) Each financial year a provision for the remediation of Council's waste facility is calculated based on the forecast costs to rehabilitate the site. A review of the planned rehabilitation costs and changes to discount factors have resulted in an movement in the provision in 2024-2025.

B3-3 Borrowing costs

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(i) Interest bearing liability costs			
Interest on leases		**137**	56
Interest on loans		**4**	71
Total interest bearing liability costs		**141**	127
Total interest bearing liability costs expensed		**141**	127
(ii) Other borrowing costs			
Discount adjustments relating to movements in provisions (other than ELE) – Remediation liabilities	C3-5	**1,003**	620
Total other borrowing costs		**1,003**	620
Total borrowing costs expensed		**1,144**	747

B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Depreciation and amortisation			
Plant and equipment		**4,209**	4,267
Office equipment		**1,077**	1,280
Furniture and fittings		**274**	302
Infrastructure:	C1-8		
– Bridges		**2,310**	2,072
– Buildings – non-specialised		**10,078**	5,004
– Buildings – specialised		**9,951**	7,116
– Footpaths		**5,897**	5,405
– Other open space/recreational assets		**7,140**	7,020
– Other structures		**926**	707
– Roads		**31,869**	29,890
– Stormwater drainage		**20,214**	19,011
– Swimming pools		**726**	764
Right of use assets	C2-1	**470**	456
Other assets:			
– Library books		**1,272**	1,242
– Other		**1,484**	1,487
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets:			
– Tip assets	C3-5,C1-8	**199**	–
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		**98,096**	86,023
Impairment / revaluation decrement of IPPE			
Infrastructure:	C1-8		
– Buildings – specialised		**–**	598
Amounts taken through revaluation reserve	C1-8	**–**	(598)
Total IPPE impairment / revaluation decrement costs charged to Income Statement		**–**	–
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		**98,096**	86,023

Material accounting policy information

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-8 for IPPE assets, Note C1-10 for intangible assets and Note C2-1 for right-of-use assets.

Impairment of non-financial assets
Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

B3-5 Other expenses

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Impairment of receivables			
User charges and fees		**(152)**	831
Total impairment of receivables	C1-4	**(152)**	831
Other			
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Emergency services levy		**773**	1,023
– NSW fire brigade levy		**4,257**	4,251
– NSW rural fire service levy		**827**	840
– Waste levy		**13,634**	12,252
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)			
– Affordable Housing [1]		**–**	5,654
– City Centre management		**11**	4
– Illawarra Institute of Sport		**42**	27
– Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation		**58**	58
– Illawarra Performing Arts Centre [2]		**1,453**	1,355
– Neighbourhood youth program		**82**	80
– Illawarra Surf Life Saving		**63**	65
– Sponsorship fund		**54**	31
– Tourism		**1,690**	1,549
– Wollongong Shuttle Bus Service		**411**	396
Refund of Prior Year Grants [3]		**7,624**	235
Other		**762**	1,024
Total other		**31,741**	28,844
Less: capitalised costs		**(41)**	(229)
Total other expenses		**31,548**	29,446

Material accounting policy information

Other expenses are recorded on an accruals basis when Council has an obligation for the expenses.

Impairment expenses are recognised when identified.

(1) Allocation of grant received in a prior year for Affordable Housing.

(2) The 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 contribution to the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre includes the contribution for the management of the Town Hall.

(3) $6.9m of expense relates to returned unspent grant funds in relation to Community Transport as the service has been transferred to another party to deliver effective 30 June 2025.

B4 Gains or losses

B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Gain (or loss) on disposal of property (excl. investment property)			
Proceeds from disposal – property		**36**	45
Less: carrying amount of property assets sold/written off		**(13)**	(79)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**23**	(34)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		**2,031**	803
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		**(1,517)**	(600)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**514**	203
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – infrastructure		**–**	–
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure assets sold/written off		**(6,838)**	(10,289)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**(6,838)**	(10,289)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments	C1-2		
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – investments		**50,649**	37,813
Less: carrying amount of investments sold/redeemed/matured		**(50,624)**	(37,813)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**25**	–
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets		**(6,276)**	(10,120)

Material accounting policy information
Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the asset is de-recognised.

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 24 June 2024 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: F = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

$ '000	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 Variance		
Revenues					
Rates and annual charges	247,048	247,516	468	0%	F
User charges and fees	39,990	40,074	84	0%	F
Other revenues	5,872	6,748	876	15%	F
The variance in Other revenues is mainly associated with a one-off compensation payment related to a Council Easement.					
Operating grants and contributions	33,212	31,646	(1,566)	(5)%	U
Capital grants and contributions	27,454	45,473	18,019	66%	F
Capital grants and contributions including assets contributed to Council through development. A greater value of assets have been contributed to Council than anticipated in the 2024-2025 financial year. In addition, a greater level of revenue was received through contributions under Development Contribution Plans than anticipated.					
Interest and investment revenue	6,196	9,756	3,560	57%	F
Interest and investment income performed better than anticipated due to higher interest rate environment than prior year with an overall increase in holdings.					
Net gains from disposal of assets	28,516	–	(28,516)	(100)%	U
The original budget for 2024-2025 reflected the gains on disposal anticipated for a significant land sale that was planned to occur. The variances between original budget and actuals results from the delay in this land sale.					
Other income	7,231	9,430	2,199	30%	F
Other income is favourable due to the fair value increment on investments recognised through the profit and loss.					

continued on next page ...

B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

$ '000	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 Variance		
Expenses					
Employee benefits and on-costs	**142,404**	**153,272**	**(10,868)**	**(8)%**	**U**
Employee benefits and on-costs within the operating result represent part of Council's workforce costs that are applied to operating functions, other costs are charged to capital works and reflected in the value of assets. As shown in Note B3-1 $16.1M was charged to capital. This was $6.1M less than Council's original estimate, so while overall employee costs were on budget, the allocation of works was directed more to operating functions during 2025-26. In addition, Council's costs incurred in Workers Compensation have exceeded budget, as have Superannuation costs. There was also additional labour costs introduced to budget during the year.					
Materials and services	**99,866**	**110,545**	**(10,679)**	**(11)%**	**U**
Materials and services includes prior year works in progress of $16.4M (see note B3-1) that do not meet the requirements to be recognised as an asset and therefore have been expensed through operating. Excluding this adjustment, Materials and services would have performed better than original budget estimates.					
Borrowing costs	**557**	**1,144**	**(587)**	**(105)%**	**U**
Borrowing costs include the interest on the waste facility remediation. The original budget was set prior to receipt of the discount rates as at 30 June 2024 which are applied for the interest calculation in 2024-2025. The changes in discount rate have resulted in a variance between the actuals and original budget.					
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**87,113**	**98,096**	**(10,983)**	**(13)%**	**U**
The original budget for 2024-2025 was set prior to the impacts of the June 2024 Buildings revaluation and indexation of other asset classes to align to fair value. These events significantly increased asset values which resulted in an increase in the depreciation expense for 2024-2025.					
Other expenses	**24,257**	**31,548**	**(7,291)**	**(30)%**	**U**
Other expenses have been impacted by the return of grant funds recognised as revenue in prior financial years. This is mainly associated with the transition of the Community Transport function to a third party.					
Net losses from disposal of assets	**–**	**6,276**	**(6,276)**	**–**	**U**
Statement of cash flows					
Cash flows from operating activities	**90,127**	**117,912**	**27,785**	**31%**	**F**
Cash flows from investing activities	**(73,481)**	**(112,199)**	**(38,718)**	**53%**	**U**
Cash flows from financing activities	**(768)**	**(1,027)**	**(259)**	**34%**	**U**

C Financial position

C1 Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

$ '000	2025	2024
Cash assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	**1,284**	21,431
Cash equivalent assets		
– Deposits at call	**48,302**	23,469
Total cash and cash equivalents	**49,586**	44,900
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents		
Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	**49,586**	44,900
Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows	**49,586**	44,900

Material accounting policy information
For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-2 Financial investments

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Financial assets at fair value through the profit and loss				
Managed funds	**–**	**10,345**	9,400	–
Floating Rate Notes (FRN) with maturities > 3 months [1]	**18,957**	**47,570**	5,036	59,719
Mortgage backed securities	**1,563**	**–**	1,602	–
CivicRisk Mutual Limited	**–**	**3,739**	–	3,117
Total	**20,520**	**61,654**	16,038	62,836
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Long term deposits	**36,500**	**46,250**	40,700	15,000
Total	**36,500**	**46,250**	40,700	15,000
Total financial investments	**57,020**	**107,904**	56,738	77,836

(1) Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

continued on next page ...

C1-2 Financial investments (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

Financial assets
All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification
On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

Amortised cost
Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows, and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits, and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

Financial assets through profit or loss
All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income as described above are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Net gains or losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in profit or loss.

Council's financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss comprise investments in FRNs, managed funds, mortgage backed securities and interest in CivicRisk Mutual in the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	**214,510**	179,474
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	**(102,211)**	(86,881)
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	**112,299**	92,593

External restrictions

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Developer contributions – general [A]	**73,967**	55,949
Transport for NSW contributions [B]	**402**	422
Specific purpose unexpended grants [C]	**13,381**	11,730
Stormwater management [D]	**1,254**	1,507
Private contributions	**2,898**	6,943
Special rates levy – Wollongong mall	**1,062**	962
Special rates levy – city centre	**94**	94
Domestic waste management [D]	**6,033**	5,321
Housing Affordability	**3,120**	3,953
Total external restrictions	**102,211**	86,881

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

(A) Development contributions which are not yet expended for the provision of services and amenities in accordance with contributions plans.

(B) Transport for New South Wales contributions which are not yet expended for the provision of services and amenities in accordance with those contributions.

(C) Grants which are not yet expended for the purposes for which the grants were obtained.

(D) Domestic Waste Management and other special rates/levies/charges are externally restricted assets and must be applied for the purposes for which they were raised.

continued on next page ...

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(b) Internal allocations		
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	**112,299**	92,593
Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	**43,743**	23,919
Internal allocations		
At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:		
Car parking strategy	**1,372**	1,223
Darcy Wentworth Park	**18**	18
MacCabe Park development	**2,190**	2,040
Sports Priority Program	**856**	524
Waste Disposal Facility	**5,982**	10,854
West Dapto Development	**20,232**	14,927
Strategic Projects	**31,700**	32,991
Property Investment Fund	**5,532**	5,396
Natural areas	**173**	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	**501**	528
Total internal allocations	**68,556**	68,674

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

C1-4 Receivables

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Rates and annual charges	**16,580**	**–**	16,127	–
Interest and extra charges	**2,073**	**–**	2,020	–
User charges and fees	**7,061**	**–**	7,493	–
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	**1,549**	**–**	907	–
– Other income accruals	**3,077**	**–**	5,168	–
Government grants and subsidies	**947**	**–**	730	–
Net GST receivable	**1,995**	**–**	3,287	–
Total	**33,282**	**–**	35,732	–
Less: provision for impairment				
User charges and fees	**(3,065)**	**–**	(3,360)	–
Total provision for impairment – receivables	**(3,065)**	**–**	(3,360)	–
Total net receivables	**30,217**	**–**	32,372	–

Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment
Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When estimating ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day one.

When considering the ECL for rates and annual charges debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Credit losses are measured at the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

Council writes off a receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Where Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Rates and annual charges outstanding are secured against the property.

C1-5 Inventories

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Inventories at cost				
Real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Stores and materials	**540**	**–**	552	–
Total inventories at cost	**6,512**	**–**	6,524	–
Total inventories	**6,512**	**–**	6,524	–

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Details for real estate development				
Residential	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
(Valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value)				
Represented by:				
Acquisition costs	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total costs	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Movements:				
Real estate assets at beginning of the year	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–

Material accounting policy information

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods
Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Land held for resale
Land held for resale is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is assigned by specific identification and includes the cost of acquisition, and development and borrowing costs during development. When development is completed, borrowing costs and other holding charges are expensed as incurred.

C1-6 Contract assets

Contract assets

$ '000	2025	2024
Work relating to capital grants & contributions	**4,439**	10,537
Work relating to operational grants & contributions	**66**	66
Other	**861**	168
Total contract assets	**5,366**	10,771

Material accounting policy information

Contract assets
Contract assets represent Councils right to payment in exchange for goods or services the Council has transferred to a customer when that right is conditional on something other than the passage of time.

Contract assets arise when the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievement of various milestones established in the contract and therefore the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necessarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer. Once an invoice or payment claim is raised or the relevant milestone is reached, Council recognises a receivable.

Impairment of contract assets is assessed using the simplified expected credit loss model where lifetime credit losses are recognised on initial recognition.

C1-7 Non-current assets classified as held for sale

Details of assets

One parcel of land which was classified as 'held of sale' and sold during the year ended 30 June 2024.

Material accounting policy information

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use. They are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, except for assets such as deferred tax assets arising from employee benefits; financial assets; and investment properties that are carried at fair value.

An impairment loss is recognised for any initial or subsequent write-down of the asset (or disposal group) to fair value less costs to sell. A gain is recognised for any subsequent increases in fair value less costs to sell of an asset (or disposal group), but not in excess of any cumulative impairment loss previously recognised. A gain or loss not previously recognised by the date of the sale of the non-current asset (or disposal group) is recognised at the date of de-recognition.

Non-current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2024			Asset movements during the reporting period									At 30 June 2025		
$ '000	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals [1]	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Other movements- Transfer to Expense	Other movements - Waste Remediation Reassessment	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
Capital work in progress	88,503	–	88,503	**54,723**	**20,497**	**–**	**–**	**(66,054)**	**–**	**(16,646)**	**–**	**–**	**81,023**	**–**	**81,023**
Plant and equipment	48,486	(28,950)	19,536	**7,630**	**–**	**(1,517)**	**(4,209)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**49,203**	**(27,763)**	**21,440**
Office equipment	13,065	(10,319)	2,746	**1,537**	**–**	**–**	**(1,077)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**14,602**	**(11,396)**	**3,206**
Furniture and fittings	3,257	(2,332)	925	**55**	**–**	**–**	**(274)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**3,312**	**(2,606)**	**706**
Land:															
– Operational land	367,911	–	367,911	**–**	**148**	**(13)**	**–**	**–**	**(3,036)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**365,010**	**–**	**365,010**
– Community land	365,135	(760)	364,375	**–**	**1,606**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**2,341**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**369,082**	**(760)**	**368,322**
– Crown land	120,906	–	120,906	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**120,906**	**–**	**120,906**
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	3,562	–	3,562	**–**	**333**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**695**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**4,590**	**–**	**4,590**
Infrastructure:															
– Buildings – non-specialised	429,019	(190,938)	238,081	**–**	**–**	**(13)**	**(10,078)**	**359**	**9**	**–**	**–**	**12,235**	**452,333**	**(211,740)**	**240,593**
– Buildings – specialised	533,215	(254,278)	278,937	**–**	**–**	**(315)**	**(9,951)**	**3,109**	**(78)**	**–**	**–**	**14,570**	**564,730**	**(278,458)**	**286,272**
– Other structures	21,358	(6,003)	15,355	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(926)**	**589**	**213**	**–**	**–**	**786**	**23,383**	**(7,366)**	**16,017**
– Roads	2,188,536	(1,214,770)	973,766	**–**	**5,489**	**(5,227)**	**(31,869)**	**27,355**	**(207)**	**–**	**–**	**25,954**	**2,260,272**	**(1,265,011)**	**995,261**
– Bridges	169,139	(55,334)	113,805	**–**	**–**	**(2)**	**(2,310)**	**–**	**2**	**–**	**–**	**3,079**	**173,807**	**(59,233)**	**114,574**
– Footpaths	423,100	(197,542)	225,558	**–**	**2,757**	**(341)**	**(5,897)**	**7,257**	**(8)**	**–**	**–**	**6,102**	**443,620**	**(208,192)**	**235,428**
– Stormwater drainage	1,832,317	(843,399)	988,918	**–**	**4,914**	**(635)**	**(20,214)**	**11,419**	**(9)**	**–**	**–**	**26,752**	**1,897,839**	**(886,694)**	**1,011,145**
– Swimming pools	52,247	(37,683)	14,564	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(726)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**743**	**55,052**	**(40,471)**	**14,581**
– Other open space/recreational assets	270,698	(104,614)	166,084	**–**	**–**	**(306)**	**(7,140)**	**14,770**	**78**	**–**	**–**	**8,556**	**298,617**	**(116,575)**	**182,042**
Other assets:															
– Heritage collections	16,622	–	16,622	**–**	**696**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**17,318**	**–**	**17,318**
– Library books	10,012	(5,009)	5,003	**1,375**	**–**	**–**	**(1,272)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11,388**	**(6,282)**	**5,106**
– Other	59,561	(16,744)	42,817	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(1,484)**	**1,196**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**60,757**	**(18,228)**	**42,529**
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note C3-5):															
– Tip assets	17,587	(9,410)	8,177	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(199)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(56)**	**–**	**17,532**	**(9,610)**	**7,922**
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7,034,236	(2,978,085)	4,056,151	**65,320**	**36,440**	**(8,369)**	**(97,626)**	**–**	**–**	**(16,646)**	**(56)**	**98,777**	**7,284,376**	**(3,150,385)**	**4,133,991**

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

continued on next page ...

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period											At 30 June 2024		
$ '000	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals [1]	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Impairment loss / revaluation decrements (recognised in P/L)	Impairment loss (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Other movements- Transfer to Expense	Other movements - Waste Remediation Reassessment	Revaluation decrements to equity (ARR)	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
Capital work in progress	81,382	–	81,382	53,778	24,434	–	–	–	–	(64,006)	–	(7,085)	–	–	–	88,503	–	88,503
Plant and equipment	46,506	(26,213)	20,293	4,110	–	(600)	(4,267)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	48,486	(28,950)	19,536
Office equipment	11,947	(9,038)	2,909	1,117	–	–	(1,280)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13,065	(10,319)	2,746
Furniture and fittings	3,184	(2,030)	1,154	73	–	–	(302)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,257	(2,332)	925
Land:																		
– Operational land	306,586	–	306,586	–	10,319	(10)	–	–	–	–	(348)	–	–	–	51,364	367,911	–	367,911
– Community land	367,196	(760)	366,436	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	280	–	–	(2,341)	–	365,135	(760)	364,375
– Crown land	120,906	–	120,906	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	120,906	–	120,906
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	8,579	–	8,579	–	3,091	(4)	–	(5,603)	–	–	68	–	–	(2,569)	–	3,562	–	3,562
Infrastructure:																		
– Buildings – non-specialised	281,037	(106,383)	174,654	130	–	(99)	(5,004)	–	–	2,306	(2,855)	–	–	–	68,949	429,019	(190,938)	238,081
– Buildings – specialised	419,151	(222,139)	197,012	3,220	–	(305)	(7,116)	–	(598)	3,176	2,109	–	–	–	81,439	533,215	(254,278)	278,937
– Other structures	18,821	(9,655)	9,166	562	–	(856)	(707)	–	–	379	397	–	–	–	6,414	21,358	(6,003)	15,355
– Roads	2,061,164	(1,142,210)	918,954	–	16,705	(5,947)	(29,890)	–	–	28,703	(14)	–	–	–	45,255	2,188,536	(1,214,770)	973,766
– Bridges	151,182	(49,984)	101,198	–	6,563	(720)	(2,072)	–	–	3,817	–	–	–	–	5,019	169,139	(55,334)	113,805
– Footpaths	387,729	(184,529)	203,200	–	6,657	(804)	(5,405)	–	–	11,532	122	–	–	–	10,256	423,100	(197,542)	225,558
– Stormwater drainage	1,716,026	(783,826)	932,200	–	23,771	(135)	(19,011)	–	–	5,673	–	–	–	–	46,420	1,832,317	(843,399)	988,918
– Swimming pools	48,964	(34,648)	14,316	–	–	–	(764)	–	–	135	–	–	–	–	877	52,247	(37,683)	14,564
– Other open space/recreational assets	248,989	(91,390)	157,599	–	–	(1,423)	(7,020)	–	–	6,858	241	–	–	–	9,829	270,698	(104,614)	166,084
Other assets:																		
– Heritage collections	15,991	–	15,991	–	631	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16,622	–	16,622
– Library books	8,667	(3,767)	4,900	1,345	–	–	(1,242)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10,012	(5,009)	5,003
– Other	58,135	(15,258)	42,877	–	–	–	(1,487)	–	–	1,427	–	–	–	–	–	59,561	(16,744)	42,817
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note C3-5):																		
– Tip assets	9,410	(9,410)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,177	–	–	17,587	(9,410)	8,177
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6,371,552	(2,691,240)	3,680,312	64,335	92,171	(10,903)	(85,567)	(5,603)	(598)	–	–	(7,085)	8,177	(4,910)	325,822	7,034,236	(2,978,085)	4,056,151

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

continued on next page ...

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Initial recognition of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

IPPE is measured initially at cost. Cost includes the fair value of the consideration given to acquire the asset (net of discounts and rebates) and any directly attributable cost of bringing the asset to working condition for its intended use (inclusive of import duties and taxes).

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are acquired by Council at significantly below fair value, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Useful lives of IPPE

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Plant and equipment	Years	Other equipment	Years
Office equipment	2 to 25	Playground equipment	5 to 40
Office furniture	5 to 34	Benches, seats etc.	10 to 32
Computer equipment	2 to 10		
Vehicles	2 to 20	**Buildings**	
Heavy plant/road making equipment	3 to 34	Buildings: masonry	50 to 268
Other plant and equipment	2 to 34	Buildings: other	8 to 135
Stormwater assets		**Other infrastructure assets**	
Drains	20 to 170	Bulk earthworks	Indefinite
Culverts	20 to 170	Swimming pools	40 to 100
Flood control structures	20 to 170	Other open space/recreational assets	3 to 115
		Other infrastructure	10 to 105
Transportation assets			
Roads: seal	8 to 95		
Roads: base	15 to 145		
Roads: sub-base	15 to 145		
Bridge: concrete	80		
Bridge: other	20 to 80		
Kerb, gutter and footpaths	20 to 104		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date. Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the Income Statement.

Revaluation Model

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

continued on next page ...

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Crown reserves
Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated. Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

Rural Fire Service assets
Under Section 119 of the *Rural Fire Services Act 1997 (NSW)*, "all firefighting equipment purchased or constructed wholly or from money to the credit of the Fund is to be vested in the council of the area for or on behalf of which the firefighting equipment has been purchased or constructed".

These Rural Fire Service assets are recognised as assets of the Council in these financial statements.

C1-9 Investment properties

Owned investment property

$ '000	2025	2024
At fair value		
Opening balance at 1 July	**5,100**	5,050
Net gain/(loss) from fair value adjustments	**550**	50
Closing balance at 30 June	**5,650**	5,100

Material accounting policy information
Investment property, principally comprising freehold office buildings, is held for long-term rental yields and is not occupied by the Council. Changes in fair values are recorded in the Income Statement as part of other income.

C1-10 Intangible assets

$ '000	2025	2024
Software		
Opening values at 1 July		
Gross book value	**2,345**	2,345
Accumulated amortisation	**(2,345)**	(2,345)
Net book value – opening balance	**–**	–
Closing values at 30 June		
Gross book value	**2,345**	2,345
Accumulated amortisation	**(2,345)**	(2,345)
Total intangible assets – net book value	**–**	–

Material accounting policy information

IT development and software

Software development costs include only those costs directly attributable to the development phase (including external direct costs of materials and services, direct payroll, and payroll-related costs of employees' time spent on the project) and are only recognised following completion of technical feasibility, and where the Council has an intention and ability to use the asset. Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over periods generally ranging from three to five years.

C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council has leases over land and buildings. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

Land & Buildings
Council leases land and building for libraries and other operations; these leases are between 5 and 30 years and some include a renewal option to allow Council to renew the lease term. These leases contain an annual pricing mechanism based on either fixed increases or CPI movements at each anniversary of the lease inception.

Extension options
Council includes extension options in some of their leases to provide flexibility and certainty to Council operations and reduce costs of moving premises. These extension options are at Council's discretion.

At commencement date and each subsequent reporting date, Council assesses where it is reasonably certain that the extension options will be exercised.

There are $6.2M in potential future lease payments which are not included in lease liabilities as Council has assessed that the exercise of the option is not reasonably certain.

(a) Right of use assets

$ '000	Land & Buildings	Total
2025		
Opening balance at 1 July	**1,332**	**1,332**
Additions to right-of-use assets	**1,444**	**1,444**
Depreciation charge	**(470)**	**(470)**
Other movement	**(30)**	**(30)**
Balance at 30 June	**2,276**	**2,276**
2024		
Opening balance at 1 July	718	718
Additions to right-of-use assets	1,032	1,032
Depreciation charge	(456)	(456)
Other movement	38	38
Balance at 30 June	1,332	1,332

(b) Lease liabilities

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Lease liabilities	**395**	**2,072**	460	963
Total lease liabilities	**395**	**2,072**	460	963

continued on next page ...

C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

(c) The maturity analysis

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

$ '000	< 1 year	1 – 5 years	> 5 years	Total	Total per Statement of Financial Position
2025					
Cash flows	**395**	**116**	**1,970**	**2,481**	**2,467**
2024					
Cash flows	460	948	31	1,439	1,423

(d) Income Statement

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to leases where Council is a lessee are shown below:

$ '000	2025	2024
Interest on lease liabilities	**137**	56
Depreciation of right of use assets	**470**	456
	607	512

(e) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	**507**	487
	507	487

(f) Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has a number of leases at significantly below market for land and infrastructure which are used for:

- pedestrian crossings and bridges
- boat ramp

The leases are generally for an extended period of time and require payments of a maximum amount of $1,000 per year. Council does not believe that any of the leases in place are individually material from a statement of financial position or performance perspective.

Material accounting policy information

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration?

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

At the lease commencement, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where Council believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Council's incremental borrowing rate for a similar term with similar security is used.

continued on next page ...

C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is re-measured when there is a lease modification, or change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI).

Where the lease liability is re-measured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the re-measurement.

Exceptions to lease accounting
Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Leases at significantly below market value / concessionary leases
Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

C2-2 Council as a lessor

Operating leases

Council leases out a number of properties; these leases have been classified as operating leases for financial reporting purposes and the assets are included in the Statement of Financial Position as:

– investment property – where the asset is held predominantly for rental or capital growth purposes (refer note C1-9)

– property, plant and equipment – where the rental is incidental, or the asset is held to meet Councils service delivery objective (refer note C1-8).

$ '000	2025	2024
(i) Assets held as investment property		
The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	**480**	528
Total income relating to operating leases for investment property assets	**480**	528
Operating lease expenses		
Direct operating expenses that generated rental income	**163**	138
Total expenses relating to operating leases	**163**	138
(ii) Assets held as property, plant and equipment		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	**6,555**	5,809
Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets	**6,555**	5,809
(iii) Maturity analysis of contractual lease income: investment property		
Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:		
< 1 year	**372**	278
1–2 years	**253**	133
2–3 years	**130**	77
3–4 years	**54**	41
Total undiscounted lease payments to be received	**809**	529

Material accounting policy information

When Council is a lessor, the lease is classified as either an operating or finance lease at inception date, based on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset have been transferred to the lessee. If the risks and rewards have been transferred then the lease is classified as a finance lease, otherwise it is an operating lease.

continued on next page ...

C2-2 Council as a lessor (continued)

When Council has a sub-lease over an asset and is the intermediate lessor then the head lease and sub-lease are accounted for separately. The classification of the sub-lease is based on the right-of-use asset which arises from the head lease rather than the useful life of the underlying asset.

If the lease contains lease and non-lease components, the non-lease components are accounted for in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

The lease income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term for an operating lease and as finance income using amortised cost basis for finance leases.

C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Prepaid rates	**4,974**	**–**	4,517	–
Goods and services – operating expenditure	**–**	**–**	1,207	–
Goods and services – capital expenditure	**2,324**	**–**	975	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Other expenditure accruals	**17,226**	**–**	12,821	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	**2,254**	**–**	2,087	–
Agency Funds	**40**	**–**	28	–
Other	**667**	**–**	638	–
Total payables	**27,485**	**–**	22,273	–

Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

$ '000	2025	2024
Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	**503**	581
Total payables	**503**	581

Material accounting policy information

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Council comprise trade payables and loans.

Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C3-2 Contract Liabilities

$ '000	Notes	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Unexpended capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	**10,984**	**–**	3,817	–
Unexpended operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	**847**	**–**	999	–
Unexpended capital contributions (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	**114**	**–**	114	–
Unexpended operating contributions (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	**539**	**–**	826	–
Total grants received in advance		**12,484**	**–**	5,756	–
Other contract liabilities:					
Upfront fees and charges	(iii)	**4,773**	**–**	3,887	–
Funds received prior to performance obligations being satisfied (upfront payments) - AASB 15	(iv)	**5,917**	**–**	2,900	–
Total user fees and charges received in advance		**10,690**	**–**	6,787	–
Total contract liabilities		**23,174**	**–**	12,543	–

Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

(ii) The contract liability relates to operating grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria in AASB 15 being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

(iii) Fees paid upfront for the delivery of specific Council services are recorded as a contract liability on receipt and recognised as revenue when the performance obligations are met.

(iv) Council has entered into a contract in relation to which the performance obligation is expected to be met during the year ending 30 June 2025. Payments made prior to the performance obligation being met are recorded as a contract liability on receipt and recognised as revenue when the performance obligation is met.

(i) Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period

$ '000	2025	2024
Capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	**435**	1,988
Operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	**562**	1,224
Operating contributions (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	**287**	399
Upfront fees	**1,453**	1,715
Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	**2,737**	5,326

Significant changes in contract liabilities

The contract liabilities are higher than the previous year primarily due to the receipt of funds prior to performance obligation being satisfied.

Material accounting policy information

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer, Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

C3-3 Borrowings

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Loans – secured [1]	–	–	657	–
Total borrowings	**–**	**–**	**657**	**–**

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council. Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note E1.

(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

$ '000	2024 Opening Balance	Cash flows	Non-cash movements: Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	2025 Closing balance
Loans – secured	657	**(657)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
Lease liability (Note C2-1)	1,423	**(506)**	**1,444**	**(31)**	**–**	**137**	**2,467**
Total liabilities from financing activities	2,080	**(1,163)**	**1,444**	**(31)**	**–**	**137**	**2,467**

$ '000	2023 Opening Balance	Cash flows	Non-cash movements: Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	2024 Closing balance
Loans – secured	3,229	(2,572)	–	–	–	–	657
Lease liability (Note C2-1)	784	(487)	1,032	–	–	94	1,423
Total liabilities from financing activities	4,013	(3,059)	1,032	–	–	94	2,080

(b) Financing arrangements

$ '000	2025	2024
Total facilities		
Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
Bank overdraft facilities [1]	**600**	600
Credit cards/purchase cards	**350**	350
Total financing arrangements	**950**	950
Drawn facilities		
Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	**115**	98
Total drawn financing arrangements	**115**	98
Undrawn facilities		
Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
– Bank overdraft facilities	**600**	600
– Credit cards/purchase cards	**235**	252
Total undrawn financing arrangements	**835**	852

Additional financing arrangements information

Breaches and defaults
During the current and prior year, there were no defaults or breaches on any of the loans.

(1) The bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

continued on next page ...

C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down.

Borrowings are removed from the Statement of Financial Position when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in other income or borrowing costs.

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Annual leave	**12,666**	**–**	13,136	–
Sick leave	**26**	**–**	25	–
Long service leave	**41,295**	**695**	41,208	875
Other leave	**2,125**	**–**	2,016	–
Total employee benefit provisions	**56,112**	**695**	56,385	875

Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

$ '000	2025	2024
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	**40,809**	42,119
	40,809	42,119

$ '000	ELE provisions Employee Benefit Provisions	Total
2025		
At beginning of year	**57,260**	**57,260**
Additional provisions	**16,740**	**16,740**
Amounts used (payments)	**(19,204)**	**(19,204)**
Remeasurement effects	**2,011**	**2,011**
Total ELE provisions at end of year	**56,807**	**56,807**
2024		
At beginning of year	59,007	59,007
Additional provisions	15,422	15,422
Amounts used (payments)	(18,413)	(18,413)
Remeasurement effects	1,244	1,244
Total ELE provisions at end of year	57,260	57,260

Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave and vested long service leave (or that which vests within 12 months) is presented as current.

Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

continued on next page ...

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions (continued)

On-costs
The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods. These amounts include superannuation which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

C3-5 Provisions

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-Current	2024 Current	2024 Non-Current
Other provisions				
Self insurance – workers compensation	**4,886**	**9,611**	4,023	9,602
Self insurance – claims incurred	**272**	**–**	292	–
Sub-total – other provisions	**5,158**	**9,611**	4,315	9,602
Asset remediation/restoration:				
Asset remediation/restoration (future works)	**250**	**40,296**	125	39,208
Sub-total – asset remediation/restoration	**250**	**40,296**	125	39,208
Total provisions	**5,408**	**49,907**	4,440	48,810

Description of and movements in provisions

	Other provisions			
$ '000	Self Insurance: Workers compen-sation	Self Insurance: Claims incurred	Asset remediation	Total
2025				
At beginning of year	**13,625**	**292**	**39,333**	**53,250**
Unwinding of discount	**597**	**–**	**1,003**	**1,600**
Additional provisions	**4,288**	**–**	**–**	**4,288**
Amounts used (payments)	**(5,721)**	**–**	**(37)**	**(5,758)**
Remeasurement effects	**1,708**	**(20)**	**247**	**1,935**
Expenditure incurred attributable to provisions	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
Total other provisions at end of year	**14,497**	**272**	**40,546**	**55,315**
2024				
At beginning of year	13,119	281	17,401	30,801
Unwinding of discount	–	–	620	620
Additional provisions	4,624	11	21,312	25,947
Amounts used (payments)	(5,333)	–	–	(5,333)
Remeasurement effects	1,215	–	–	1,215
Expenditure incurred attributable to provisions	–	–	–	–
Total other provisions at end of year	13,625	292	39,333	53,250

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation
Council has a legal/public obligation to make, restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the open Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot and the closed Helensburgh Waste Depot.

Self-insurance - workers compensation
To recognise liabilities for outstanding claims (uninsured losses) arising from Council's decision to undertake self-insurance for excesses up to $1,000,000 on any individual claim. Claims beyond this are supported by an external insurance policy.

Self-insurance - claims incurred
To recognise liabilities for both (i) claims expected to be incurred but not reported and (ii) claims reported and estimated as a result of Council being self insured up to an excess of $100,000 on any individual claim.

Material accounting policy information

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

continued on next page ...

C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

Asset Remediation/Restoration

Restoration
Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs.

Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The costs are estimated on the basis of a closure plan. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

Rehabilitation
Where rehabilitation is conducted systematically over the life of the operation, rather than at the time of closure, provision is made for the estimated outstanding continuous rehabilitation work at each reporting date, and the cost is charged to the Income Statement.

Provision is made for the estimated present value of the costs of environmental clean-up obligations outstanding at the reporting date. These costs are charged to the Income Statement. Movements in the environmental clean-up provisions are presented as an operating cost, except for the unwinding of the discount which is shown as a borrowing cost.

Remediation procedures generally commence soon after the time the damage, remediation process, and estimated remediation costs become known, and may continue for many years depending on the nature of the disturbance and the remediation techniques.

As noted above, the ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

Close-down and restoration costs are a normal consequence of tip and quarry operations, and the majority of close-down and restoration expenditure is incurred at the end of the life of the operations. Although the ultimate cost to be incurred is uncertain, Council estimates the respective costs based on feasibility and engineering studies using current restoration standards and techniques.

Self-insurance - workers compensation
Council holds a level of self-insurance in the form of an excess layer of $1,000,000 on any individual claim for workers compensation. A provision for self-insurance has been made to recognise outstanding claims. Council also maintains a bank guarantee to meet expected future claims; refer to Note E3-1.

Self-insurance - claims incurred
Council holds a level of self-insurance in the form of an excess layer of $100,000 on any individual claim for public liability and professional indemnity. A provision for self-insurance has been made to recognise outstanding claims.

C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

IPPE Revaluation Surplus
The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

D Council structure

D1 Results by fund

Council utilises only a general fund for its operations.

D2 Interests in other entities

Subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates not recognised

The following subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates have not been recognised in this financial report.

Name of entity/operation	Principal activity/type of entity	2025 Net profit/(loss) ($'000s)	2025 Net assets ($'000s)
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre	Theatre & Town Hall Management Associate	(213)	622

Reasons for non-recognition
Council has assessed this operation as not material for recognition in these statements.

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. Council's finance area manages the cash and Investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors. Council has an investment policy which complies with s625 of the Act and the Ministerial Investment Order. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and it's staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance as required by Local Government regulations.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

The risks associated with the financial instruments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether the changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of a capital or income nature.

Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees. Council also seeks advice from independent advisers before placing any funds in cash equivalents and investments.

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

$ '000	2025	2024
The following represents a summary of the sensitivity of Council's Income Statement and accumulated surplus (for the reporting period) due to a change in either the price of a financial asset or the interest rates applicable.		
It is assumed that the change in interest rates would have been constant throughout the reporting period.		
Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	**861**	856
Impact of a 10% movement in price of investments		
Possible impact of a 10% movement in price of investments	**1,896**	7,576

continued on next page ...

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (i) rates and annual charges and (ii) user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions.

Council makes suitable provision for the impairment of receivables as required.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges < 5 years	≥ 5 years	Total
2025				
Gross carrying amount	**104**	**15,892**	**2,657**	**18,653**
2024				
Gross carrying amount	–	14,881	3,266	18,147

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

$ '000	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts 0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	Total
2025						
Gross carrying amount	**15,742**	**737**	**181**	**155**	**3,181**	**19,996**
Expected loss rate (%)	**0.48%**	**3.97%**	**5.83%**	**5.90%**	**63.50%**	**10.72%**
ECL provision	**76**	**29**	**11**	**9**	**2,020**	**2,145**
2024						
Gross carrying amount	23,475	690	302	222	3,667	28,356
Expected loss rate (%)	0.39%	5.98%	14.20%	32.05%	84.90%	11.85%
ECL provision	92	41	43	71	3,113	3,360

continued on next page ...

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk – the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels and maintaining an adequate cash buffer.

Payment terms can (in extenuating circumstances) also be extended and overdraft facilities utilised as required.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk – the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs and debt servicing requirements. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures. The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities (refer to Note C2-1(b) for lease liabilities) and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

$ '000	Weighted average interest rate	Without defined maturity	payable in: ≤ 1 Year	1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
2025							
Payables	**0.00%**	**2,254**	**25,229**	**–**	**–**	**27,483**	**27,485**
Total financial liabilities		**2,254**	**25,229**	**–**	**–**	**27,483**	**27,485**
2024							
Payables	0.00%	2,087	20,682	–	–	22,769	22,273
Borrowings	0.62%	–	663	–	–	663	657
Total financial liabilities		2,087	21,345	–	–	23,432	22,930

E2-1 Fair value measurement

Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:
– Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
– Investment property
– Financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:
Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

		Fair value measurement hierarchy					
		Date of latest valuation		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
$ '000	Notes	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Recurring fair value measurements							
Financial assets							
Financial investments	C1-2						
At fair value through profit or loss – designated at fair value on initial recognition		30/06/25	30/06/24	**81,551**	78,874	**81,551**	78,874
Total financial assets				**81,551**	78,874	**81,551**	78,874
Investment property	C1-9						
Commercial building		30/06/25~	30/06/24~	**5,650**	5,100	**5,650**	5,100
Total investment property				**5,650**	5,100	**5,650**	5,100
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8						
Roads		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**995,261**	973,766	**995,261**	973,766
Bridges		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**114,574**	113,805	**114,574**	113,805
Footpaths		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**235,428**	225,558	**235,428**	225,558
Stormwater		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**1,011,145**	988,918	**1,011,145**	988,918
Plant and equipment		N/A	N/A	**21,440**	19,536	**21,440**	19,536
Office equipment		N/A	N/A	**3,206**	2,746	**3,206**	2,746
Furniture and fittings		N/A	N/A	**706**	925	**706**	925
Operational land		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**365,010**	367,911	**365,010**	367,911
Community land		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**368,322**	364,375	**368,322**	364,375
Crown Land		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**120,906**	120,906	**120,906**	120,906
Land under roads		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**4,590**	3,562	**4,590**	3,562
Buildings		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**526,865**	517,018	**526,865**	517,018
Other structures		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**16,017**	15,355	**16,017**	15,355
Swimming pools		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**14,581**	14,564	**14,581**	14,564
Library books		N/A	N/A	**5,106**	5,003	**5,106**	5,003
Other open space/recreational assets		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**182,042**	166,084	**182,042**	166,084
Tip asset		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**7,922**	8,177	**7,922**	8,177
Works in progress		N/A	N/A	**81,023**	88,503	**81,023**	88,503
Artworks		30/06/24~	30/06/24~	**17,318**	16,622	**17,318**	16,622
Other		30/06/21~	30/06/21~	**42,529**	42,817	**42,529**	42,817
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment *,~				**4,133,991**	4,056,151	**4,133,991**	4,056,151

(*,~)(*) Valuation via an indexation review, (~) Valuation via a comprehensive review

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair value using quoted market prices of identical assets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (Level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs).

Level 2 inputs include;

- quoted prices for similar assets in active markets,
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active,
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable (e.g. interest rates, credit spreads etc.) and
- market corroborated inputs.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs. If an observable input (Level 2) requires an adjustment using an unobservable input and that adjustment results in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement, the resulting measurement is categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. Council uses unobservable inputs to the extent relevant observable inputs are not available. But the objective remains the same; i.e. an exit price from the perspective of market participants. Therefore, unobservable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use when pricing, including assumptions about risk. Assumptions about risk include risk inherent in a particular valuation technique and risk inherent in inputs to the technique. Such an adjustment may be necessary if there is a significant measurement uncertainty.

Unobservable inputs have been developed using the best information available, which includes Council's own data. In some cases, Council adjusts its own data if reasonable available information indicates other market participants would use different data or if there is an entity specific synergy (i.e. not available to other market participants).

Level 3 inputs include;

- Unit Rates,
- Unit Price,
- Asset Condition,
- Remaining Useful Life,
- Future Demands,
- Borrowing Rates.

The Fair Valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

Financial assets

Valuation Technique – A portion of Council's investment portfolio is measured at fair value (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the current price in an active market for similar assets. Emerald Reverse Mortgage investment securities form part of this portion of Council's portfolio. The market for Australian mortgage backed securities, regardless of the robustness of the structure, is highly illiquid as a direct consequence of the global financial crisis. This has caused difficulties in valuing the security as there is limited "price discovery" in the market. As such the level of valuation input for Council's fair valued investments was considered a level 3.

Investment property

Valuation Technique – Council's Investment Property is measured using sales direct comparison based on a market selling approach (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy - the fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach are rental yields and price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's investment property valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for rental yields and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Infrastructure – Council's Infrastructure incorporates;

- Roads – Surface and bases, Car Parks, Kerb and Guttering and Traffic Facilities (speed humps, bollards and signs),
- Bridges – Road, Pedestrian and Jetties,
- Footpaths including shared pathways, and
- Stormwater Drainage.

Valuation Technique – Infrastructure assets are recognised using the cost method, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is to equal the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's infrastructure inventory is to determine a unit rate based on square metres or an appropriate unit corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). A process is then undertaken to compare these rates with internal unit rates derived by Council as a result of specific projects that have been undertaken. Further to this other input such as asset condition and useful life require a significant level of professional judgement and can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for these assets was considered level 3.

Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment & Furniture & Fittings incorporate:

- Plant & Equipment – Trucks, Tractors, Graders, Rollers, Buses, Vans, Passenger Vehicles, Mobile Equipment (i.e. generators, hand mowers, tools), Fluid storage units (i.e. septic tanks, water tanks),
- Office Equipment – Electronic Whiteboards, Printing Equipment, Safes and I.T. equipment such as computers, printers and scanners,
- Furniture & Fittings – Chairs, Tables, Filing Cabinets, Bookshelves, Compactuses,

Valuation Technique – These assets are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Operational Land

Valuation Technique – Council's Operational Land is measured using a comparative market selling approach (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach is price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's operational land valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for similar properties and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Community & Crown Land

Valuation Technique – Council's Community & Crown Land is measured using comparative Land Values (LV) provided by the Valuer General (VG) or an average unit rate based on a comparable LV for similar properties (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the LV's provided by the VG or an average unit rate based on the LV for similar properties where the VG did not provide a LV. The most significant input into this valuation approach is price per square metre. Valuations provided by the VG are not in the public domain and the application of an average rate requires a level of professional judgement. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Land Under Roads

Valuation Technique – Land is generally valued using comparative Land Values (LV) provided by the Valuer General (VG) or an average unit rate based on a comparable LV for similar properties (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – The existing use fair value of land under roads is best expressed as undeveloped or englobo land (pre-subdivision). However, as sufficient sales evidence of englobo land with similar features to the land being valued is generally not available, it is appropriate to use a proxy to estimate the englobo value. Community land value is used as a reasonable proxy to value land under roads, as such land generally has no feasible alternative use, and it is undeveloped and is publicly accessible. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Buildings – Non-Specialised and Specialised

Valuation Technique – Buildings are recognised using the cost method, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is equal to the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy – Specialised and Non-Specialised buildings are generally assessed at level 3 of the fair value hierarchy due to lack of market evidence. Key inputs are unit rates and remaining useful life. The exception is non-specialised residential properties which have been valued using sale prices of comparable properties (level 2). The most significant input into this valuation approach is price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's residential property valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for rental yields and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for all buildings was considered level 3.

Other Structures

Other Structures incorporates Bus Shelters, Shade Structures, Picnic Shelters and BBQ Shelters.

Valuation Technique – Other Structures are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Other Open Space / Recreational Assets

Other Open Space/Recreational Assets incorporate Park Assets including Playgrounds, Skateboard Facilities, Tennis Courts, Furniture and Landscaping and Power Poles.

Valuation Technique – Other Open Space/Recreational Assets are recognised using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – while some elements of the cost method can be supported by market evidence (Level 2) other factors require professional judgement such as asset condition and useful life. As these inputs can have a significant impact on the fair value the valuation input all Other Open Space / Recreational Assets were considered level 3.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Swimming Pools – Structures

Valuation Technique – Swimming Pools and Rock Pools are valued using the cost approach, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's swimming pool inventory is to determine a unit rate based on square metres corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). A process is then undertaken to compare these rates with internal unit rates derived by Council as a result of specific work that has been undertaken. Further to this other input such as asset condition and useful life require a significant level of professional judgement and can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Artworks

Valuation Technique – Art Works are valued using the market approach, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is to equal the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's Artworks is to use the market price or purchase price of the original transaction or if the work is in the form of a donation an external valuation is undertaken corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). It is noted that the valuation process requires a significant level of professional judgement and this can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for artworks was considered level 3.

Library Books

Valuation Technique – These assets are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Other Assets

Other Assets is a catch all for the remaining assets held by Council and includes Waste Assets such as Cell Development and Liners, Public Art and Crematorium and Cemetery Beams and Walls.

Valuation Technique - Other Assets are recognised using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – While some elements of the cost method can be supported by market evidence (Level 2) others factors require professional judgement such as asset condition and useful life. As these inputs can have a significant impact on the fair value the valuation input all Other Assets were considered level 3.

Tip Remediation Asset

Valuation Technique – Council's Tip Remediation Asset is measured using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot will require remediation and restoration works to be carried out during and at the end of its useful life. The cash outflows relating to these remediation and restoration works have been modelled and recognised as an asset in Note C1-8 of Council's statements. Key unobservable inputs were the discount rate, cost escalation rate, timing of costs and future environmental management requirements. As such the level of valuation input for Council's tip asset was considered Level 3.

The tip remediation asset was adjusted in line with changes to the remediation provision.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A summary of the Fair Valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

Asset Category	Valuation Frequency	Description of Process	Valuer*	Responsibility
Financial Assets	Monthly	Monthly valuation using the current price in an active market for similar assets	External	Finance Division
Investment Properties	Annually	Assessed each year for material change and adjusted accordingly	External	Property Division
Infrastructure	5 years	Full valuation using current unit rates and comparable work. Assessed each year for material change and adjusted accordingly	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Plant & Equipment	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Office Equipment & Furniture & Fittings	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Operational Land	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External	Property Division
Community & Crown Land	5 Years	Valuer General Land Values or Average Unit Rate for similar properties if not available	Valuer General / Internal	Property / Finance Division
Land Under Roads	5 Years	Valuer General Land Values or Average Unit Rate used as proxy to derive en globo rate	Valuer General / Internal	Finance Division
Buildings – Non Specialised & Specialised	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External / Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division / Property Division
Intangibles	5 Years	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Other Structures	5 Years	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Asset Category	Valuation Frequency	Description of Process	Valuer*	Responsibility
Other Open Space / Recreational Assets	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Swimming Pools - Structures	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External / Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Library Books	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Other Assets	5 years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	Internal	Various
Tip Remediation Asset	Annually	Reassessment of discount rate and application to discounted cash flows if material	Internal	Finance Division

*Internal Valuation refers to the utilisation of in-house expertise to value Council's assets.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy by class of assets is provided below:

	Financial assets		Investment property		IPP&E		Total	
$ '000	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024
Opening balance	**78,874**	56,286	**5,100**	5,050	**4,056,151**	3,680,312	**4,140,125**	3,741,648
Total gains or losses for the period								
Recognised in profit or loss – realised [1]	**953**	1,414	**550**	50	**–**	(5,603)	**1,503**	(4,139)
Recognised in other comprehensive income – revaluation surplus	**–**	–	**–**	–	**98,777**	320,912	**98,777**	320,912
Other movements								
Purchases (GBV)	**6,500**	29,600	**–**	–	**101,760**	156,507	**108,260**	186,107
Disposals (WDV)	**(4,154)**	(8,426)	**–**	–	**(8,369)**	(10,903)	**(12,523)**	(19,329)
Depreciation and impairment	**–**	–	**–**	–	**(97,626)**	(86,165)	**(97,626)**	(86,165)
Waste remediation reassessment	**–**	–	**–**	–	**(56)**	8,176	**(56)**	8,176
Transfer to expense	**–**	–	**–**	–	**(16,646)**	(7,085)	**(16,646)**	(7,085)
Closing balance	**82,173**	78,874	**5,650**	5,100	**4,133,991**	4,056,151	**4,221,814**	4,140,125

(1) Fair value gains recognised in the Income Statement relating to assets still on hand at year end total

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED

1. Land under roads

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account land under roads that it owned or controlled up to and including 30 June 2008.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Bank Guarantees

Council has provided Bank Guarantees totalling $6,831,519 (2024: $2,001,081) as security over damages for work that may impact a third party.

Council has provided security to Work Cover for outstanding workers compensation claims liability in the form of a bank guarantee to the sum of $13,326,000 (2024: $13,326,000).

2. Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Active Super), named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme - Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

Description of the funding arrangements

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 9.0% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2025 (increasing to 9.5% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee from 1 July 2025) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of $20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June.
Given the funding position of the Fund as at 30 June 2024, it was recommended to cease these past service contributions effective 1 January 2025.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each actuarial investigation which will be conducted annually, the next of which is due effective 30 June 2025.

continued on next page ...

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding past service contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

The amount of Council employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was $1,492,251.48. The last formal valuation of the Scheme was performed by fund actuary, Richard Boyfield, FIAA as at 30 June 2024.

Council's expected contribution to the plan for the next annual reporting period is $542,285.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2025 is:

Employer reserves only *	$'000	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,197.6	
Past Service Liabilities	2,092.0	105.0%
Vested Benefits	2,130.4	103.2%

* excluding other accumulation accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

The share of any funding surplus or deficit that can be attributed to Council is 4.93%

Council's share of that deficiency cannot be accurately calculated as the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils. For this reason, no liability for the deficiency has been recognised in Council's accounts. Council has a possible obligation that may arise should the Scheme require immediate payment to correct the deficiency.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.0% per annum
Salary inflation	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	2.5% per annum

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

The estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Fund's Actuary, the final end of year review, which will be a triennial actuarial investigation will be completed by December 2025.

3. Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various third party claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its functions and services. Council believes that it ordinarily holds adequate insurance coverage in relation to these third party claims and would not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

continued on next page ...

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

4. Development Contributions

Council levies Development Contributions upon various development across the Council area through the required Contributions Plans. As part of these Plans, Council has received funds for which it will be required to expend the monies in accordance with those Plans.

As well, these Plans indicate proposed future expenditure to be undertaken by Council, which will be funded by making levies and receipting funds in future years or where a shortfall exists by the use of Council's General Funds.

These future expenses do not yet qualify as liabilities as of the Reporting Date, but represent Councils intention to spend funds in the manner and timing set out in those plans.

5. Greenhouse Park

Council owns and manages a former landfill site at Greenhouse Park. The landfill was constructed prior to contemporary environmental regulations and used as both a putrescible and builders waste landfill. Following the closure of the site as a landfill, remediation of the site has been progressively occurring to transform the site into a natural area.

Council is also working with the EPA and specialised consultants to manage the landfill waste which was placed on the site. Total remediation costs at this stage are unknown and will be dependent on the remediation strategies implemented. Council is currently working with the EPA and specialised consultants to determine the remediation actions required.

6. Native Title

In January 2018, the National Native Title Tribunal accepted registration of a native title claim that included the Wollongong LGA. The claim is now before the Federal Court, and Council is one of a number of defendants to those proceedings. Private freehold land, and certain other land owned by Council is not affected. The claim will take some time to determine before the Federal Court.

F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly. During the financial year 27 (2024: 19) persons were identified as meeting the definition of a KMP. The number of KMP is higher than prior year as a result of October 2024 Councillor Elections.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

$ '000	2025	2024
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	**2,730**	2,693
Total	**2,730**	2,693

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has assessed other transactions with KMP and their related parties as not material for recognition in these statements.

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

$ '000	2025	2024
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	**111**	107
Councillors' fees	**499**	507
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	**106**	73
Total	**716**	687

F1-3 Other related parties

$ '000	Transactions during the year	Terms and conditions
2025		
Associates		
Marketing, events, business and investment in LGA	**1,701**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Event sponsorship & support	**15**	Based on specific events.
Advertisement	**8**	
Performing Arts Centre management	**1,287**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Town Hall management	**849**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Asset Maintenance	**142**	
Community Subsidy	**20**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Venue Hire	**16**	

continued on next page ...

F1-3 Other related parties (continued)

$ '000	Transactions during the year	Terms and conditions
2024		
Associates		
Marketing, events, business and investment in LGA	1,560	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Event sponsorship & support	18	Based on specific events.
Advertisement	6	
Performing Arts Centre management	826	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Town Hall management	544	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Asset Maintenance	115	
Community Subsidy	20	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Venue Hire	20	

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

$ '000	2025	2024
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms		
Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Audit and review of financial statements	**257**	261
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	**257**	261
Total Auditor-General remuneration	**257**	261
Non NSW Auditor-General audit firms		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Other audit and assurance services	**52**	25
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	**52**	25
Total remuneration of non NSW Auditor-General audit firms	**52**	25
Total audit fees	**309**	286

G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

(a) Reconciliation of Operating Result

$ '000	2025	2024
Net operating result from Income Statement	**(10,238)**	40,989
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**98,096**	86,023
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	**6,276**	10,120
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	**(14,623)**	(59,964)
Prior period WIP written off during year	**16,701**	7,085
Losses/(gains) recognised on fair value re-measurements through the P&L:		
– Investments classified as 'at fair value' or 'held for trading'	**(1,845)**	(1,306)
– Investment property	**(550)**	(50)
– Fair value movement on CivicRisk Mutual	**–**	(255)
Unwinding of discount rates on reinstatement provisions	**1,003**	620
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	**2,450**	(103)
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	**(295)**	831
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	**12**	(38)
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	**417**	2,790
(Increase) / decrease of contract asset	**5,405**	(6,976)
Increase / (decrease) in payables	**(1,207)**	280
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	**4,405**	(397)
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	**665**	(201)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	**10,631**	2,228
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	**(453)**	(1,747)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	**1,062**	21,829
Net cash flows from operating activities	**117,912**	101,758

(b) Non-cash investing and financing activities

Other dedications	**13,435**	58,757
Contributed Art Works	**515**	535
Planning Agreement - Non-cash contribution	**–**	–
Total non-cash investing and financing activities	**13,950**	59,292

G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

$ '000	2025	2024
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment		
Infrastructure	**41,740**	30,019
Total commitments	**41,740**	30,019

Details of capital commitments

Infrastructure includes Beaton Park Tennis Court Upgrade, WWARRP Stage 2B, Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation, Lindsay Maynes Park Amenities Building, Helensburgh Pool - Design, Shone Avenue Retaining Wall and Shared Pathway, Sportsground Drainage and Irrigation, West Dapto Road Upgrade, Channel & Verge Modifications - Kanahooka Road, Corrimal Steam Train Restoration, Stanwell Park Beach Reserve Playground Renewal, and Unanderra Park Playground Renewal.

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

G4 Statement of developer contributions

G4-1 Summary of developer contributions

$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year: Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
Drainage	15,958	1,338	–	–	892	–	–	18,188	–
Roads	(7,681)	9,105	–	–	(330)	(5,559)	–	(4,465)	–
Open space	6,138	866	–	–	349	(51)	–	7,302	–
Community facilities	1,502	20	–	–	82	–	–	1,604	–
Administration	(2,067)	140	–	–	(114)	(178)	–	(2,219)	–
Public transport	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
S7.11 contributions – under a plan	13,850	11,469	–	–	879	(5,788)	–	20,410	–
S7.12 levies – under a plan	37,458	7,498	–	–	2,213	(554)	–	46,615	–
Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans	51,308	18,967	–	–	3,092	(6,342)	–	67,025	–
S7.11 not under plans	381	–	–	–	20	–	–	401	–
S7.4 planning agreements	4,260	2,072	–	–	209	–	–	6,541	–
Total contributions	55,949	21,039	–	–	3,321	(6,342)	–	73,967	–

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, local infrastructure contributions, also known as developer contributions, are charged by councils when new development occurs. They help fund infrastructure like parks, community facilities, local roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage and traffic management. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

G4-2 Developer contributions by plan [1]

$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year: Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
S7.11 contributions – under a plan									
CONTRIBUTION PLAN – WEST DAPTO									
Drainage	15,958	1,338	–	–	892	–	–	18,188	–
Roads	(7,681)	9,105	–	–	(330)	(5,559)	–	(4,465)	–
Open space	6,138	866	–	–	349	(51)	–	7,302	–
Community facilities	1,502	20	–	–	82	–	–	1,604	–
Administration	(2,067)	140	–	–	(114)	(178)	–	(2,219)	–
Total	13,850	11,469	–	–	879	(5,788)	–	20,410	–

(1) The opening balances have been adjusted between categories to reflect the allocation of non-cash contributions

S7.12 Levies – under a plan

CONTRIBUTION PLAN – WOLLONGONG [A,B]									
City Wide	28,898	6,055	–	–	1,713	(521)	–	36,145	–
City Centre	8,560	1,443	–	–	500	(33)	–	10,470	–
Total	37,458	7,498	–	–	2,213	(554)	–	46,615	–

(A) The Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan is a levy based plan that reflects development activity in the Local Government Area excluding areas covered by the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan.

(B) Figures provided include amounts collected under the Wollongong City-Wide Development Plan as well as contributions received from relevant development consents approved prior to 2006 that contained conditions for contributions to be made under now repealed Development Contribution plans. These are transferred and applied towards items within the Section 7.12 Plan works schedule as the Section 7.12 Plan is the replacement for the plans repealed in June 2006.

G4-3 Contributions not under plans

$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year: Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
CONTRIBUTION PLAN – CALDERWOOD [A, B, C]									
Roads	381	–	–	–	20	–	–	401	–
Total	381	–	–	–	20	–	–	401	–

(A) The Calderwood Urban Release Area was historically in the Shellharbour City Local Government Area. However, the Urban Release Area was later expanded during the State Government's major project approval process to include land that straddles the local government boundary, which comprises 107 hectares of land in the Wollongong Local Government Area at Marshall Mount.

(B) In 2013, the Land and Environment Court imposed a development contribution condition on Stage 1 of the Calderwood development within Shellharbour City Council Local Government Area, requiring the payment of a contribution of $1,320 per lot to Wollongong City Council to be used towards upgrades of Marshall Mount Road and Yallah Road. The payments reflected in the above relate to these court proceedings.

(C) Wollongong City Council and Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited have entered into a Planning Agreement for the remainder of the contributions relating to the Calderwood development.

G4-4 S7.4 planning agreements

S7.4 planning agreements									
Roads	4,260	2,072	–	–	209	–	–	6,541	–
Total	4,260	2,072	–	–	209	–	–	6,541	–

End of the audited financial statements

H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)

H1-1 Council information and contact details

Principal place of business:
41 Burelli Street
Wollongong NSW 2500

Contact details

Mailing Address:
Locked Bag 8821
Wollongong NSW 2500

Telephone: (02) 4227 7111
Facsimile: (02) 4227 7277

Opening hours:
Administration Building: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Internet: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Email: council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Officers

GENERAL MANAGER
Greg Doyle

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER
Brian Jenkins

PUBLIC OFFICER
Todd Hopwood

AUDITORS
Audit Office of New South Wales
Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2, 201 Sussex Street,
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Elected members

LORD MAYOR
Tania Brown

COUNCILLORS
Ward 1
Dan Hayes
Richard Martin
Ryan Morris
Jess Whittaker

Ward 2
Andrew Anthony
David Brown
Kit Docker
Thomas Quinn

Ward 3
Linda Campbell
Ann Martin
Tiana Myers
Deidre Stuart

Other information

ABN: 63 139 525 939

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the general purpose financial statements

Wollongong City Council

To the Councillors of Wollongong City Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wollongong City Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
  - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the Division
  - are, in all material respects, consistent with the Council's accounting records
  - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993*, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 'Material budget variations'
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.

David Daniels
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2025
SYDNEY

Cr Tania Brown
Lord Mayor
Wollongong City Council
Locked Bag 8821
WOLLONGONG DC NSW 2500

Contact: David Daniels
Phone no: 02 9275 7103
Our ref: R008-1981756498-6234

30 October 2025

Dear Lord Mayor

Report on the Conduct of the Audit

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

I have audited the general- purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Wollongong City Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2025 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. The Report:

- must address the specific matters outlined in the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2024-25
- may include statements, comments and recommendations that I consider to be appropriate based on the conduct of the audit of the GPFS.

This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

INCOME STATEMENT

Financial performance

	2025 $m	2024 $m	Variance %
Rates and annual charges revenue	247.5	231.8	▲ 6.8
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes revenue	31.6	32.8	▼ 3.6
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes revenue	45.5	100.8	▼ 54.9
Operating result from continuing operations	(10.2)	41.0	▼ 125
Net Operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(55.7)	(59.8)	▲ 6.8

Operating result from continuing operations

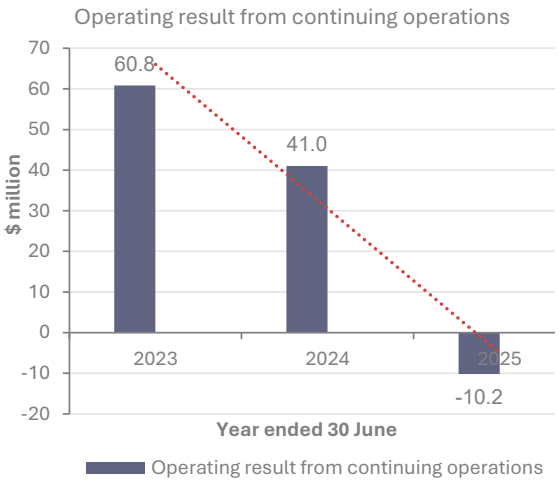
This graph shows the operating result from continuing operations for the current and prior two financial years.

The Council's operating result from continuing operations for the year of $10.2 million (loss) was $51.2 million lower than the 2023–24 result.

This was mainly due to:

- income decreased by $39.7 million because of reduced grants and contributions provided for capital purposes of $55.3 million, partially offset by increased rates and annual charges of $15.7 million. Refer to 'Council revenue' below for details.
- expenses overall remained constant, with increases in employee benefits and on-costs of $12.8 million (9.1%) offset by reduced materials and services of $12 million (9.8%)
- depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets expense increased by $12.1 million (14%) due increases in infrastructure plant, property and equipment.

The net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes (loss of $55.7 million) was $4.1 million higher than the 2023-24 result (which was a loss of $59.8 million). Refer to 'Grants and contributions revenue' below for details.



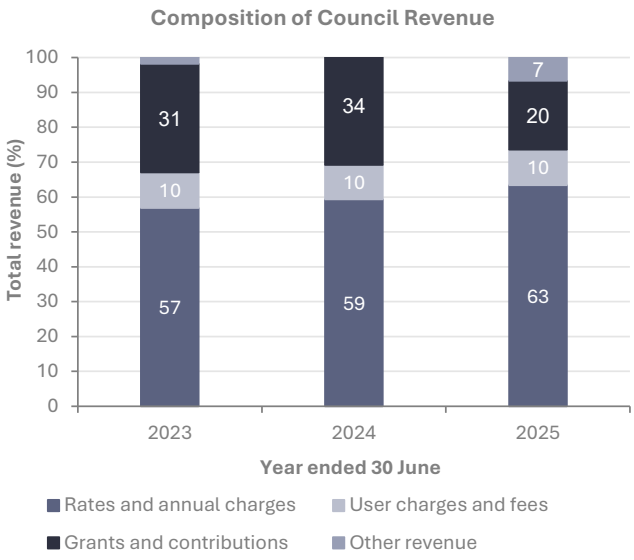
Income

Council revenue

This graph shows the composition of Council's revenue recognised for the current and prior two financial years.

The Council's revenue ($390.6 million) decreased by $39.7 million (9.2%) in 2024–25 primarily due to reduced grants and contributions provided for capital purposes ($45.5 million) of $55.3 million (54.9%). This is due to less contributed transport and other infrastructure assets from developers of subdivisions in the current year.

The decrease in grants and contributions provided for capital purposes is partially offset by increase in rates and annual charges ($247.5 million in 2024-25) by $15.7 (7%) primarily due to the rate peg increase of 5 percent and general increase in the number of rateable properties.

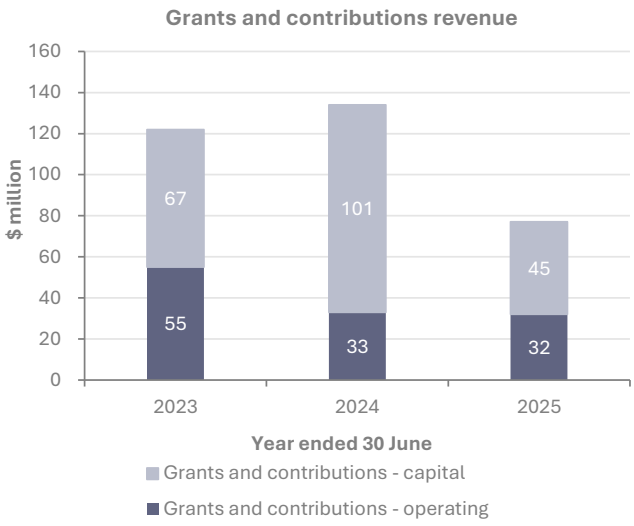


Grants and contributions revenue

This graph shows the amount of grants and contributions revenue recognised for the current and prior two financial years.

Grants and contributions revenue ($77.1 million in 2024-25) decreased by $56.5 million (42.3%) due to:

- decreased financial assistance grants ($15.5 million) by $4.8 million (23.8 per cent), primarily due to Council receiving 51 per cent for 2025-26 in advance (85 per cent was received in advance in 2023-24)
- decreased grants and contributions provided for capital purposes ($45.5 million) by $55.3 million (54.9%) as noted above.



CASH FLOWS

Statement of cash flows

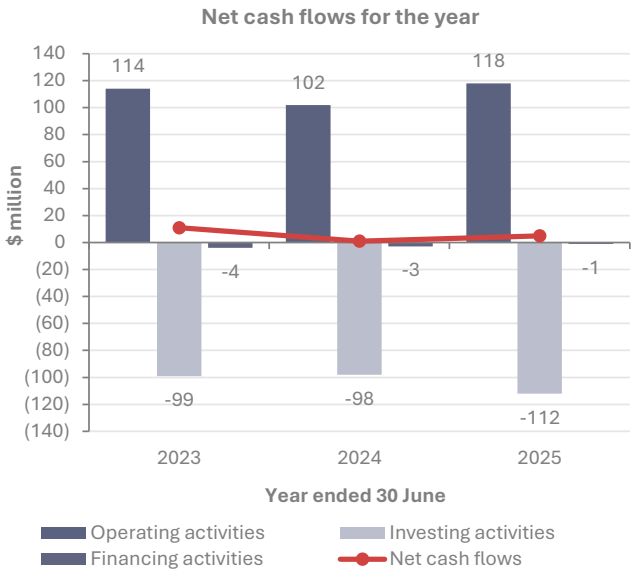
The Statement of Cash Flows details the Council's inflows and outflows of cash over a specific period. It helps in assessing the Council's ability to generate cash to fund its operations, pay off debts, and support future projects. It also aids in identifying any pressures or issues in the Council operating in a financially sustainable manner.

This graph shows the net cash flows for the current and prior two financial years.

The net cash flows for the year were positive $4.7 million (positive $0.5 million in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, the net cashflows:

- from operating activities ($117.9 million) increased by $16.2 million mainly due to increased receipts from rates and annual charges by $14.7 million and grants and contributions by $8.2 million
- used in investing activities increased by $14 million primarily due to increased acquisition of term deposits by $27.1 million. This is partially offset by increased proceeds from the sale or maturity of investments by $12.8 million.
- used in financing activities decreased by $2 million due mainly to reduced payments of borrowings by $1.9 million.



FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash, cash equivalents and investments

This section of the Report provides details of the amount of cash, cash equivalents and investments recorded by the Council at 30 June 2025.

Externally restricted funds are the cash, cash equivalents and investments that can only be used for specific purposes due to legal or contractual restrictions.

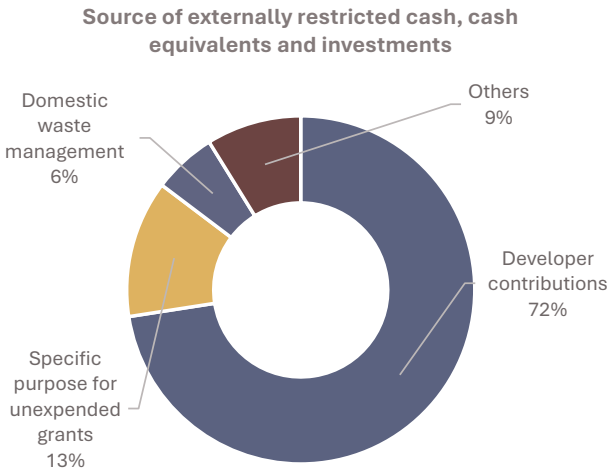
Cash, cash equivalents, and investments without external restrictions can be allocated internally by the elected Council's resolution or policy. These allocations are matters of Council policy and can be changed or removed by a Council resolution.

Cash, cash equivalents and investments	2025	2024	Percentage to cash and investments 2025	Commentary
	$m	$m	%	
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	**214.5**	**179.5**		Externally restricted balances are those which are only available for specific use due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contract. A breakdown of the sources of externally restricted balances is included in the graph below.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:				
• External restrictions	102.2	86.9	47.6	Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change.
• Internal allocations	68.6	68.7	32.0	External restrictions increased mainly due to increased developer contributions of $18 million (32%).

This graph shows the sources of externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments.

In 2024-25, the Council's main sources of externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments include:

- developer contributions of $74 million which increased by $18 million (32%)
- specific purpose unexpended grants of $13.4 million which increased by $1.7 million (14.1%).



Council liquidity

This graph shows the Council's unrestricted current ratio for the current and prior two financial years.

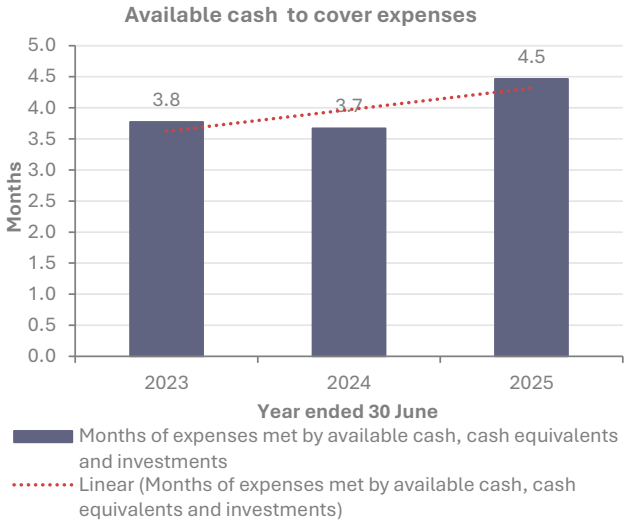
The unrestricted current ratio is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. It measures the ratio of unrestricted current assets to current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities.

In 2023-24, the average unrestricted current ratio was an average of 3.1x for regional councils.

This graph shows the number of months of general fund expenses (excluding depreciation and borrowing costs), the Council can fund from its available cash, cash equivalents and investments (not subject to external restrictions).

Further details on cash, cash equivalents and investments including the sources of external restrictions are included in the section above.

In 2023–24, the available cash to cover expenses was an average of 7 months for regional councils.

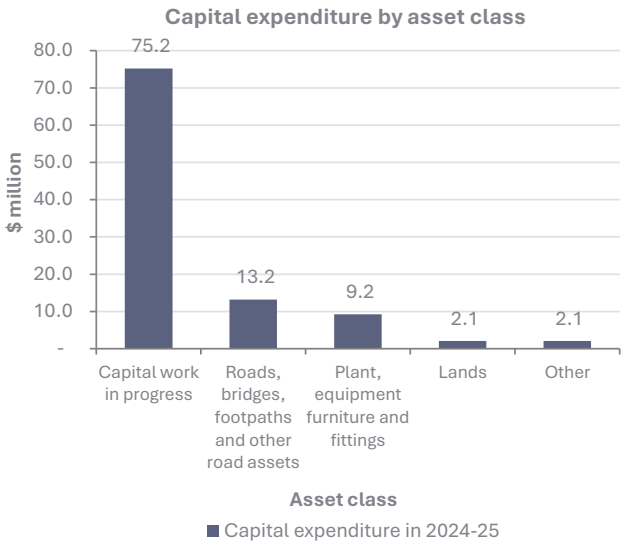


Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

This graph shows how much the Council spent on renewing and purchasing assets in 2024-25.

The Council acquired $101.8 million of new, replacement and contributed assets in 2024-25. At 30 June 2025, $75.2 million of capital works was in progress and mainly related to Traffic Facility Improvements, West Dapto Infrastructure expansion, Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation, and various design works for future projects. A further $13.2 million was spent on roads, footpaths and stormwater drainage.

Renewals were materially in line with prior year. Additions of new assets decreased by $55.7 million (60.5 %) in 2024-25 compared to last year, mainly relating to the decline in additions to operational land, land under roads, roads, footpaths and stormwater drainage.



OTHER MATTERS

Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

David Daniels
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Wollongong City Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents Page

Statement by Councillors and Management 3

Special Purpose Financial Statements:

Income Statement of Waste Disposal 4
Income Statement of Tourist parks 5
Income Statement of Health & Fitness 6

Statement of Financial Position of Waste Disposal 7
Statement of Financial Position of Tourist parks 8
Statement of Financial Position of Health & Fitness 9

Note – Material accounting policy information 10

Auditor's Report on Special Purpose Financial Statements 13

Background

i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.

ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than $2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the NSW Government Policy Statement *'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'*,
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines *'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality'*,
- the Local Government *Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*,

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 27 October 2025.

Tania Brown
Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Linda Campbell
Deputy Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Greg Doyle
General Manager
27 October 2025

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
27 October 2025

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Waste Disposal

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	**30,140**	29,903
Rental Income	**241**	253
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**694**	16
Other income	**486**	643
Total income from continuing operations	**31,561**	30,815
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**2,772**	2,555
Borrowing costs	**1,003**	620
Materials and services [1]	**6,089**	17,821
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**1,528**	1,338
Calculated taxation equivalents	**612**	539
Waste levy	**13,634**	12,252
Total expenses from continuing operations	**25,638**	35,125
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**5,923**	(4,310)
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**5,923**	(4,310)
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**5,923**	(4,310)
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(1,481)**	–
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**4,442**	(4,310)
Plus accumulated surplus	**16,973**	30,615
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**612**	539
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**1,481**	–
– Dividend paid	**(13,876)**	(9,871)
Closing accumulated surplus	**9,632**	16,973
Return on capital %	**22.4%**	(5.9)%
Subsidy from Council	**–**	6,393
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**4,442**	(4,310)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**4,442**	–
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**2,221**	–

(1) Each financial year the provision for the remediation of Council's waste facility is calculated based on the forecast costs to rehabilitate the site. The movements in the provision are generally recognised against the value of the corresponding asset.

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Tourist parks

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	**9,593**	9,661
Rental Income	**53**	158
Other income	**–**	4
Total income from continuing operations	**9,646**	9,823
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**3,930**	3,919
Materials and services	**3,228**	3,136
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**1,451**	1,294
Calculated taxation equivalents	**664**	494
Total expenses from continuing operations	**9,273**	8,843
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**373**	980
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**373**	980
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**373**	980
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(93)**	(245)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**280**	735
Plus accumulated surplus	**6,952**	8,425
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**664**	494
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**93**	245
– Dividend paid	**(2,301)**	(2,947)
Closing accumulated surplus	**5,688**	6,952
Return on capital %	**2.0%**	2.6%
Subsidy from Council	**1,215**	671
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**280**	735
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**280**	735
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**140**	368

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Health & Fitness

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	**3,327**	3,001
Rental Income	**29**	1
Other income	**81**	16
Total income from continuing operations	**3,437**	3,018
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**3,039**	2,905
Materials and services	**1,642**	1,266
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**63**	65
Calculated taxation equivalents	**290**	214
Total expenses from continuing operations	**5,034**	4,450
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Plus accumulated surplus	**892**	1,255
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**290**	214
– Subsidy paid/contribution to operations	**1,556**	855
Closing accumulated surplus	**1,141**	892
Return on capital %	**(38.0)%**	(17.9)%
Subsidy from Council	**1,947**	1,775
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**–**	–
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**–**	–

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Waste Disposal

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Investments	**5,982**	10,854
Total current assets	**5,982**	10,854
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**61,597**	62,853
Total non-current assets	**61,597**	62,853
Total assets	**67,579**	73,707
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	**40,546**	39,333
Total non-current liabilities	**40,546**	39,333
Total liabilities	**40,546**	39,333
Net assets	**27,033**	34,374
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**9,632**	16,973
Revaluation reserves	**17,401**	17,401
Total equity	**27,033**	34,374

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Tourist parks

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**38,180**	38,398
Total non-current assets	**38,180**	38,398
Total assets	**38,180**	38,398
Net assets	**38,180**	38,398
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**5,688**	6,952
Revaluation reserves	**32,492**	31,446
Total equity	**38,180**	38,398

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Health & Fitness

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**8,422**	7,984
Total non-current assets	**8,422**	7,984
Total assets	**8,422**	7,984
Net assets	**8,422**	7,984
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**1,141**	892
Revaluation reserves	**7,281**	7,092
Total equity	**8,422**	7,984

Note – Material accounting policy information

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

The Council's declared business activities do not operate separate stand-alone bank accounts. The declared business activities do not include any assets or liabilities that are collected/settled by the Council (primarily receivables, payables and employee benefits). The Council does not recharge the declared business for liabilities settled on their behalf nor does it pass on cash or other assets for income of the declared business it has collected. Any net asset/liability position at the end of the period is accounted for as a notional dividend declared/contribution to/from the Council through equity (accumulated surplus).

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1
(where gross operating turnover is over $2 million)

a. Waste Disposal: Manages the disposal of solid waste generated within the city.

b. Tourist Parks: Operation, management & development of tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal & Windang.

c. Health & Fitness: Responsible for the management and upkeep of Council's Leisure Centres.

Category 2
(where gross operating turnover is less than $2 million)

Nil

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs.

However, where Council does not pay some taxes, which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements.

continued on next page ...

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – **25%** (23/24 25%)

Land tax – the first $1,075,000 of combined land values attracts **0%**. For the combined land values in excess of $1,075,000 up to $6,571,000 the rate is **$100 + 1.6%**. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds $6,571,000 a premium marginal rate of **2.0%** applies.

Payroll tax – **5.45%** on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of $1,200,000.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities. Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested. Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25% (2023/24 25%).

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved. Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations.

The activities reported in these financial statements are prepared notionally for external purposes only. Separate bank accounts are not held. The overall effect of subsidies received from Council is disclosed within individual income statements to reflect the net financial position of each business activity.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Operating result before capital income + interest expense}}{\text{Written down value of I,PP\&E as at 30 June}}$$

continued on next page ...

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.25% at 30/06/25.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities. The activities reported in these financial statements are prepared notionally for external purposes only. Separate bank accounts are not held. The overall effect of dividends paid to Council is disclosed within individual income statements to reflect the net financial position of each business activity.

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Buildings and other assets used in the operation of these business activities are owned and controlled by Council. A charge for their utilisation is included in the Income Statement and these assets have been excluded from the Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment in the Statement of Financial Position. The Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment figure consists operational equipment and land as these have not been captured through the Income Statement

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the special purpose financial statements

Wollongong City Council

To the Councillors of Wollongong City Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial statements (the financial statements) of Wollongong City Council's (the Council) Declared Business Activities, which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement of each Declared Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Statement of Financial Position of each Declared Business Activity as at 30 June 2025 and the Material accounting policy information note.

The Declared Business Activities of the Council are:

- Waste disposal
- Tourist parks
- Health & fitness.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's declared Business Activities as at 30 June 2025, and their financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards described in the Material accounting policy information note and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2024–25 (LG Code).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as the auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the LG Code. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Permissible income for general rates'.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and for determining that the accounting policies, described in the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements in the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.

David Daniels
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2025
SYDNEY

Wollongong City Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

Special Schedules
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents Page

Special Schedules:

Permissible income for general rates 3
Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025 4

Wollongong City Council

Permissible income for general rates

$ '000	Notes	Calculation 2024/25	**Calculation 2025/26**
Notional general income calculation [1]			
Last year notional general income yield	a	191,188	**201,700**
Plus or minus adjustments [2]	b	820	**723**
Notional general income	c = a + b	**192,008**	**202,423**
Permissible income calculation			
Percentage increase	d	5.00%	**4.70%**
Plus percentage increase amount [3]	f = d x (c + e)	9,600	**9,514**
Sub-total	g = (c + e + f)	**201,608**	**211,937**
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	9	**5**
Less valuation objections claimed in the previous year	i	(2)	**(89)**
Sub-total	j = (h + i)	**7**	**(84)**
Total permissible income	k = g + j	201,615	**211,853**
Less notional general income yield	l	201,700	**211,852**
Catch-up or (excess) result	m = k – l	(84)	**1**
Plus income lost due to valuation objections claimed [4]	n	89	**6**
Carry forward to next year [6]	p = m + n + o	5	**7**

Notes

(1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.

(2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.

(3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).

(4) Valuation objections are unexpected changes in land values as a result of land owners successfully objecting to the land value issued by the Valuer General. Councils can claim the value of the income lost due to valuation objections in any single year.

(6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates

Wollongong City Council

To the Councillors of Wollongong City Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates (the Schedule) of Wollongong City Council (the Council) for the year ending 30 June 2026.

In my opinion, the Schedule is prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2024–25 (LG Code) and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the special purpose framework used to prepare the Schedule. The Schedule has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting obligations under the LG Code. As a result, the Schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 includes other information in addition to the Schedule and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprises the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025.

My opinion on the Schedule does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and the special purpose financial statements.

In connection with my audit of the Schedule, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Schedule or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Schedule

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation of the Schedule in accordance with the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Schedule, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the Schedule.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the Schedule is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited Schedule on any website where it may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the Schedule.

David Daniels
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2025
SYDNEY

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2024/25 Required maintenance [a]	2024/25 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings	10,230	14,599	14,013	13,636	526,865	1,017,063	8.7%	17.1%	65.3%	1.5%	7.4%
	Sub-total	**10,230**	**14,599**	**14,013**	**13,636**	**526,865**	**1,017,063**	**8.7%**	**17.1%**	**65.3%**	**1.5%**	**7.4%**
Other structures	Other structures	257	379	116	314	16,017	23,383	9.5%	50.4%	37.3%	2.6%	0.2%
	Sub-total	**257**	**379**	**116**	**314**	**16,017**	**23,383**	**9.5%**	**50.4%**	**37.3%**	**2.6%**	**0.2%**
Roads	Roads	164,907	241,598	8,712	15,459	995,261	2,260,272	25.6%	21.9%	42.0%	8.5%	2.0%
	Bridges	2,571	3,656	757	1,189	114,574	173,807	11.7%	38.7%	40.0%	2.7%	6.9%
	Footpaths	20,875	53,903	3,059	3,127	235,428	443,620	18.6%	14.3%	54.5%	10.9%	1.7%
	Sub-total	**188,353**	**299,157**	**12,528**	**19,775**	**1,345,263**	**2,877,699**	**23.7%**	**21.7%**	**43.8%**	**8.5%**	**2.3%**
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage	21,854	31,506	7,100	4,917	1,011,145	1,897,839	11.1%	28.0%	59.8%	0.7%	0.4%
	Sub-total	**21,854**	**31,506**	**7,100**	**4,917**	**1,011,145**	**1,897,839**	**11.1%**	**28.0%**	**59.8%**	**0.7%**	**0.4%**
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools & Open Space/Recreation	44,614	61,446	13,584	23,987	196,623	353,670	44.1%	1.2%	15.4%	9.8%	29.5%
	Sub-total	**44,614**	**61,446**	**13,584**	**23,987**	**196,623**	**353,670**	**44.1%**	**1.2%**	**15.4%**	**9.8%**	**29.5%**
	Total – all assets	**265,308**	**407,087**	**47,341**	**62,629**	**3,095,913**	**6,169,654**	**18.5%**	**21.8%**	**50.6%**	**5.0%**	**4.1%**

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

(1) Estimated Cost to Bring To Satisfactory Standard per Office of Local Government Requirements, reflects the estimated cost to restore all Council assets to condition '3'.

(2) Maintenance costs, per Office of Local Government Requirements, include both Maintenance and (appropriate) operational costs captured as Asset Operations in Council's financial system. Required maintenance reflects amounts calculated using benchmark data from other Group 5 Councils as % GRC.

(3) Cost to bring to agreed service level is defined as "The proportion of the GRC that have reached the intervention level based on condition." The outstanding renewal works compared to the total replacement cost of Councils assets. That is calculated as the cost of bringing condition 4 and 5 assets to condition 1.

continued on next page ...

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025 (continued)

Asset Condition Definitions #

Rating	Status
1	Excellent
2	Very Good
3	Good (Satisfactory)
4	Average
5	Poor

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

$ '000	Amounts 2025	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	Indicators 2023	Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals [1]	**65,321**	**73.30%**	72.05%	86.43%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**89,111**				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	**265,308**	**8.35%**	7.61%	3.05%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	**3,176,936**				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	**62,629**	**132.29%**	83.48%	82.06%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	**47,341**				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	**407,087**	**6.60%**	6.19%	4.62%	
Gross replacement cost	**6,169,654**				

(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

ITEM 2 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

This report is provided to present Council's Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, together with the Auditor's Report to the public, in accordance with Section 419 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended).

RECOMMENDATION

The audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, together with the Auditor's report, be presented to the public.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Steph Hummerston, Chief Financial Officer (Acting)
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

1 Audited Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

BACKGROUND

Council's Auditors, EY Canberra (EY), and the Audit Office of NSW, addressed the Council meeting of 27 October 2025 noting the finalisation of the audited financial result for the year ended 30 June 2025 as reflected in the Annual Financial Statements. Their report included representation that, in their opinion, the Annual Financial Statements were free of any material misstatements.

Following EY's presentation, Council resolved to approve the audited Annual Financial Statements and present the Annual Financial Statements, along with the Auditor's Report, to the public at its meeting of 17 November 2025 following the public notification period.

Public Notice of the presentation of the audited Annual Financial Statements at this meeting was given on Council's website on 31 October 2025.

Copies of the audited Annual Financial Statements were available for inspection by members of the public at Council's Administration Building and on the Council's website. Any person can make a written submission to Council with respect to the Annual Financial Statements up to seven (7) days after the Council meeting. Council had not received any submissions as at the time of publishing this report.

PROPOSAL

The audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, together with the Auditor's Report, be presented to the public at this meeting.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Director, Financial Audit Services, the Audit Leader and staff of EY have been consulted throughout the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements.

Executive, senior managers and relevant senior officers were requested to ensure that all appropriate information with regards to 2024-2025 transactions relating to their area/s of responsibility had either been entered into the financial records or disclosed.

The Annual Financial Statements were presented to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on 13 October 2025 and to Council on 27 October 2025.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 4 "We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community".

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Financial Services Support Services Plan.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Annual Financial Statements are required to be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended), the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and the Australian Accounting Standards. Council has professionally qualified staff to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements. Council staff have also undertaken additional training in specialised areas. A higher level of assurance is attained from Council's auditors, Audit Office of NSW.

Further to this, Council's Executive, senior management and relevant senior officers each signed a document giving the necessary assurances that:

1 No matters or occurrences have come to their attention in respect to their areas of responsibility that would materially affect the Financial Statements or disclosures therein, or which are likely to materially affect the future results or operations of the Council.

2 Should any such matters or occurrences come to their attention after the date of signing the document, the Chief Financial Officer will be immediately advised.

Consequently, there is considered to be a low risk of any material errors or omissions in reporting.

CONCLUSION

The audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, together with the Auditor's Report, are available for presentation to the public at this meeting.

Wollongong City Council

Financial Report

Year Ended 30 June 2025

wollongong
city of innovation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As General Manager of Wollongong City Council, I present the audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Financial Performance Overview

Council recorded a net operating deficit of $10.2 million, a shift from the $41.0 million surplus in the previous year. This result includes $45.5 million in capital grants and contributions, which support infrastructure growth but do not reflect the underlying operational performance. Excluding these, the underlying operating deficit was $55.7 million, slightly improved from the prior year's $59.8 million deficit.

This year's result was influenced by:

- Lower grant funding for capital and operational purposes
- Increased costs for materials and services
- Higher depreciation due to asset growth and revaluations
- Losses from disposal of assets, including work-in-progress items

The Net Operating Result for 2024–2025 amounted to deficit of $10.2M. This result includes significant year end, non-cash and one-off adjustments that impact on the Net Operating Result. These transactions include Prior Year works in progress expenses $16.6M (B3-2), timing of asset renewals resulting in a $6.3M asset disposal expense (B4-1), and an increase of $12.1M in depreciation resulting primarily from current year asset revaluations (C1-8). Although these transactions have impacted on the result, Council still generated an increase in Available Funds of $5.1M over the year and delivered a capital program of $87.8M. Council's forward estimates indicate minimal movements in Available Funds over the next 10 years, with Council generating sufficient cash to funds its services and deliver on infrastructure renewal requirements over the same period.

Asset Management

Council continues to manage a significant asset base, with total assets valued at $4.40 billion. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (IPPE) makes up 94% of this value, including roads, parks, community facilities, and more.

In 2024–2025, Council delivered $87.8 million in capital works, including:

- $22.5 million in new assets
- $65.3 million in asset renewals
- $13.9 million in contributed assets

A gain of $98.8 million was recognised from asset revaluations, reflecting ongoing investment in community infrastructure.

Cash and Investments

Council's cash and investment holdings increased to $214.5 million, up from $179.5 million last year. Of this, $46.5 million is available funds, representing unrestricted and uncommitted cash adjusted for working capital. This exceeds Council's financial strategy target, largely due to early receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant.

Liabilities and Provisions

Council's total liabilities stood at $165.2 million, with no outstanding borrowings at year-end. Key liabilities include:

- Provisions ($112.1 million), mainly for employee benefits, waste remediation, and workers' compensation
- Payables and contract liabilities, representing accrued expenses and unspent grants

The waste remediation provision increased due to rising cost estimates for rehabilitating waste sites, including

Whytes Gully and Helensburgh.

Rates and Charges

The percentage of Rates and Annual Charges outstanding decreased to 6.99%, down from 7.19% last year. Council remains committed to supporting ratepayers through cost-of-living pressures and aims to reduce this figure below the industry benchmark of 5%.

Looking Ahead

Council continues to maintain a strong financial position, with low debt levels and robust asset management practices. Work is ongoing to refine asset valuation processes and manage long-term infrastructure costs. We remain focused on delivering value to the community while navigating economic challenges.

Thank you to all staff involved in preparing these Statements and to the Audit Office of NSW for their independent review.

Greg Doyle
General Manager
Wollongong City Council

Financial Commentary 2024-2025

2024-2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

This report provides an overview of Council's 2024-2025 Annual Financial Statements. The Annual Financial Statements are prepared by Council to provide information to the community in relation to Council's financial performance and position.

The Financial Statements comprise of five key financial reports:

- Income Statement
- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Equity Statement
- Statement of Cash Flows

The Statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and the NSW Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting – 2024-2025. The Statements are reviewed by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, independently audited by the Audit Office of NSW, reported to Council, placed on public exhibition and then lodged with the Office of Local Government.

KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS

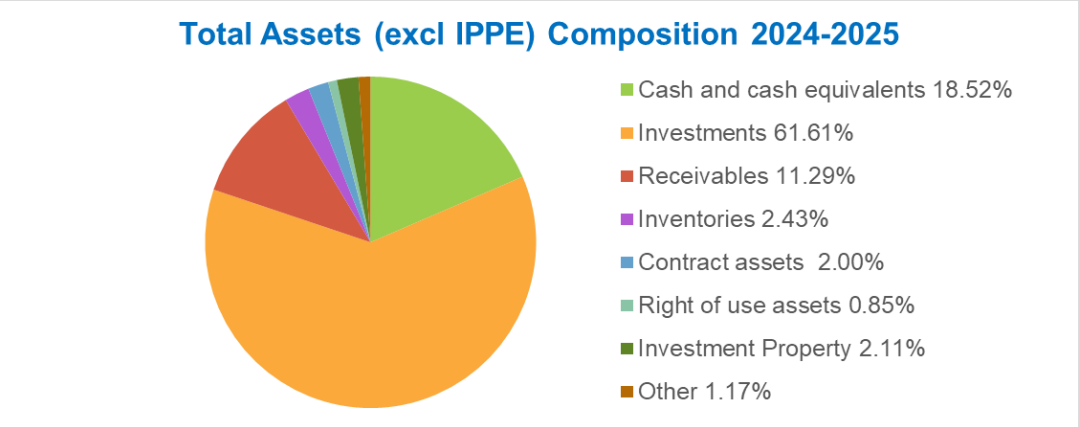
	2025 $'000	2024 $'000
Income Statement		
Net Operating Result	(10,238)	40,989
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions for Capital Purposes	(55,711)	(59,808)
Capital Grants and Contributions	45,473	100,797
Statement of Comprehensive Income		
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	98,777	320,912
Statement of Financial Position		
Cash and investments	214,510	179,474
Gross infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7,034,236	7,284,376
Carrying value of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (i.e. net of accumulated depreciation)	4,133,991	4,056,151
Total equity	4,236,418	4,147,879
Available Funds		
Balance at year end	46,473	41,346

The Net Operating Result for 2024–2025 amounted to deficit of $10.2M. This result includes significant year end, non-cash and one-off adjustments that impact on the Net Operating Result. These transactions include Prior Year works in progress expenses $16.6M (B3-2), timing of asset renewals resulting in a $6.3M asset disposal expense (B4-1), and an increase of $12.1M in depreciation resulting primarily from current year

asset revaluations (C1-8). Although these transactions have impacted on the result, Council still generated an increase in Available Funds of $5.1M over the year and delivered a capital program of $87.8M. Council's forward estimates indicate minimal movements in Available Funds over the next 10 years, with Council generating sufficient cash to funds its services and deliver on infrastructure renewal requirements over the same period.

ASSETS

Council is the custodian of community assets with a total carrying value of $4.40B as at 30 June 2025. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (IPPE) makes up $4.13B of the total asset value. The value of assets excluding IPPE was $267.7M with the composition of these asset classes shown as follows:



Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (IPPE)

With a carrying value of $4.40B, IPPE is Council's most significant asset group representing 94% of total assets value. This asset group includes roads, drains, footpaths, community facilities, recreational facilities, parks and gardens.

During 2024-2025, Council delivered a capital works program of $87.8M including the construction and purchase of $22.5M of new assets and renewal of existing assets of $65.3M. In addition, $13.9M of assets were contributed to Council during 2024-2025. The gain on the revaluation of assets for 2024-2025 was $98.8M. Further financial details of IPPE are shown at Note C1-8.

Cash and Investments

Council maintains an Investment Policy that ensures all investments are made in accordance with the prevailing Local Government Ministerial Investment Order and associated Investment Guidelines.

Although Council's overall cash and investment position remains strong, a substantial portion of these funds is subject to restrictions. To better reflect Council's financial flexibility, the Available Funds metric is used that represents cash that is both uncommitted and unrestricted, adjusted for working capital.

- Externally restricted funds are those held for specific purposes mandated by legislation or funding agreements and cannot be used for general operations.
- Internally restricted funds are earmarked by Council for future strategic or operational needs.

As at 30 June 2025, Council reported Available Funds of $46.5 million. This exceeds the Financial Strategy target range of 3.5% to 5.5% of operational revenue (pre-capital), primarily due to the early receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant.

Cash and investment positions over the prior two financial years are as follows:

CASH, INVESTMENTS & AVAILABLE FUNDS ($M)	YTD Actual 30 June 2025	YTD Actual 30 June 2024
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	214.510	179.474
Less Restrictions:		
External	102.2	86.9
Internal	68.6	68.7
CivicRisk Investment	3.7	3.1
AVAILABLE CASH	40.0	20.8
Adjusted for :		
Payables	(27.5)	(22.3)
Receivables	30.2	32.4
Other	3.7	10.4
AVAILABLE FUNDS	46.5	41.3

Receivables

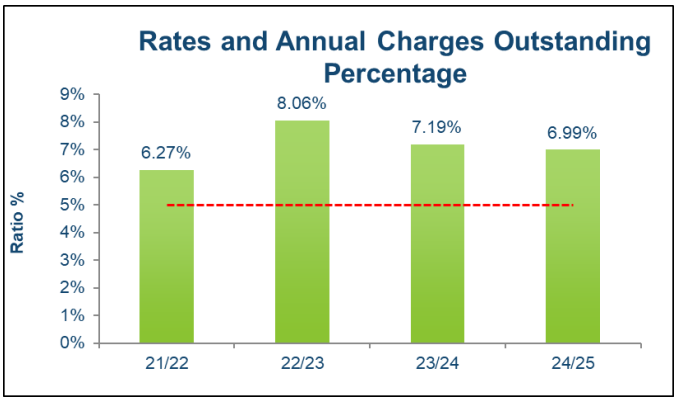
Receivables are the amount of money that is either owed to Council or funds that Council has paid in advance. At 30 June 2025, receivables totaled $30.2M, a decrease of $2.2M compared to the 2023-2024 reporting period. Full details of receivables are provided in Note C1-4.

Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage

Measures: The impact of uncollected rates and other charges on liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

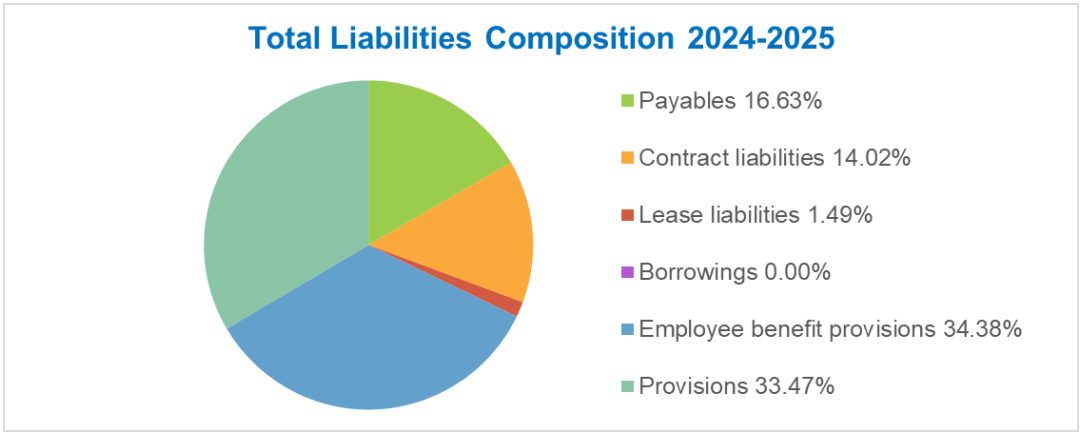
Target: Industry standard of <5%

Performance: The performance of this measure has decreased from the prior year by 0.20%. Council will continue to work with ratepayers as they navigate a high cost of living and interest rate environment.



LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2024, Council's Total Liabilities were $165.2M. The composition of Council's Total Liabilities is shown below.



Payables

Payables account for 17% of Council's liabilities. The most significant payables being accrued expenditure and expenditure incurred but not yet paid.

Contract Liabilities

Contract Liabilities account for 14% of Council's liabilities. Contract liabilities represent unexpended grants and contributions and fees received in advance of the service being delivered.

Lease Liabilities

Lease Liabilities account for 1% of Council's liabilities. Lease liabilities are recognised for land and buildings that Council leases from other organisations. Further details of leases are provided in Note C2-1 and C2-2. These are primarily made up of Dapto Ribbonwood, Warrawong Library and State Emergency Services sites.

Borrowings

Council has no outstanding loans at 30 June 2025. Council will consider borrowings as part of its Resource Strategy and Capital Budget to manage cash flow timing mismatches, fund asset investments, and ensure intergenerational equity, prioritising internal borrowing where economical. Borrowing terms will aim to align with asset life, and interest on internal borrowings will be applied to income-generating activities to reflect opportunity costs and support accurate business cases.

Provisions

Provisions represent the Council's obligation to make future payments as a result of past events. Provisions account for 75% of Council's Liabilities with the most significant provisions relating to Employee Benefits [$56.8M], Waste Landfill Remediation [$40.5M] and Workers' Compensation [$14.5M].

Provisions are revalued each financial year with any movements recognised through profit and loss. The value of provisions has increased from $110.5M in 2022-2023 to $112.1M in 2024-2025.

Council has a legal and public obligation to make, restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the open Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot and closed Helensburgh Waste Depot. A waste remediation provision is a liability recognised in a council's financial statements to represent the estimated costs of cleaning up and restoring a contaminated site, such as soil, groundwater, or surface water, due to past or current operations and construction of appropriate infrastructure (ie capping) to ensure compliance with EPA requirements. Movement in Waste Landfill Remediation provision in the current year was due to cost escalations on estimated costs of rehabilitation.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE – INCOME & EXPENSES

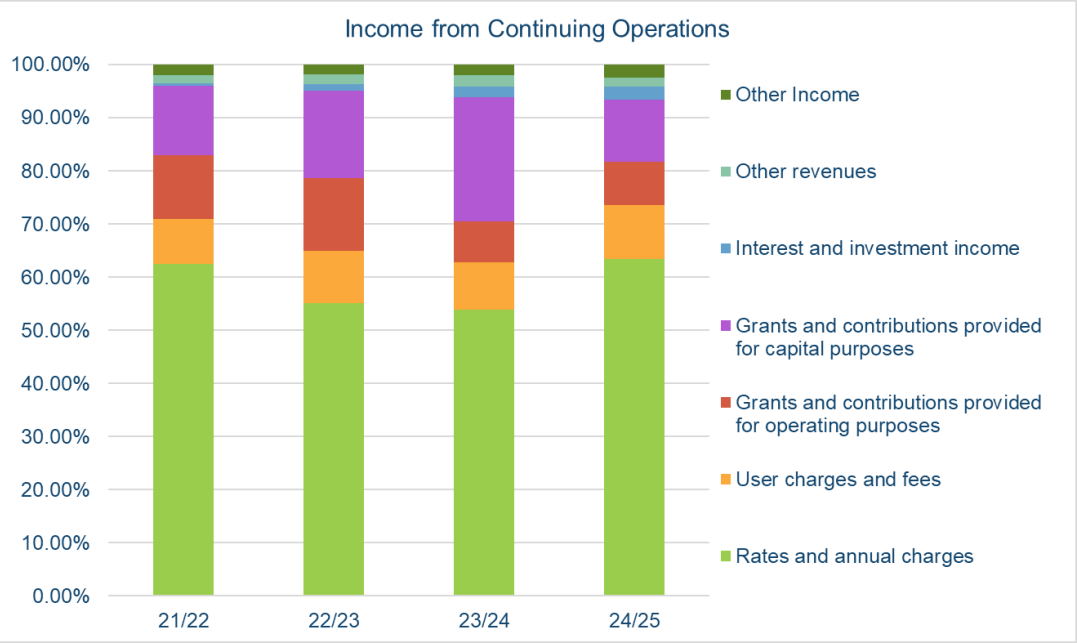
Council achieved a Net Operating Deficit from Continuing Operations of $10.2M in 2024-2025 in comparison to a surplus of $41.0M in 2023-2024. This result includes capital grants and contributions that were significantly less than the prior year.

Material budget variations from the 2024-2025 year for income and expense items are detailed in Note B5-1 of the statements.

Income

Council's Income from Continuing Operations for 2024-2025 was $390.6M compared to prior year result of $430.3M. A significant decrease in the level of capital grants & contributions received in 2024-2025 compared to 2023-2024 has impacted on this result. Refer to B2-4 within the financial statements for more detailed information.

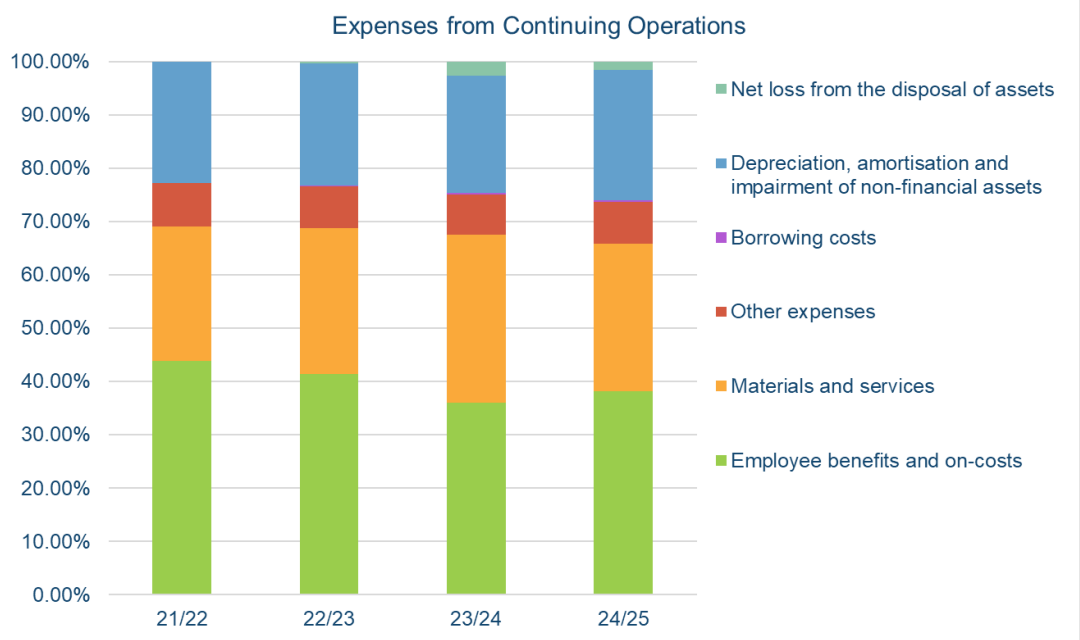
The composition of Council's revenue remained, other than the items noted above, reasonably consistent compared to previous years as depicted in the following table.



Expenses

Expenses from Continuing Operations for 2024-2025 totaled $400.9M, an increase on prior year expenditure of $11.5M.

The composition of Council's expenses remained consistent compared to previous years as depicted in the following table.



Wollongong City Council

Historical Financial Data

Income Statement

	Notes	Actual 2021/22 $'000	Actual 2022/23 $'000	Actual 2023/24 $'000	Actual 2024/25 $'000
Income from Continuing Operations					
Revenue:					
Rates & Annual Charges	B2-1	216,919	222,072	231,847	247,516
User Charges & Fees	B2-2	29,230	39,777	38,578	40,074
Other Revenues	B2-3	5,167	7,467	9,045	6,748
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	B2-4	41,841	55,030	32,772	31,646
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	B2-4	45,402	66,775	100,797	45,473
Interest and Investment Revenue	B2-5	1,689	4,695	8,711	9,756
Other Income	B2-6	6,448	7,467	8,575	9,430
Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	563	-	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations		**347,259**	**403,283**	**430,325**	**390,643**
Expenses from Continuing Operations					
Employee Benefits & On-Costs					
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	B3-1	126,077	142,039	140,458	153,272
Materials & Services	B3-2	72,910	93,752	122,542	110,545
Borrowing Costs	B3-3	437	602	747	1,144
Depreciation & Amortisation	B3-4	65,329	78,339	86,023	98,096
Other Expenses	B3-5	23,054	26,782	29,446	31,548
Fair value decrement on investment properties		-	-	-	-
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	B4-1	-	990	10,120	6,276
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations		**287,807**	**342,504**	**389,336**	**400,881**
Operating Result from Continuing Operations		**59,452**	**60,779**	**40,989**	**(10,238)**
NET OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR		**59,452**	**60,779**	**40,989**	**(10,238)**
Less:					
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	B2-4	45,402	66,775	100,797	45,473
Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes		**14,050**	**(5,996)**	**(59,808)**	**(55,711)**

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	Actual 2021/22 $'000	Actual 2022/23 $'000	Actual 2023/24 $'000	Actual 2024/25 $'000
ASSETS					
Current assets					
Cash & cash equivalents	C1-1	34,118	44,371	44,900	49,586
Investments	C1-2	88,185	99,424	56,738	57,020
Receivables	C1-4	24,674	33,100	32,372	30,217
Inventories	C1-5	461	6,486	6,524	6,512
Contract Assets	C1-6	9,711	3,795	10,771	5,366
Non-current Assets held for sale	C1-7	65	65	-	-
Other		6,881	6,351	3,561	3,144
Total current assets		**164,095**	**193,592**	**154,866**	**151,845**
Non-current assets					
Cash assets	C1-1	-	-	-	-
Investments	C1-2	39,730	33,312	77,836	107,904
Inventories	C1-5	5,972	-	-	-
Receivables	C1-4	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	C1-8	3,347,445	3,680,312	4,056,151	4,133,991
Investments accounted for using the equity method		-	-	-	-
Investment property	C1-9	5,600	5,050	5,100	5,650
Intangible assets	C1-10	76	-	-	-
Right of use assets	C2-1	1,094	718	1,332	2,276
Non-current assets classified as 'held for sale'		-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-
Total non-current assets		**3,399,917**	**3,719,392**	**4,140,419**	**4,249,821**
TOTAL ASSETS		**3,564,012**	**3,912,984**	**4,295,285**	**4,401,666**
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Payables	C3-1	27,376	22,272	22,273	27,485
Income received in advance		-	-	-	-
Contract Liabilities	C3-2	5,491	10,315	12,543	23,174
Lease Liabilities		403	129	460	395
Borrowings	C3-3	3,569	2,572	657	-
Employee benefits provisions	C3-4	51,705	58,175	56,385	56,112
Provisions	C3-5	3,891	3,262	4,440	5,408
Total current liabilities		**92,435**	**96,725**	**96,758**	**112,574**
Non-current liabilities					
Payables	C3-1	-	-	-	-
Lease Liabilities	C2-1	788	655	963	2,072
Borrowings	C3-3	3,374	657	-	-
Employee benefits provisions	C3-4	792	832	875	695
Provisions	C3-5	27,879	27,539	48,810	49,907
Total non-current liabilities		**32,833**	**29,683**	**50,648**	**52,674**
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**125,268**	**126,408**	**147,406**	**165,248**
NET ASSETS	**$**	**3,438,744**	**3,786,576**	**4,147,879**	**4,236,418**
EQUITY					
Retained earnings	C4-1	1,576,459	1,637,513	1,681,518	1,674,847
Revaluation reserves	C4-1	1,862,285	2,149,063	2,466,361	2,561,571
Council Equity Interest		**3,438,744**	**3,786,576**	**4,147,879**	**4,236,418**
Minority Equity Interest					
TOTAL EQUITY	**$**	**3,438,744**	**3,786,576**	**4,147,879**	**4,236,418**

Wollongong City Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents | Page

Statement by Councillors and Management 3

Primary Financial Statements:

Income Statement 4
Statement of Comprehensive Income 5
Statement of Financial Position 6
Statement of Changes in Equity 7
Statement of Cash Flows 8

Notes to the Financial Statements 9

Independent Auditor's Reports:

On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2]) 81
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3]) 82

Overview

Wollongong City Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and has its principal place of business at:

41 Burelli Street
Wollongong NSW 2500

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and include:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

Wollongong City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement by Councillors and Management
made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board,
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 27 October 2025.

Tania Brown
Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Linda Campbell
Deputy Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Greg Doyle
General Manager
27 October 2025

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
27 October 2025

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Original unaudited budget 2025	$ '000	Notes	Actual 2025	Actual 2024
	Income from continuing operations			
247,048	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	**247,516**	231,847
39,990	User charges and fees	B2-2	**40,074**	38,578
5,872	Other revenues	B2-3	**6,748**	9,045
33,212	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	**31,646**	32,772
27,454	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	**45,473**	100,797
6,196	Interest and investment income	B2-5	**9,756**	8,711
7,231	Other income	B2-6	**9,430**	8,575
28,516	Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	**–**	–
395,519	**Total income from continuing operations**		**390,643**	430,325
	Expenses from continuing operations			
142,404	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	**153,272**	140,458
99,866	Materials and services	B3-2	**110,545**	122,542
557	Borrowing costs	B3-3	**1,144**	747
24,257	Other expenses	B3-5	**31,548**	29,446
–	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	**6,276**	10,120
267,084	**Total expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**		**302,785**	303,313
128,435	**Operating result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**		**87,858**	127,012
87,113	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	**98,096**	86,023
41,322	**Operating result from continuing operations**		**(10,238)**	40,989
41,322	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		**(10,238)**	40,989
13,868	**Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes**		**(55,711)**	(59,808)

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		**(10,238)**	40,989
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequent to operating result			
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**98,777**	320,912
Impairment (loss) relating to infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**–**	(598)
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequent to operating result		**98,777**	320,314
Total other comprehensive income for the year		**98,777**	320,314
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		**88,539**	361,303

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	**49,586**	44,900
Investments	C1-2	**57,020**	56,738
Receivables	C1-4	**30,217**	32,372
Inventories	C1-5	**6,512**	6,524
Contract assets	C1-6	**5,366**	10,771
Other		**3,144**	3,561
Total current assets		**151,845**	154,866
Non-current assets			
Investments	C1-2	**107,904**	77,836
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-8	**4,133,991**	4,056,151
Investment property	C1-9	**5,650**	5,100
Right of use assets	C2-1	**2,276**	1,332
Total non-current assets		**4,249,821**	4,140,419
Total assets		**4,401,666**	4,295,285
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	**27,485**	22,273
Contract liabilities	C3-2	**23,174**	12,543
Lease liabilities	C2-1	**395**	460
Borrowings	C3-3	**–**	657
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**56,112**	56,385
Provisions	C3-5	**5,408**	4,440
Total current liabilities		**112,574**	96,758
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	C2-1	**2,072**	963
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**695**	875
Provisions	C3-5	**49,907**	48,810
Total non-current liabilities		**52,674**	50,648
Total liabilities		**165,248**	147,406
Net assets		**4,236,418**	4,147,879
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	C4-1	**1,674,847**	1,681,518
IPPE revaluation surplus	C4-1	**2,561,571**	2,466,361
Council equity interest		**4,236,418**	4,147,879
Total equity		**4,236,418**	4,147,879

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025 Accumulated surplus	2025 IPPE revaluation surplus	2025 Total equity	2024 Accumulated surplus	2024 IPPE revaluation surplus	2024 Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July		**1,681,518**	**2,466,361**	**4,147,879**	1,637,513	2,149,063	3,786,576
Restated opening balance		**1,681,518**	**2,466,361**	**4,147,879**	1,637,513	2,149,063	3,786,576
Net operating result for the year		**(10,238)**	**–**	**(10,238)**	40,989	–	40,989
Other comprehensive income							
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**–**	**98,777**	**98,777**	–	320,912	320,912
Impairment (loss) relating to IPPE	C1-8	**–**	**–**	**–**	–	(598)	(598)
Other comprehensive income		**–**	**98,777**	**98,777**	–	320,314	320,314
Total comprehensive income		**(10,238)**	**98,777**	**88,539**	40,989	320,314	361,303
Transfers between equity items		**3,567**	**(3,567)**	**–**	3,016	(3,016)	–
Closing balance at 30 June		**1,674,847**	**2,561,571**	**4,236,418**	1,681,518	2,466,361	4,147,879

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Original unaudited budget 2025	$ '000	Notes	Actual 2025	Actual 2024
	Cash flows from operating activities			
	Receipts:			
245,637	Rates and annual charges		**247,520**	232,873
39,990	User charges and fees		**46,038**	42,526
6,197	Interest received		**9,061**	8,575
53,652	Grants and contributions		**76,854**	68,654
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		**167**	886
10,603	Other		**30,875**	29,432
	Payments:			
(139,361)	Payments to employees		**(154,007)**	(142,434)
(102,305)	Payments for materials and services		**(126,746)**	(138,853)
(29)	Borrowing costs		**862**	(127)
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		**–**	(1,352)
(24,257)	Other		**(12,712)**	1,578
90,127	**Net cash flows from operating activities**	G1-1	**117,912**	101,758
	Cash flows from investing activities			
	Receipts:			
(1,764)	Proceeds from sale or maturity of investments		**50,649**	37,813
34,278	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		**2,067**	848
	Payments:			
–	Purchase of investments		**(52,079)**	(38,090)
–	Acquisition of term deposits		**(27,050)**	–
(105,995)	Payments for IPPE		**(85,786)**	(98,797)
(73,481)	**Net cash flows from investing activities**		**(112,199)**	(98,226)
	Cash flows from financing activities			
	Payments:			
(656)	Repayment of borrowings		**(657)**	(2,572)
(112)	Principal component of lease payments		**(370)**	(431)
(768)	**Net cash flows from financing activities**		**(1,027)**	(3,003)
15,878	**Net change in cash and cash equivalents**		**4,686**	529
153,847	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**44,900**	44,371
169,725	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	**49,586**	44,900
18,858	Add: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	**164,924**	134,574
188,583	Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		**214,510**	179,474

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Wollongong City Council

Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

A About Council and these financial statements 11
A1-1 Basis of preparation 11

B Financial Performance 13

B1 Functions or activities 13
B1-1 Community Strategic Plan Goals – income, expenses and assets 13
B1-2 Components of Community Strategic Plan Goals 14

B2 Sources of income 15
B2-1 Rates and annual charges 15
B2-2 User charges and fees 16
B2-3 Other revenues 17
B2-4 Grants and contributions 18
B2-5 Interest and investment income 23
B2-6 Other income 23

B3 Costs of providing services 24
B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs 24
B3-2 Materials and services 25
B3-3 Borrowing costs 26
B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets 27
B3-5 Other expenses 28

B4 Gains or losses 29
B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets 29

B5 Performance against budget 30
B5-1 Material budget variations 30

C Financial position 32

C1 Assets we manage 32
C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents 32
C1-2 Financial investments 32
C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments 34
C1-4 Receivables 36
C1-5 Inventories 37
C1-6 Contract assets 38
C1-7 Non-current assets classified as held for sale 38
C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment 39
C1-9 Investment properties 42
C1-10 Intangible assets 43

C2 Leasing activities 44
C2-1 Council as a lessee 44
C2-2 Council as a lessor 46

C3 Liabilities of Council 48
C3-1 Payables 48
C3-2 Contract Liabilities 49
C3-3 Borrowings 50
C3-4 Employee benefit provisions 52

Wollongong City Council

Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

C3-5 Provisions 54

C4 Reserves 56

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves 56

D Council structure 56

D1 Results by fund 56

D2 Interests in other entities 56

D2-1 Subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates not recognised 56

E Risks and accounting uncertainties 57

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held 57

E2-1 Fair value measurement 60

E3-1 Contingencies 68

F People and relationships 71

F1 Related party disclosures 71

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP) 71

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses 71

F1-3 Other related parties 71

F2 Other relationships 73

F2-1 Audit fees 73

G Other matters 74

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information 74

G2-1 Commitments 75

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date 75

G4 Statement of developer contributions 76

G4-1 Summary of developer contributions 76

G4-2 Developer contributions by plan 77

G4-3 Contributions not under plans 78

G4-4 S7.4 planning agreements 78

H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited) 80

H1-1 Council information and contact details 80

A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 27 October 2025. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the Office of Local Government (OLG) directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation), and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

i. fair values of investment property – refer Note C1-9
ii. fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-8
iii. tip remediation provisions – refer Note C3-5
iv. employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

i. Impairment of receivables – refer Note C1-4.
ii. Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.
iii. Determination of the lease term, discount rate (when not implicit in the lease) and whether an arrangement contains a lease – refer to Note C2-1.

Monies and other assets received by Council

The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

The Consolidated Fund has been included in the financial statements of the Council.

Cash and other assets of the following activities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- general purpose operations

The Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by the Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes

continued on next page ...

A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies. Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

A separate statement of monies held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the council office by any person free of charge.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Volunteer services

Council is supported by a range of volunteers for services including surf lifesaving, bush care, community transport and library programs. Volunteer services are required to be recognised in the financial statements if they can be measured reliably, are material, and would be purchased if not provided by the volunteers. In most instances, Council would not purchase the service if it was not provided by volunteers.

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2025.
As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted all accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective from the first time at 30 June 2025.

The following new standard is effective for the first time at 30 June 2025:

- **AASB 2022-10** ***Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.***

There is no material impact on the Councils' reported financial position, however Councils should review their fair value methodology to ensure that it is in accordance with the guidance included in AASB 2022-10.

B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Community Strategic Plan Goals – income, expenses and assets [1]

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
$ '000	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Functions or activities										
Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment	**97,684**	91,357	**124,553**	127,339	**(26,869)**	(35,982)	**28,624**	25,337	**1,127,728**	1,002,545
Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy	**10,963**	11,164	**14,583**	13,908	**(3,620)**	(2,744)	**–**	25	**4,396**	5,886
Goal 3 - Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city	**759**	1,066	**12,743**	12,124	**(11,984)**	(11,058)	**525**	688	**1,609**	2,190
Goal 4 - We are a connected and engaged community	**14,477**	13,469	**38,630**	34,569	**(24,153)**	(21,100)	**6,631**	6,519	**860,369**	859,612
Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a liveable city	**13,335**	16,879	**68,819**	63,501	**(55,484)**	(46,622)	**2,166**	7,370	**723,962**	786,886
Goal 6 - We have affordable and accessible transport	**12,071**	18,441	**70,261**	75,538	**(58,190)**	(57,097)	**10,687**	16,455	**1,423,037**	1,404,313
Support Services	**227,404**	218,657	**71,292**	62,357	**156,112**	156,300	**14,536**	17,883	**260,565**	233,853
Contributed Assets	**13,950**	59,292	**–**	–	**13,950**	59,292	**13,950**	59,292	**–**	–
Total functions and activities	**390,643**	430,325	**400,881**	389,336	**(10,238)**	40,989	**77,119**	133,569	**4,401,666**	4,295,285

(1) The functions/activities reported above are different to what has been reported in the past. The Goals listed above and described on the following page, align with Council's Community Strategic Plan – Our Wollongong Our Future 2032.

B1-2 Components of Community Strategic Plan Goals

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment

We will work together to reduce emissions and the effects of a changing climate. Our natural environments are protected, and our resources will be managed effectively. Development is well planned and sustainable and we protect our heritage.

Goal 2 - We have an innovative and sustainable economy

The region's industry base continues to diversify and local employment opportunities increase. Wollongong is established as the regional capital of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven. We are leaders in innovative and sustainable research and development of new industries.

Goal 3 - Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

Creative, cultural industries are fostered and thriving. Community have access to the arts, and participation in events and festivals is increased. Strong diverse local cultures are supported.

Goal 4 - We are a connected and engaged community

Residents have easy and equitable access to information and play an active role in the decisions that affect our city. There is greater awareness and understanding of Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, heritage and histories. Our Council is accountable, financially sustainable and has the trust of the community.

Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a livable city

There is an increase in the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our community. Our community participation in recreation and lifestyle activities increases. Residents have improved access to a range of affordable housing options. Suburbs and places are livable and safe.

Goal 6 - We have affordable and accessible transport

There is an increase in sustainable transport use including public transport, walking and cycling. Transport links and connection to Sydney, the South Coast and Southern Highlands are strengthened. The community have access to a safe, affordable and reliable transport network.

Support Services

Five services form an additional group called Support Services to demonstrate that these Services support the delivery of all Community Strategic Plan goals.
Support Services include: Employee Services; Financial Services; Governance & Administration; Infrastructure Strategy & Support and Information Management & Technology.

Contributed Assets

Contributed assets relate mainly to the handover of transport and stormwater assets from various subdivisions in the West Dapto area.

B2 Sources of income

B2-1 Rates and annual charges

$ '000	2025	2024
Ordinary rates		
Residential	**144,089**	136,519
Farmland	**510**	495
Mining	**1,103**	1,046
Business	**54,607**	52,018
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(2,524)**	(2,536)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	**(234)**	(263)
Abandonments [1]	**(173)**	(568)
Rates levied to ratepayers	**197,378**	186,711
Pensioner rate subsidies received	**1,374**	1,381
Total ordinary rates	**198,752**	188,092
Special rates		
Mall	**1,264**	1,260
Total special rates	**1,264**	1,260
Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 & 611)		
Domestic waste management services	**45,971**	40,949
Stormwater management services	**1,910**	1,898
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(836)**	(840)
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Domestic waste management	**455**	488
Total annual charges	**47,500**	42,495
Total rates and annual charges	**247,516**	231,847

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Material accounting policy information
Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising these receipts which is the beginning of the rating period to which they relate.

Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates (mandatory) relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government area that are subsidised by the NSW Government. Pensioner rebates (Council policy) relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government area that are not subsidised by the NSW Government.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates (mandatory) and are in substance a rates payment.

(1) Abandonments refer to amounts owed to Council that have been written off due to the property being exempted of rates, objections & ascertainments, postponed rates and voluntary conservation agreements as per the OLG Rating and Revenue Raising Manual 2007.

B2-2 User charges and fees

$ '000	2025	2024
User charges		
Waste management services (non-domestic)	**11,243**	10,503
Total user charges	**11,243**	10,503
Contestable building services	**419**	382
Inspection services	**334**	662
Planning and building regulation	**3,613**	3,375
Registration fees	**184**	204
Section 10.7 certificates (EP&A Act)	**601**	880
Section 603 certificate (rating certificate)	**356**	458
Section 611 charges (occupation of land)	**334**	337
Additional waste services	**162**	186
Art gallery	**24**	16
Car parking	**1,735**	1,635
Cemeteries	**2,695**	1,960
Credit card payment processing fee	**166**	126
Design review meeting application fees	**64**	203
Golf course	**1,014**	986
Health inspections	**860**	673
Library	**60**	45
Outdoor dining	**17**	10
Parking meters	**1,132**	1,111
Pre-lodgement meeting fees	**84**	106
Recreation	**4,803**	4,375
Road opening permits	**311**	240
Stallholder fees	**58**	57
Tree management requests	**111**	96
Tourist parks	**9,377**	9,612
Other	**317**	340
Total fees	**28,831**	28,075
Total other user charges and fees	**28,831**	28,075
Total user charges and fees	**40,074**	38,578
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees		
User charges and fees recognised over time	**9,377**	9,612
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time	**30,697**	28,966
Total user charges and fees	**40,074**	38,578

Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

B2-3 Other revenues

$ '000	2025	2024
Diesel rebate	**185**	248
Fines	**437**	555
Fines – parking	**3,402**	3,165
Income relating to the clean energy future scheme	**31**	–
Insurance claims recoveries	**25**	365
Legal fees recovery – rates and charges (extra charges)	**24**	–
Legal settlements	**401**	318
Outgoings reimbursements	**98**	83
Reimbursements	**400**	2,645
Sales – general	**1,348**	1,314
Sponsorship and promotional income	**33**	24
Other	**364**	328
Total other revenue	**6,748**	9,045

Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time	**–**	–
Other revenue recognised at a point in time	**6,748**	9,045
Total other revenue	**6,748**	9,045

Material accounting policy information for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2-4 Grants and contributions

$ '000	Operating 2025	Operating 2024	Capital 2025	Capital 2024
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)				
Financial Assistance Grant				
Relating to current year	**4,442**	867	**–**	–
Payment received in advance for subsequent year	**11,034**	19,374	**–**	–
Amount recognised as income during current year	**15,476**	20,241	**–**	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)				
Cash contributions				
Arts and culture	**–**	366	**–**	–
Buildings	**50**	–	**66**	–
Car parks	**–**	–	**–**	32
Community centres	**76**	–	**–**	–
Community development and support	**354**	873	**–**	–
Community services and facilities	**799**	569	**–**	–
Economic development	**–**	3	**–**	–
Emergency services	**439**	429	**–**	–
Environmental management and enhancement	**744**	337	**–**	–
Environmental programs	**2**	82	**–**	–
Footpaths and cycleways	**–**	–	**52**	–
Floodplain and stormwater management	**2,231**	280	**306**	328
Home and Community Care (HACC) community transport	**3,096**	3,151	**–**	–
Heritage and cultural	**12**	–	**–**	–
Information technology	**–**	–	**–**	1
Library	**830**	689	**–**	–
Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) subsidy	**14**	103	**–**	–
Local bus route subsidy	**85**	160	**–**	–
Natural area management	**527**	134	**–**	–
Recreation and culture	**219**	–	**–**	–
Parks, gardens and sports fields	**315**	181	**1,127**	5,410
Roads and bridges	**771**	233	**–**	–
Storm/flood damage	**–**	–	**284**	1,197
People and learning	**406**	54	**–**	–
Pollution minimisation	**293**	275	**–**	–
Recreation and culture	**–**	–	**9**	1,478
Regulatory control	**71**	–	**–**	–
Social support programs	**1,806**	1,600	**–**	–
Strategic city planning	**59**	91	**–**	–
Street lighting	**758**	743	**–**	–
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	**–**	–	**6,552**	7,957
Transport (roads to recovery)	**–**	–	**1,016**	1,731
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	**1,541**	1,506	**–**	–
Voluntary purchase scheme	**–**	–	**1,071**	–
Waste performance improvement	**–**	–	**–**	2,014
Total cash contributions	**15,498**	11,859	**10,483**	20,148
Non-cash contributions				
Dedications – subdivisions (other than by s7.4 and s7.11 – EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA)	**–**	–	**13,436**	58,757
Wollongong City Gallery collection	**–**	–	**515**	535
Volunteer Services	**672**	672	**–**	–
Total non-cash contributions	**672**	672	**13,951**	59,292
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)	**16,170**	12,531	**24,434**	79,440
Total grants and non-developer contributions	**31,646**	32,772	**24,434**	79,440

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

$ '000	Operating 2025	Operating 2024	Capital 2025	Capital 2024
Comprising:				
– Commonwealth funding	**20,065**	24,638	**1,016**	6,863
– State funding	**9,533**	6,560	**9,313**	13,820
– Other funding	**2,048**	1,574	**14,105**	58,757
	31,646	32,772	**24,434**	79,440

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

$ '000	Notes	Operating 2025	Operating 2024	Capital 2025	Capital 2024
Developer contributions: (s7.4 & s7.11 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):	G4				
Cash contributions					
S 7.4 – contributions using planning agreements		**–**	–	**2,072**	149
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services		**–**	–	**11,469**	13,887
S 7.12 – fixed development consent levies		**–**	–	**7,498**	7,321
Total cash contributions		**–**	–	**21,039**	21,357
Total developer contributions		**–**	–	**21,039**	21,357
Total contributions		**–**	–	**21,039**	21,357
Total grants and contributions		**31,646**	32,772	**45,473**	100,797
Timing of revenue recognition					
Grants and contributions recognised over time		**5,409**	2,956	**8,597**	20,148
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time		**26,237**	29,816	**36,876**	80,649
Total grants and contributions		**31,646**	32,772	**45,473**	100,797

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

$ '000	Operating 2025	Operating 2024	Capital 2025	Capital 2024
Unspent grants				
Unspent funds at 1 July	**9,701**	18,335	**2,029**	1,964
Add: Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	**551**	5,205	**854**	–
Add: funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	**451**	372	**6,786**	1,569
Less: Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	**(5,946)**	(13,094)	**(89)**	(7)
Less: funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	**(562)**	(1,117)	**(394)**	(1,497)
Unspent funds at 30 June	**4,195**	9,701	**9,186**	2,029
Unspent contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	**96**	1,984	**56,274**	45,284
Add: contributions recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	**11**	21	**24,360**	23,829
Add: contributions received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	**–**	–	**176**	206
Less: contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	**(13)**	–	**(6,342)**	(12,990)
Less: contributions received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	**–**	(1,909)	**(195)**	(55)
Unspent contributions at 30 June	**94**	96	**74,273**	56,274

continued on next page ...

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Developer contributions

Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

$ '000	2025	2024
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	**1,290**	1,252
– Cash and investments	**8,466**	7,459
Total interest and investment income (losses)	**9,756**	8,711

Material accounting policy information
Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

B2-6 Other income

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Fair value increment on investments			
Fair value increment on investments through profit and loss		**1,223**	1,306
Movement in interest in CivicRisk Mutual		**622**	255
Total fair value increment on investments		**1,845**	1,561
Fair value increment on investment properties			
Fair value increment on investment properties		**550**	50
Total fair value increment on investment properties	C1-9	**550**	50
Rental income			
Investment properties			
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)		**480**	528
Total investment properties		**480**	528
Other lease income			
Room/Facility Hire		**663**	595
Leaseback fees - council vehicles		**841**	721
Other Council Properties		**5,051**	4,493
Total other lease income		**6,555**	5,809
Total rental income	C2-2	**7,035**	6,337
Other			
Energy Saving Certificates		**–**	627
Total other		**–**	627
Total other income		**9,430**	8,575

B3 Costs of providing services

B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

$ '000	2025	2024
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	**18,819**	16,664
Salaries and wages	**126,605**	119,813
Superannuation	**15,497**	14,364
Change in workers compensation provision	**872**	506
Workers compensation – self insurance	**4,348**	3,586
Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT)	**181**	182
Payroll tax	**27**	22
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)	**971**	901
Protective clothing	**476**	479
Labour hire	**1,032**	203
Other	**497**	451
Total employee costs	**169,325**	157,171
Less: capitalised costs	**(16,053)**	(16,713)
Total employee costs expensed	**153,272**	140,458

Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

B3-2 Materials and services

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Advertising		**225**	297
Audit Fees	F2-1	**309**	286
Bank charges		**661**	808
Contractor costs [1]		**69,140**	71,415
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	**716**	687
Insurance		**5,100**	4,812
Internal audit		**136**	118
Light, electricity and heating		**2,715**	2,796
Membership fees		**188**	170
Other expenses		**3,132**	6,982
Postage		**529**	490
Prior year works in progress 'write offs' [2]		**16,646**	7,085
Provision for asset remediation [3]		**265**	13,136
Provision for self insurance claims		**(20)**	11
Raw materials and consumables [1]		**29,150**	35,386
Rental agreements		**22**	4
Royalty payments		**442**	551
Sewerage charges		**301**	316
Software maintenance and support contractor		**3,979**	3,518
Street lighting		**2,811**	3,970
Telephone and communications		**733**	620
Valuation fees		**553**	531
Volunteer reimbursements		**255**	242
Waste contractor		**28,714**	27,540
Water rates		**1,290**	1,116
Legal expenses:			
– Planning and development		**1,192**	500
– Other		**487**	424
Total materials and services		**169,671**	183,811
Less: capitalised costs		**(59,126)**	(61,269)
Total materials and services		**110,545**	122,542

Material accounting policy information

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the Council receives the goods or services.

(1) The Contractor & Consultancy Costs and Raw Materials & Consumables includes expenditure related to the capital program. The delivery of capital projects is dependent on the types and size of works that may be delivered through contracts or internally. There are significant variations year on year in this allocation process.

(2) Capital expenditure previously included in Works in Progress was transferred to operating expenses during 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. This includes capital works to deliver assets not under the control of Council such as traffic facilities and street lighting and identified operational expenses incurred and allocated to capital projects in the course of construction of associated assets.

(3) Each financial year a provision for the remediation of Council's waste facility is calculated based on the forecast costs to rehabilitate the site. A review of the planned rehabilitation costs and changes to discount factors have resulted in an movement in the provision in 2024-2025.

B3-3 Borrowing costs

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(i) Interest bearing liability costs			
Interest on leases		**137**	56
Interest on loans		**4**	71
Total interest bearing liability costs		**141**	127
Total interest bearing liability costs expensed		**141**	127
(ii) Other borrowing costs			
Discount adjustments relating to movements in provisions (other than ELE) – Remediation liabilities	C3-5	**1,003**	620
Total other borrowing costs		**1,003**	620
Total borrowing costs expensed		**1,144**	747

B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Depreciation and amortisation			
Plant and equipment		**4,209**	4,267
Office equipment		**1,077**	1,280
Furniture and fittings		**274**	302
Infrastructure:	C1-8		
– Bridges		**2,310**	2,072
– Buildings – non-specialised		**10,078**	5,004
– Buildings – specialised		**9,951**	7,116
– Footpaths		**5,897**	5,405
– Other open space/recreational assets		**7,140**	7,020
– Other structures		**926**	707
– Roads		**31,869**	29,890
– Stormwater drainage		**20,214**	19,011
– Swimming pools		**726**	764
Right of use assets	C2-1	**470**	456
Other assets:			
– Library books		**1,272**	1,242
– Other		**1,484**	1,487
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets:			
– Tip assets	C3-5,C1-8	**199**	–
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		**98,096**	86,023
Impairment / revaluation decrement of IPPE			
Infrastructure:	C1-8		
– Buildings – specialised		**–**	598
Amounts taken through revaluation reserve	C1-8	**–**	(598)
Total IPPE impairment / revaluation decrement costs charged to Income Statement		**–**	–
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		**98,096**	86,023

Material accounting policy information

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-8 for IPPE assets, Note C1-10 for intangible assets and Note C2-1 for right-of-use assets.

Impairment of non-financial assets
Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

B3-5 Other expenses

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Impairment of receivables			
User charges and fees		**(152)**	831
Total impairment of receivables	C1-4	**(152)**	831
Other			
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Emergency services levy		**773**	1,023
– NSW fire brigade levy		**4,257**	4,251
– NSW rural fire service levy		**827**	840
– Waste levy		**13,634**	12,252
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)			
– Affordable Housing [1]		**–**	5,654
– City Centre management		**11**	4
– Illawarra Institute of Sport		**42**	27
– Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation		**58**	58
– Illawarra Performing Arts Centre [2]		**1,453**	1,355
– Neighbourhood youth program		**82**	80
– Illawarra Surf Life Saving		**63**	65
– Sponsorship fund		**54**	31
– Tourism		**1,690**	1,549
– Wollongong Shuttle Bus Service		**411**	396
Refund of Prior Year Grants [3]		**7,624**	235
Other		**762**	1,024
Total other		**31,741**	28,844
Less: capitalised costs		**(41)**	(229)
Total other expenses		**31,548**	29,446

Material accounting policy information

Other expenses are recorded on an accruals basis when Council has an obligation for the expenses.

Impairment expenses are recognised when identified.

(1) Allocation of grant received in a prior year for Affordable Housing.

(2) The 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 contribution to the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre includes the contribution for the management of the Town Hall.

(3) $6.9m of expense relates to returned unspent grant funds in relation to Community Transport as the service has been transferred to another party to deliver effective 30 June 2025.

B4 Gains or losses

B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Gain (or loss) on disposal of property (excl. investment property)			
Proceeds from disposal – property		**36**	45
Less: carrying amount of property assets sold/written off		**(13)**	(79)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**23**	(34)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		**2,031**	803
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		**(1,517)**	(600)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**514**	203
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – infrastructure		**–**	–
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure assets sold/written off		**(6,838)**	(10,289)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**(6,838)**	(10,289)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments	C1-2		
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – investments		**50,649**	37,813
Less: carrying amount of investments sold/redeemed/matured		**(50,624)**	(37,813)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**25**	–
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets		**(6,276)**	(10,120)

Material accounting policy information
Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the asset is de-recognised.

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 24 June 2024 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: F = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

$ '000	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 Variance		
Revenues					
Rates and annual charges	247,048	247,516	468	0%	F
User charges and fees	39,990	40,074	84	0%	F
Other revenues	5,872	6,748	876	15%	F
The variance in Other revenues is mainly associated with a one-off compensation payment related to a Council Easement.					
Operating grants and contributions	33,212	31,646	(1,566)	(5)%	U
Capital grants and contributions	27,454	45,473	18,019	66%	F
Capital grants and contributions including assets contributed to Council through development. A greater value of assets have been contributed to Council than anticipated in the 2024-2025 financial year. In addition, a greater level of revenue was received through contributions under Development Contribution Plans than anticipated.					
Interest and investment revenue	6,196	9,756	3,560	57%	F
Interest and investment income performed better than anticipated due to higher interest rate environment than prior year with an overall increase in holdings.					
Net gains from disposal of assets	28,516	–	(28,516)	(100)%	U
The original budget for 2024-2025 reflected the gains on disposal anticipated for a significant land sale that was planned to occur. The variances between original budget and actuals results from the delay in this land sale.					
Other income	7,231	9,430	2,199	30%	F
Other income is favourable due to the fair value increment on investments recognised through the profit and loss.					

continued on next page ...

B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

$ '000	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 Variance		
Expenses					
Employee benefits and on-costs	**142,404**	**153,272**	**(10,868)**	**(8)%**	**U**
Employee benefits and on-costs within the operating result represent part of Council's workforce costs that are applied to operating functions, other costs are charged to capital works and reflected in the value of assets. As shown in Note B3-1 $16.1M was charged to capital. This was $6.1M less than Council's original estimate, so while overall employee costs were on budget, the allocation of works was directed more to operating functions during 2025-26. In addition, Council's costs incurred in Workers Compensation have exceeded budget, as have Superannuation costs. There was also additional labour costs introduced to budget during the year.					
Materials and services	**99,866**	**110,545**	**(10,679)**	**(11)%**	**U**
Materials and services includes prior year works in progress of $16.4M (see note B3-1) that do not meet the requirements to be recognised as an asset and therefore have been expensed through operating. Excluding this adjustment, Materials and services would have performed better than original budget estimates.					
Borrowing costs	**557**	**1,144**	**(587)**	**(105)%**	**U**
Borrowing costs include the interest on the waste facility remediation. The original budget was set prior to receipt of the discount rates as at 30 June 2024 which are applied for the interest calculation in 2024-2025. The changes in discount rate have resulted in a variance between the actuals and original budget.					
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**87,113**	**98,096**	**(10,983)**	**(13)%**	**U**
The original budget for 2024-2025 was set prior to the impacts of the June 2024 Buildings revaluation and indexation of other asset classes to align to fair value. These events significantly increased asset values which resulted in an increase in the depreciation expense for 2024-2025.					
Other expenses	**24,257**	**31,548**	**(7,291)**	**(30)%**	**U**
Other expenses have been impacted by the return of grant funds recognised as revenue in prior financial years. This is mainly associated with the transition of the Community Transport function to a third party.					
Net losses from disposal of assets	**–**	**6,276**	**(6,276)**	**–**	**U**
Statement of cash flows					
Cash flows from operating activities	**90,127**	**117,912**	**27,785**	**31%**	**F**
Cash flows from investing activities	**(73,481)**	**(112,199)**	**(38,718)**	**53%**	**U**
Cash flows from financing activities	**(768)**	**(1,027)**	**(259)**	**34%**	**U**

C Financial position

C1 Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

$ '000	2025	2024
Cash assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	**1,284**	21,431
Cash equivalent assets		
– Deposits at call	**48,302**	23,469
Total cash and cash equivalents	**49,586**	44,900
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents		
Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	**49,586**	44,900
Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows	**49,586**	44,900

Material accounting policy information
For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-2 Financial investments

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Financial assets at fair value through the profit and loss				
Managed funds	**–**	**10,345**	9,400	–
Floating Rate Notes (FRN) with maturities > 3 months [1]	**18,957**	**47,570**	5,036	59,719
Mortgage backed securities	**1,563**	**–**	1,602	–
CivicRisk Mutual Limited	**–**	**3,739**	–	3,117
Total	**20,520**	**61,654**	16,038	62,836
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Long term deposits	**36,500**	**46,250**	40,700	15,000
Total	**36,500**	**46,250**	40,700	15,000
Total financial investments	**57,020**	**107,904**	56,738	77,836

(1) Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

continued on next page ...

C1-2 Financial investments (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

Financial assets
All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification
On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

Amortised cost
Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows, and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits, and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

Financial assets through profit or loss
All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income as described above are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Net gains or losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in profit or loss.

Council's financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss comprise investments in FRNs, managed funds, mortgage backed securities and interest in CivicRisk Mutual in the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	**214,510**	179,474
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	**(102,211)**	(86,881)
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	**112,299**	92,593

External restrictions

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Developer contributions – general [A]	**73,967**	55,949
Transport for NSW contributions [B]	**402**	422
Specific purpose unexpended grants [C]	**13,381**	11,730
Stormwater management [D]	**1,254**	1,507
Private contributions	**2,898**	6,943
Special rates levy – Wollongong mall	**1,062**	962
Special rates levy – city centre	**94**	94
Domestic waste management [D]	**6,033**	5,321
Housing Affordability	**3,120**	3,953
Total external restrictions	**102,211**	86,881

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

(A) Development contributions which are not yet expended for the provision of services and amenities in accordance with contributions plans.

(B) Transport for New South Wales contributions which are not yet expended for the provision of services and amenities in accordance with those contributions.

(C) Grants which are not yet expended for the purposes for which the grants were obtained.

(D) Domestic Waste Management and other special rates/levies/charges are externally restricted assets and must be applied for the purposes for which they were raised.

continued on next page ...

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(b) Internal allocations		
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	**112,299**	92,593
Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	**43,743**	23,919
Internal allocations		
At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:		
Car parking strategy	**1,372**	1,223
Darcy Wentworth Park	**18**	18
MacCabe Park development	**2,190**	2,040
Sports Priority Program	**856**	524
Waste Disposal Facility	**5,982**	10,854
West Dapto Development	**20,232**	14,927
Strategic Projects	**31,700**	32,991
Property Investment Fund	**5,532**	5,396
Natural areas	**173**	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	**501**	528
Total internal allocations	**68,556**	68,674

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

C1-4 Receivables

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Rates and annual charges	**16,580**	**–**	16,127	–
Interest and extra charges	**2,073**	**–**	2,020	–
User charges and fees	**7,061**	**–**	7,493	–
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	**1,549**	**–**	907	–
– Other income accruals	**3,077**	**–**	5,168	–
Government grants and subsidies	**947**	**–**	730	–
Net GST receivable	**1,995**	**–**	3,287	–
Total	**33,282**	**–**	35,732	–
Less: provision for impairment				
User charges and fees	**(3,065)**	**–**	(3,360)	–
Total provision for impairment – receivables	**(3,065)**	**–**	(3,360)	–
Total net receivables	**30,217**	**–**	32,372	–

Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment
Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When estimating ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day one.

When considering the ECL for rates and annual charges debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Credit losses are measured at the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

Council writes off a receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Where Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Rates and annual charges outstanding are secured against the property.

C1-5 Inventories

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Inventories at cost				
Real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Stores and materials	**540**	**–**	552	–
Total inventories at cost	**6,512**	**–**	6,524	–
Total inventories	**6,512**	**–**	6,524	–

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Details for real estate development				
Residential	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
(Valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value)				
Represented by:				
Acquisition costs	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total costs	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Movements:				
Real estate assets at beginning of the year	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–
Total real estate for resale	**5,972**	**–**	5,972	–

Material accounting policy information

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods
Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Land held for resale
Land held for resale is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is assigned by specific identification and includes the cost of acquisition, and development and borrowing costs during development. When development is completed, borrowing costs and other holding charges are expensed as incurred.

C1-6 Contract assets

Contract assets

$ '000	2025	2024
Work relating to capital grants & contributions	**4,439**	10,537
Work relating to operational grants & contributions	**66**	66
Other	**861**	168
Total contract assets	**5,366**	10,771

Material accounting policy information

Contract assets
Contract assets represent Councils right to payment in exchange for goods or services the Council has transferred to a customer when that right is conditional on something other than the passage of time.

Contract assets arise when the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievement of various milestones established in the contract and therefore the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necessarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer. Once an invoice or payment claim is raised or the relevant milestone is reached, Council recognises a receivable.

Impairment of contract assets is assessed using the simplified expected credit loss model where lifetime credit losses are recognised on initial recognition.

C1-7 Non-current assets classified as held for sale

Details of assets

One parcel of land which was classified as 'held of sale' and sold during the year ended 30 June 2024.

Material accounting policy information

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use. They are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, except for assets such as deferred tax assets arising from employee benefits; financial assets; and investment properties that are carried at fair value.

An impairment loss is recognised for any initial or subsequent write-down of the asset (or disposal group) to fair value less costs to sell. A gain is recognised for any subsequent increases in fair value less costs to sell of an asset (or disposal group), but not in excess of any cumulative impairment loss previously recognised. A gain or loss not previously recognised by the date of the sale of the non-current asset (or disposal group) is recognised at the date of de-recognition.

Non-current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2024			Asset movements during the reporting period									At 30 June 2025		
$ '000	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals [1]	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Other movements- Transfer to Expense	Other movements - Waste Remediation Reassessment	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
Capital work in progress	88,503	–	88,503	54,723	20,497	–	–	(66,054)	–	(16,646)	–	–	81,023	–	81,023
Plant and equipment	48,486	(28,950)	19,536	7,630	–	(1,517)	(4,209)	–	–	–	–	–	49,203	(27,763)	21,440
Office equipment	13,065	(10,319)	2,746	1,537	–	–	(1,077)	–	–	–	–	–	14,602	(11,396)	3,206
Furniture and fittings	3,257	(2,332)	925	55	–	–	(274)	–	–	–	–	–	3,312	(2,606)	706
Land:															
– Operational land	367,911	–	367,911	–	148	(13)	–	–	(3,036)	–	–	–	365,010	–	365,010
– Community land	365,135	(760)	364,375	–	1,606	–	–	–	2,341	–	–	–	369,082	(760)	368,322
– Crown land	120,906	–	120,906	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	120,906	–	120,906
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	3,562	–	3,562	–	333	–	–	–	695	–	–	–	4,590	–	4,590
Infrastructure:															
– Buildings – non-specialised	429,019	(190,938)	238,081	–	–	(13)	(10,078)	359	9	–	–	12,235	452,333	(211,740)	240,593
– Buildings – specialised	533,215	(254,278)	278,937	–	–	(315)	(9,951)	3,109	(78)	–	–	14,570	564,730	(278,458)	286,272
– Other structures	21,358	(6,003)	15,355	–	–	–	(926)	589	213	–	–	786	23,383	(7,366)	16,017
– Roads	2,188,536	(1,214,770)	973,766	–	5,489	(5,227)	(31,869)	27,355	(207)	–	–	25,954	2,260,272	(1,265,011)	995,261
– Bridges	169,139	(55,334)	113,805	–	–	(2)	(2,310)	–	2	–	–	3,079	173,807	(59,233)	114,574
– Footpaths	423,100	(197,542)	225,558	–	2,757	(341)	(5,897)	7,257	(8)	–	–	6,102	443,620	(208,192)	235,428
– Stormwater drainage	1,832,317	(843,399)	988,918	–	4,914	(635)	(20,214)	11,419	(9)	–	–	26,752	1,897,839	(886,694)	1,011,145
– Swimming pools	52,247	(37,683)	14,564	–	–	–	(726)	–	–	–	–	743	55,052	(40,471)	14,581
– Other open space/recreational assets	270,698	(104,614)	166,084	–	–	(306)	(7,140)	14,770	78	–	–	8,556	298,617	(116,575)	182,042
Other assets:															
– Heritage collections	16,622	–	16,622	–	696	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17,318	–	17,318
– Library books	10,012	(5,009)	5,003	1,375	–	–	(1,272)	–	–	–	–	–	11,388	(6,282)	5,106
– Other	59,561	(16,744)	42,817	–	–	–	(1,484)	1,196	–	–	–	–	60,757	(18,228)	42,529
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note C3-5):															
– Tip assets	17,587	(9,410)	8,177	–	–	–	(199)	–	–	–	(56)	–	17,532	(9,610)	7,922
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7,034,236	(2,978,085)	4,056,151	65,320	36,440	(8,369)	(97,626)	–	–	(16,646)	(56)	98,777	7,284,376	(3,150,385)	4,133,991

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

continued on next page ...

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period											At 30 June 2024		
$ '000	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals [1]	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Impairment loss / revaluation decrements (recognised in P/L)	Impairment loss (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Other movements- Transfer to Expense	Other movements - Waste Remediation Reassessment	Revaluation decrements to equity (ARR)	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
Capital work in progress	81,382	–	81,382	53,778	24,434	–	–	–	–	(64,006)	–	(7,085)	–	–	–	88,503	–	88,503
Plant and equipment	46,506	(26,213)	20,293	4,110	–	(600)	(4,267)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	48,486	(28,950)	19,536
Office equipment	11,947	(9,038)	2,909	1,117	–	–	(1,280)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13,065	(10,319)	2,746
Furniture and fittings	3,184	(2,030)	1,154	73	–	–	(302)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,257	(2,332)	925
Land:																		
– Operational land	306,586	–	306,586	–	10,319	(10)	–	–	–	–	(348)	–	–	–	51,364	367,911	–	367,911
– Community land	367,196	(760)	366,436	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	280	–	–	(2,341)	–	365,135	(760)	364,375
– Crown land	120,906	–	120,906	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	120,906	–	120,906
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	8,579	–	8,579	–	3,091	(4)	–	(5,603)	–	–	68	–	–	(2,569)	–	3,562	–	3,562
Infrastructure:																		
– Buildings – non-specialised	281,037	(106,383)	174,654	130	–	(99)	(5,004)	–	–	2,306	(2,855)	–	–	–	68,949	429,019	(190,938)	238,081
– Buildings – specialised	419,151	(222,139)	197,012	3,220	–	(305)	(7,116)	–	(598)	3,176	2,109	–	–	–	81,439	533,215	(254,278)	278,937
– Other structures	18,821	(9,655)	9,166	562	–	(856)	(707)	–	–	379	397	–	–	–	6,414	21,358	(6,003)	15,355
– Roads	2,061,164	(1,142,210)	918,954	–	16,705	(5,947)	(29,890)	–	–	28,703	(14)	–	–	–	45,255	2,188,536	(1,214,770)	973,766
– Bridges	151,182	(49,984)	101,198	–	6,563	(720)	(2,072)	–	–	3,817	–	–	–	–	5,019	169,139	(55,334)	113,805
– Footpaths	387,729	(184,529)	203,200	–	6,657	(804)	(5,405)	–	–	11,532	122	–	–	–	10,256	423,100	(197,542)	225,558
– Stormwater drainage	1,716,026	(783,826)	932,200	–	23,771	(135)	(19,011)	–	–	5,673	–	–	–	–	46,420	1,832,317	(843,399)	988,918
– Swimming pools	48,964	(34,648)	14,316	–	–	–	(764)	–	–	135	–	–	–	–	877	52,247	(37,683)	14,564
– Other open space/recreational assets	248,989	(91,390)	157,599	–	–	(1,423)	(7,020)	–	–	6,858	241	–	–	–	9,829	270,698	(104,614)	166,084
Other assets:																		
– Heritage collections	15,991	–	15,991	–	631	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16,622	–	16,622
– Library books	8,667	(3,767)	4,900	1,345	–	–	(1,242)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10,012	(5,009)	5,003
– Other	58,135	(15,258)	42,877	–	–	–	(1,487)	–	–	1,427	–	–	–	–	–	59,561	(16,744)	42,817
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note C3-5):																		
– Tip assets	9,410	(9,410)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,177	–	–	17,587	(9,410)	8,177
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6,371,552	(2,691,240)	3,680,312	64,335	92,171	(10,903)	(85,567)	(5,603)	(598)	–	–	(7,085)	8,177	(4,910)	325,822	7,034,236	(2,978,085)	4,056,151

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

continued on next page ...

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Initial recognition of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

IPPE is measured initially at cost. Cost includes the fair value of the consideration given to acquire the asset (net of discounts and rebates) and any directly attributable cost of bringing the asset to working condition for its intended use (inclusive of import duties and taxes).

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are acquired by Council at significantly below fair value, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Useful lives of IPPE

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Plant and equipment	Years	Other equipment	Years
Office equipment	2 to 25	Playground equipment	5 to 40
Office furniture	5 to 34	Benches, seats etc.	10 to 32
Computer equipment	2 to 10		
Vehicles	2 to 20	**Buildings**	
Heavy plant/road making equipment	3 to 34	Buildings: masonry	50 to 268
Other plant and equipment	2 to 34	Buildings: other	8 to 135
Stormwater assets		**Other infrastructure assets**	
Drains	20 to 170	Bulk earthworks	Indefinite
Culverts	20 to 170	Swimming pools	40 to 100
Flood control structures	20 to 170	Other open space/recreational assets	3 to 115
		Other infrastructure	10 to 105
Transportation assets			
Roads: seal	8 to 95		
Roads: base	15 to 145		
Roads: sub-base	15 to 145		
Bridge: concrete	80		
Bridge: other	20 to 80		
Kerb, gutter and footpaths	20 to 104		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date. Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the Income Statement.

Revaluation Model

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

continued on next page ...

C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Crown reserves
Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated. Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

Rural Fire Service assets
Under Section 119 of the *Rural Fire Services Act 1997 (NSW)*, "all firefighting equipment purchased or constructed wholly or from money to the credit of the Fund is to be vested in the council of the area for or on behalf of which the firefighting equipment has been purchased or constructed".

These Rural Fire Service assets are recognised as assets of the Council in these financial statements.

C1-9 Investment properties

Owned investment property

$ '000	2025	2024
At fair value		
Opening balance at 1 July	**5,100**	5,050
Net gain/(loss) from fair value adjustments	**550**	50
Closing balance at 30 June	**5,650**	5,100

Material accounting policy information
Investment property, principally comprising freehold office buildings, is held for long-term rental yields and is not occupied by the Council. Changes in fair values are recorded in the Income Statement as part of other income.

C1-10 Intangible assets

$ '000	2025	2024
Software		
Opening values at 1 July		
Gross book value	**2,345**	2,345
Accumulated amortisation	**(2,345)**	(2,345)
Net book value – opening balance	**–**	–
Closing values at 30 June		
Gross book value	**2,345**	2,345
Accumulated amortisation	**(2,345)**	(2,345)
Total intangible assets – net book value	**–**	–

Material accounting policy information

IT development and software

Software development costs include only those costs directly attributable to the development phase (including external direct costs of materials and services, direct payroll, and payroll-related costs of employees' time spent on the project) and are only recognised following completion of technical feasibility, and where the Council has an intention and ability to use the asset. Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over periods generally ranging from three to five years.

C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council has leases over land and buildings. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

Land & Buildings
Council leases land and building for libraries and other operations; these leases are between 5 and 30 years and some include a renewal option to allow Council to renew the lease term. These leases contain an annual pricing mechanism based on either fixed increases or CPI movements at each anniversary of the lease inception.

Extension options
Council includes extension options in some of their leases to provide flexibility and certainty to Council operations and reduce costs of moving premises. These extension options are at Council's discretion.

At commencement date and each subsequent reporting date, Council assesses where it is reasonably certain that the extension options will be exercised.

There are $6.2M in potential future lease payments which are not included in lease liabilities as Council has assessed that the exercise of the option is not reasonably certain.

(a) Right of use assets

$ '000	Land & Buildings	Total
2025		
Opening balance at 1 July	**1,332**	**1,332**
Additions to right-of-use assets	**1,444**	**1,444**
Depreciation charge	**(470)**	**(470)**
Other movement	**(30)**	**(30)**
Balance at 30 June	**2,276**	**2,276**
2024		
Opening balance at 1 July	718	718
Additions to right-of-use assets	1,032	1,032
Depreciation charge	(456)	(456)
Other movement	38	38
Balance at 30 June	1,332	1,332

(b) Lease liabilities

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Lease liabilities	**395**	**2,072**	460	963
Total lease liabilities	**395**	**2,072**	460	963

continued on next page ...

C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

(c) The maturity analysis

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

$ '000	< 1 year	1 – 5 years	> 5 years	Total	Total per Statement of Financial Position
2025					
Cash flows	**395**	**116**	**1,970**	**2,481**	**2,467**
2024					
Cash flows	460	948	31	1,439	1,423

(d) Income Statement

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to leases where Council is a lessee are shown below:

$ '000	2025	2024
Interest on lease liabilities	**137**	56
Depreciation of right of use assets	**470**	456
	607	512

(e) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	**507**	487
	507	487

(f) Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has a number of leases at significantly below market for land and infrastructure which are used for:

- pedestrian crossings and bridges
- boat ramp

The leases are generally for an extended period of time and require payments of a maximum amount of $1,000 per year. Council does not believe that any of the leases in place are individually material from a statement of financial position or performance perspective.

Material accounting policy information

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration?

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

At the lease commencement, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where Council believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Council's incremental borrowing rate for a similar term with similar security is used.

continued on next page ...

C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is re-measured when there is a lease modification, or change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI).

Where the lease liability is re-measured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the re-measurement.

Exceptions to lease accounting
Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Leases at significantly below market value / concessionary leases
Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

C2-2 Council as a lessor

Operating leases

Council leases out a number of properties; these leases have been classified as operating leases for financial reporting purposes and the assets are included in the Statement of Financial Position as:

– investment property – where the asset is held predominantly for rental or capital growth purposes (refer note C1-9)

– property, plant and equipment – where the rental is incidental, or the asset is held to meet Councils service delivery objective (refer note C1-8).

$ '000	2025	2024
(i) Assets held as investment property		
The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	**480**	528
Total income relating to operating leases for investment property assets	**480**	528
Operating lease expenses		
Direct operating expenses that generated rental income	**163**	138
Total expenses relating to operating leases	**163**	138
(ii) Assets held as property, plant and equipment		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	**6,555**	5,809
Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets	**6,555**	5,809

(iii) Maturity analysis of contractual lease income: investment property		
Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:		
< 1 year	**372**	278
1–2 years	**253**	133
2–3 years	**130**	77
3–4 years	**54**	41
Total undiscounted lease payments to be received	**809**	529

Material accounting policy information

When Council is a lessor, the lease is classified as either an operating or finance lease at inception date, based on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset have been transferred to the lessee. If the risks and rewards have been transferred then the lease is classified as a finance lease, otherwise it is an operating lease.

continued on next page ...

C2-2 Council as a lessor (continued)

When Council has a sub-lease over an asset and is the intermediate lessor then the head lease and sub-lease are accounted for separately. The classification of the sub-lease is based on the right-of-use asset which arises from the head lease rather than the useful life of the underlying asset.

If the lease contains lease and non-lease components, the non-lease components are accounted for in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

The lease income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term for an operating lease and as finance income using amortised cost basis for finance leases.

C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Prepaid rates	**4,974**	**–**	4,517	–
Goods and services – operating expenditure	**–**	**–**	1,207	–
Goods and services – capital expenditure	**2,324**	**–**	975	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Other expenditure accruals	**17,226**	**–**	12,821	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	**2,254**	**–**	2,087	–
Agency Funds	**40**	**–**	28	–
Other	**667**	**–**	638	–
Total payables	**27,485**	**–**	22,273	–

Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

$ '000	2025	2024
Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	**503**	581
Total payables	**503**	581

Material accounting policy information

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Council comprise trade payables and loans.

Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C3-2 Contract Liabilities

$ '000	Notes	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Unexpended capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	**10,984**	**–**	3,817	–
Unexpended operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	**847**	**–**	999	–
Unexpended capital contributions (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	**114**	**–**	114	–
Unexpended operating contributions (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	**539**	**–**	826	–
Total grants received in advance		**12,484**	**–**	5,756	–
Other contract liabilities:					
Upfront fees and charges	(iii)	**4,773**	**–**	3,887	–
Funds received prior to performance obligations being satisfied (upfront payments) - AASB 15	(iv)	**5,917**	**–**	2,900	–
Total user fees and charges received in advance		**10,690**	**–**	6,787	–
Total contract liabilities		**23,174**	**–**	12,543	–

Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

(ii) The contract liability relates to operating grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria in AASB 15 being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

(iii) Fees paid upfront for the delivery of specific Council services are recorded as a contract liability on receipt and recognised as revenue when the performance obligations are met.

(iv) Council has entered into a contract in relation to which the performance obligation is expected to be met during the year ending 30 June 2025. Payments made prior to the performance obligation being met are recorded as a contract liability on receipt and recognised as revenue when the performance obligation is met.

(i) Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period

$ '000	2025	2024
Capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	**435**	1,988
Operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	**562**	1,224
Operating contributions (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	**287**	399
Upfront fees	**1,453**	1,715
Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	**2,737**	5,326

Significant changes in contract liabilities

The contract liabilities are higher than the previous year primarily due to the receipt of funds prior to performance obligation being satisfied.

Material accounting policy information

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer, Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

C3-3 Borrowings

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Loans – secured [1]	–	–	657	–
Total borrowings	**–**	**–**	**657**	**–**

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council. Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note E1.

(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

$ '000	2024 Opening Balance	Cash flows	Non-cash movements: Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	2025 Closing balance
Loans – secured	657	**(657)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
Lease liability (Note C2-1)	1,423	**(506)**	**1,444**	**(31)**	**–**	**137**	**2,467**
Total liabilities from financing activities	2,080	**(1,163)**	**1,444**	**(31)**	**–**	**137**	**2,467**

$ '000	2023 Opening Balance	Cash flows	Non-cash movements: Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	2024 Closing balance
Loans – secured	3,229	(2,572)	–	–	–	–	657
Lease liability (Note C2-1)	784	(487)	1,032	–	–	94	1,423
Total liabilities from financing activities	4,013	(3,059)	1,032	–	–	94	2,080

(b) Financing arrangements

$ '000	2025	2024
Total facilities		
Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
Bank overdraft facilities [1]	**600**	600
Credit cards/purchase cards	**350**	350
Total financing arrangements	**950**	950
Drawn facilities		
Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	**115**	98
Total drawn financing arrangements	**115**	98
Undrawn facilities		
Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
– Bank overdraft facilities	**600**	600
– Credit cards/purchase cards	**235**	252
Total undrawn financing arrangements	**835**	852

Additional financing arrangements information

Breaches and defaults
During the current and prior year, there were no defaults or breaches on any of the loans.

(1) The bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

continued on next page ...

C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down.

Borrowings are removed from the Statement of Financial Position when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in other income or borrowing costs.

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-current	2024 Current	2024 Non-current
Annual leave	**12,666**	**–**	13,136	–
Sick leave	**26**	**–**	25	–
Long service leave	**41,295**	**695**	41,208	875
Other leave	**2,125**	**–**	2,016	–
Total employee benefit provisions	**56,112**	**695**	56,385	875

Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

$ '000	2025	2024
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	**40,809**	42,119
	40,809	42,119

$ '000	ELE provisions Employee Benefit Provisions	Total
2025		
At beginning of year	**57,260**	**57,260**
Additional provisions	**16,740**	**16,740**
Amounts used (payments)	**(19,204)**	**(19,204)**
Remeasurement effects	**2,011**	**2,011**
Total ELE provisions at end of year	**56,807**	**56,807**
2024		
At beginning of year	59,007	59,007
Additional provisions	15,422	15,422
Amounts used (payments)	(18,413)	(18,413)
Remeasurement effects	1,244	1,244
Total ELE provisions at end of year	57,260	57,260

Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave and vested long service leave (or that which vests within 12 months) is presented as current.

Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

continued on next page ...

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions (continued)

On-costs
The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods. These amounts include superannuation which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

C3-5 Provisions

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non-Current	2024 Current	2024 Non-Current
Other provisions				
Self insurance – workers compensation	**4,886**	**9,611**	4,023	9,602
Self insurance – claims incurred	**272**	**–**	292	–
Sub-total – other provisions	**5,158**	**9,611**	4,315	9,602
Asset remediation/restoration:				
Asset remediation/restoration (future works)	**250**	**40,296**	125	39,208
Sub-total – asset remediation/restoration	**250**	**40,296**	125	39,208
Total provisions	**5,408**	**49,907**	4,440	48,810

Description of and movements in provisions

	Other provisions			
$ '000	Self Insurance: Workers compen-sation	Self Insurance: Claims incurred	Asset remediation	Total
2025				
At beginning of year	**13,625**	**292**	**39,333**	**53,250**
Unwinding of discount	**597**	**–**	**1,003**	**1,600**
Additional provisions	**4,288**	**–**	**–**	**4,288**
Amounts used (payments)	**(5,721)**	**–**	**(37)**	**(5,758)**
Remeasurement effects	**1,708**	**(20)**	**247**	**1,935**
Expenditure incurred attributable to provisions	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
Total other provisions at end of year	**14,497**	**272**	**40,546**	**55,315**
2024				
At beginning of year	13,119	281	17,401	30,801
Unwinding of discount	–	–	620	620
Additional provisions	4,624	11	21,312	25,947
Amounts used (payments)	(5,333)	–	–	(5,333)
Remeasurement effects	1,215	–	–	1,215
Expenditure incurred attributable to provisions	–	–	–	–
Total other provisions at end of year	13,625	292	39,333	53,250

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation
Council has a legal/public obligation to make, restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the open Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot and the closed Helensburgh Waste Depot.

Self-insurance - workers compensation
To recognise liabilities for outstanding claims (uninsured losses) arising from Council's decision to undertake self-insurance for excesses up to $1,000,000 on any individual claim. Claims beyond this are supported by an external insurance policy.

Self-insurance - claims incurred
To recognise liabilities for both (i) claims expected to be incurred but not reported and (ii) claims reported and estimated as a result of Council being self insured up to an excess of $100,000 on any individual claim.

Material accounting policy information

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

continued on next page ...

C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

Asset Remediation/Restoration

Restoration
Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs.

Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The costs are estimated on the basis of a closure plan. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

Rehabilitation
Where rehabilitation is conducted systematically over the life of the operation, rather than at the time of closure, provision is made for the estimated outstanding continuous rehabilitation work at each reporting date, and the cost is charged to the Income Statement.

Provision is made for the estimated present value of the costs of environmental clean-up obligations outstanding at the reporting date. These costs are charged to the Income Statement. Movements in the environmental clean-up provisions are presented as an operating cost, except for the unwinding of the discount which is shown as a borrowing cost.

Remediation procedures generally commence soon after the time the damage, remediation process, and estimated remediation costs become known, and may continue for many years depending on the nature of the disturbance and the remediation techniques.

As noted above, the ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

Close-down and restoration costs are a normal consequence of tip and quarry operations, and the majority of close-down and restoration expenditure is incurred at the end of the life of the operations. Although the ultimate cost to be incurred is uncertain, Council estimates the respective costs based on feasibility and engineering studies using current restoration standards and techniques.

Self-insurance - workers compensation
Council holds a level of self-insurance in the form of an excess layer of $1,000,000 on any individual claim for workers compensation. A provision for self-insurance has been made to recognise outstanding claims. Council also maintains a bank guarantee to meet expected future claims; refer to Note E3-1.

Self-insurance - claims incurred
Council holds a level of self-insurance in the form of an excess layer of $100,000 on any individual claim for public liability and professional indemnity. A provision for self-insurance has been made to recognise outstanding claims.

C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

IPPE Revaluation Surplus
The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

D Council structure

D1 Results by fund

Council utilises only a general fund for its operations.

D2 Interests in other entities

Subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates not recognised

The following subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates have not been recognised in this financial report.

Name of entity/operation	Principal activity/type of entity	2025 Net profit/(loss) ($'000s)	2025 Net assets ($'000s)
Illawarra Performing Arts Centre	Theatre & Town Hall Management Associate	(213)	622

Reasons for non-recognition
Council has assessed this operation as not material for recognition in these statements.

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. Council's finance area manages the cash and Investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors. Council has an investment policy which complies with s625 of the Act and the Ministerial Investment Order. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and it's staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance as required by Local Government regulations.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

The risks associated with the financial instruments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether the changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of a capital or income nature.

Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees. Council also seeks advice from independent advisers before placing any funds in cash equivalents and investments.

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

$ '000	2025	2024
The following represents a summary of the sensitivity of Council's Income Statement and accumulated surplus (for the reporting period) due to a change in either the price of a financial asset or the interest rates applicable.		
It is assumed that the change in interest rates would have been constant throughout the reporting period.		
Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	**861**	856
Impact of a 10% movement in price of investments		
Possible impact of a 10% movement in price of investments	**1,896**	7,576

continued on next page ...

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (i) rates and annual charges and (ii) user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions.

Council makes suitable provision for the impairment of receivables as required.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges < 5 years	≥ 5 years	Total
2025				
Gross carrying amount	**104**	**15,892**	**2,657**	**18,653**
2024				
Gross carrying amount	–	14,881	3,266	18,147

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

$ '000	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts 0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	Total
2025						
Gross carrying amount	**15,742**	**737**	**181**	**155**	**3,181**	**19,996**
Expected loss rate (%)	**0.48%**	**3.97%**	**5.83%**	**5.90%**	**63.50%**	**10.72%**
ECL provision	**76**	**29**	**11**	**9**	**2,020**	**2,145**
2024						
Gross carrying amount	23,475	690	302	222	3,667	28,356
Expected loss rate (%)	0.39%	5.98%	14.20%	32.05%	84.90%	11.85%
ECL provision	92	41	43	71	3,113	3,360

continued on next page ...

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk – the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels and maintaining an adequate cash buffer.

Payment terms can (in extenuating circumstances) also be extended and overdraft facilities utilised as required.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk – the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs and debt servicing requirements. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures. The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities (refer to Note C2-1(b) for lease liabilities) and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

$ '000	Weighted average interest rate	Without defined maturity	payable in: ≤ 1 Year	1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
2025							
Payables	**0.00%**	**2,254**	**25,229**	**–**	**–**	**27,483**	**27,485**
Total financial liabilities		**2,254**	**25,229**	**–**	**–**	**27,483**	**27,485**
2024							
Payables	0.00%	2,087	20,682	–	–	22,769	22,273
Borrowings	0.62%	–	663	–	–	663	657
Total financial liabilities		2,087	21,345	–	–	23,432	22,930

E2-1 Fair value measurement

Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:
– Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
– Investment property
– Financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:
Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

				Fair value measurement hierarchy			
		Date of latest valuation		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
$ '000	Notes	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Recurring fair value measurements							
Financial assets							
Financial investments	C1-2						
At fair value through profit or loss – designated at fair value on initial recognition		30/06/25	30/06/24	**81,551**	78,874	**81,551**	78,874
Total financial assets				**81,551**	78,874	**81,551**	78,874
Investment property	C1-9						
Commercial building		30/06/25~	30/06/24~	**5,650**	5,100	**5,650**	5,100
Total investment property				**5,650**	5,100	**5,650**	5,100
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8						
Roads		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**995,261**	973,766	**995,261**	973,766
Bridges		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**114,574**	113,805	**114,574**	113,805
Footpaths		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**235,428**	225,558	**235,428**	225,558
Stormwater		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**1,011,145**	988,918	**1,011,145**	988,918
Plant and equipment		N/A	N/A	**21,440**	19,536	**21,440**	19,536
Office equipment		N/A	N/A	**3,206**	2,746	**3,206**	2,746
Furniture and fittings		N/A	N/A	**706**	925	**706**	925
Operational land		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**365,010**	367,911	**365,010**	367,911
Community land		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**368,322**	364,375	**368,322**	364,375
Crown Land		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**120,906**	120,906	**120,906**	120,906
Land under roads		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**4,590**	3,562	**4,590**	3,562
Buildings		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**526,865**	517,018	**526,865**	517,018
Other structures		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**16,017**	15,355	**16,017**	15,355
Swimming pools		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**14,581**	14,564	**14,581**	14,564
Library books		N/A	N/A	**5,106**	5,003	**5,106**	5,003
Other open space/recreational assets		30/06/25*	30/06/24*	**182,042**	166,084	**182,042**	166,084
Tip asset		30/06/25*	30/06/24~	**7,922**	8,177	**7,922**	8,177
Works in progress		N/A	N/A	**81,023**	88,503	**81,023**	88,503
Artworks		30/06/24~	30/06/24~	**17,318**	16,622	**17,318**	16,622
Other		30/06/21~	30/06/21~	**42,529**	42,817	**42,529**	42,817
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment *,~				**4,133,991**	4,056,151	**4,133,991**	4,056,151

(*,~)(*) Valuation via an indexation review, (~) Valuation via a comprehensive review

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair value using quoted market prices of identical assets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (Level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs).

Level 2 inputs include;

- quoted prices for similar assets in active markets,
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active,
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable (e.g. interest rates, credit spreads etc.) and
- market corroborated inputs.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs. If an observable input (Level 2) requires an adjustment using an unobservable input and that adjustment results in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement, the resulting measurement is categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. Council uses unobservable inputs to the extent relevant observable inputs are not available. But the objective remains the same; i.e. an exit price from the perspective of market participants. Therefore, unobservable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use when pricing, including assumptions about risk. Assumptions about risk include risk inherent in a particular valuation technique and risk inherent in inputs to the technique. Such an adjustment may be necessary if there is a significant measurement uncertainty.

Unobservable inputs have been developed using the best information available, which includes Council's own data. In some cases, Council adjusts its own data if reasonable available information indicates other market participants would use different data or if there is an entity specific synergy (i.e. not available to other market participants).

Level 3 inputs include;

- Unit Rates,
- Unit Price,
- Asset Condition,
- Remaining Useful Life,
- Future Demands,
- Borrowing Rates.

The Fair Valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

Financial assets

Valuation Technique – A portion of Council's investment portfolio is measured at fair value (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the current price in an active market for similar assets. Emerald Reverse Mortgage investment securities form part of this portion of Council's portfolio. The market for Australian mortgage backed securities, regardless of the robustness of the structure, is highly illiquid as a direct consequence of the global financial crisis. This has caused difficulties in valuing the security as there is limited "price discovery" in the market. As such the level of valuation input for Council's fair valued investments was considered a level 3.

Investment property

Valuation Technique – Council's Investment Property is measured using sales direct comparison based on a market selling approach (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy - the fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach are rental yields and price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's investment property valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for rental yields and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Infrastructure – Council's Infrastructure incorporates;

- Roads – Surface and bases, Car Parks, Kerb and Guttering and Traffic Facilities (speed humps, bollards and signs),
- Bridges – Road, Pedestrian and Jetties,
- Footpaths including shared pathways, and
- Stormwater Drainage.

Valuation Technique – Infrastructure assets are recognised using the cost method, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is to equal the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's infrastructure inventory is to determine a unit rate based on square metres or an appropriate unit corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). A process is then undertaken to compare these rates with internal unit rates derived by Council as a result of specific projects that have been undertaken. Further to this other input such as asset condition and useful life require a significant level of professional judgement and can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for these assets was considered level 3.

Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment & Furniture & Fittings incorporate:

- Plant & Equipment – Trucks, Tractors, Graders, Rollers, Buses, Vans, Passenger Vehicles, Mobile Equipment (i.e. generators, hand mowers, tools), Fluid storage units (i.e. septic tanks, water tanks),
- Office Equipment – Electronic Whiteboards, Printing Equipment, Safes and I.T. equipment such as computers, printers and scanners,
- Furniture & Fittings – Chairs, Tables, Filing Cabinets, Bookshelves, Compactuses,

Valuation Technique – These assets are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Operational Land

Valuation Technique – Council's Operational Land is measured using a comparative market selling approach (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach is price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's operational land valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for similar properties and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Community & Crown Land

Valuation Technique – Council's Community & Crown Land is measured using comparative Land Values (LV) provided by the Valuer General (VG) or an average unit rate based on a comparable LV for similar properties (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – the fair value has been derived from the LV's provided by the VG or an average unit rate based on the LV for similar properties where the VG did not provide a LV. The most significant input into this valuation approach is price per square metre. Valuations provided by the VG are not in the public domain and the application of an average rate requires a level of professional judgement. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Land Under Roads

Valuation Technique – Land is generally valued using comparative Land Values (LV) provided by the Valuer General (VG) or an average unit rate based on a comparable LV for similar properties (i.e. market approach).

Fair Value Hierarchy – The existing use fair value of land under roads is best expressed as undeveloped or englobo land (pre-subdivision). However, as sufficient sales evidence of englobo land with similar features to the land being valued is generally not available, it is appropriate to use a proxy to estimate the englobo value. Community land value is used as a reasonable proxy to value land under roads, as such land generally has no feasible alternative use, and it is undeveloped and is publicly accessible. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Buildings – Non-Specialised and Specialised

Valuation Technique – Buildings are recognised using the cost method, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is equal to the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy – Specialised and Non-Specialised buildings are generally assessed at level 3 of the fair value hierarchy due to lack of market evidence. Key inputs are unit rates and remaining useful life. The exception is non-specialised residential properties which have been valued using sale prices of comparable properties (level 2). The most significant input into this valuation approach is price per square metre. The level of evidence to support the critical assumptions of Council's residential property valuation was considered to be significant due to high levels of variability in the market for rental yields and future demands. As such the level of valuation input for all buildings was considered level 3.

Other Structures

Other Structures incorporates Bus Shelters, Shade Structures, Picnic Shelters and BBQ Shelters.

Valuation Technique – Other Structures are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Other Open Space / Recreational Assets

Other Open Space/Recreational Assets incorporate Park Assets including Playgrounds, Skateboard Facilities, Tennis Courts, Furniture and Landscaping and Power Poles.

Valuation Technique – Other Open Space/Recreational Assets are recognised using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – while some elements of the cost method can be supported by market evidence (Level 2) other factors require professional judgement such as asset condition and useful life. As these inputs can have a significant impact on the fair value the valuation input all Other Open Space / Recreational Assets were considered level 3.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Swimming Pools – Structures

Valuation Technique – Swimming Pools and Rock Pools are valued using the cost approach, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's swimming pool inventory is to determine a unit rate based on square metres corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). A process is then undertaken to compare these rates with internal unit rates derived by Council as a result of specific work that has been undertaken. Further to this other input such as asset condition and useful life require a significant level of professional judgement and can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for these properties was considered level 3.

Artworks

Valuation Technique – Art Works are valued using the market approach, which equates to the current replacement cost of a modern equivalent asset. The cost to replace the asset is to equal the amount that a market participant buyer of that asset would pay to acquire it.

Fair Value Hierarchy - the general valuation approach to determine the fair value of Council's Artworks is to use the market price or purchase price of the original transaction or if the work is in the form of a donation an external valuation is undertaken corroborated by market evidence (Level 2 input). It is noted that the valuation process requires a significant level of professional judgement and this can impact significantly on the fair value. As such the level of valuation input for artworks was considered level 3.

Library Books

Valuation Technique – These assets are recognised at depreciated historical cost as an acceptable substitute for fair value because any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

Fair Value Hierarchy – The key unobservable unit to the valuation of this category is asset condition and useful life. The condition of assets is reviewed on an annual basis and an assessment of remaining life undertaken based on these results.

Other Assets

Other Assets is a catch all for the remaining assets held by Council and includes Waste Assets such as Cell Development and Liners, Public Art and Crematorium and Cemetery Beams and Walls.

Valuation Technique - Other Assets are recognised using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – While some elements of the cost method can be supported by market evidence (Level 2) others factors require professional judgement such as asset condition and useful life. As these inputs can have a significant impact on the fair value the valuation input all Other Assets were considered level 3.

Tip Remediation Asset

Valuation Technique – Council's Tip Remediation Asset is measured using the cost method.

Fair Value Hierarchy – Whytes Gully Waste Disposal Depot will require remediation and restoration works to be carried out during and at the end of its useful life. The cash outflows relating to these remediation and restoration works have been modelled and recognised as an asset in Note C1-8 of Council's statements. Key unobservable inputs were the discount rate, cost escalation rate, timing of costs and future environmental management requirements. As such the level of valuation input for Council's tip asset was considered Level 3.

The tip remediation asset was adjusted in line with changes to the remediation provision.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A summary of the Fair Valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

Asset Category	Valuation Frequency	Description of Process	Valuer*	Responsibility
Financial Assets	Monthly	Monthly valuation using the current price in an active market for similar assets	External	Finance Division
Investment Properties	Annually	Assessed each year for material change and adjusted accordingly	External	Property Division
Infrastructure	5 years	Full valuation using current unit rates and comparable work. Assessed each year for material change and adjusted accordingly	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Plant & Equipment	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Office Equipment & Furniture & Fittings	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Operational Land	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External	Property Division
Community & Crown Land	5 Years	Valuer General Land Values or Average Unit Rate for similar properties if not available	Valuer General / Internal	Property / Finance Division
Land Under Roads	5 Years	Valuer General Land Values or Average Unit Rate used as proxy to derive en globo rate	Valuer General / Internal	Finance Division
Buildings – Non Specialised & Specialised	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External / Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division / Property Division
Intangibles	5 Years	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Other Structures	5 Years	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Asset Category	Valuation Frequency	Description of Process	Valuer*	Responsibility
Other Open Space / Recreational Assets	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Swimming Pools - Structures	5 Years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	External / Internal	Infrastructure & Strategic Planning Division
Library Books	Annually	Assessment of remaining useful life undertaken with adjustments to consumption patterns that may impact fair value	Internal	Finance Division
Other Assets	5 years	Full valuation every 5 years or index applied annually if material	Internal	Various
Tip Remediation Asset	Annually	Reassessment of discount rate and application to discounted cash flows if material	Internal	Finance Division

*Internal Valuation refers to the utilisation of in-house expertise to value Council's assets.

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy by class of assets is provided below:

	Financial assets		Investment property		IPP&E		Total	
$ '000	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024
Opening balance	**78,874**	56,286	**5,100**	5,050	**4,056,151**	3,680,312	**4,140,125**	3,741,648
Total gains or losses for the period								
Recognised in profit or loss – realised [1]	**953**	1,414	**550**	50	**–**	(5,603)	**1,503**	(4,139)
Recognised in other comprehensive income – revaluation surplus	**–**	–	**–**	–	**98,777**	320,912	**98,777**	320,912
Other movements								
Purchases (GBV)	**6,500**	29,600	**–**	–	**101,760**	156,507	**108,260**	186,107
Disposals (WDV)	**(4,154)**	(8,426)	**–**	–	**(8,369)**	(10,903)	**(12,523)**	(19,329)
Depreciation and impairment	**–**	–	**–**	–	**(97,626)**	(86,165)	**(97,626)**	(86,165)
Waste remediation reassessment	**–**	–	**–**	–	**(56)**	8,176	**(56)**	8,176
Transfer to expense	**–**	–	**–**	–	**(16,646)**	(7,085)	**(16,646)**	(7,085)
Closing balance	**82,173**	78,874	**5,650**	5,100	**4,133,991**	4,056,151	**4,221,814**	4,140,125

(1) Fair value gains recognised in the Income Statement relating to assets still on hand at year end total

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED

1. Land under roads

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account land under roads that it owned or controlled up to and including 30 June 2008.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Bank Guarantees

Council has provided Bank Guarantees totalling $6,831,519 (2024: $2,001,081) as security over damages for work that may impact a third party.

Council has provided security to Work Cover for outstanding workers compensation claims liability in the form of a bank guarantee to the sum of $13,326,000 (2024: $13,326,000).

2. Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Active Super), named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme - Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

Description of the funding arrangements

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 9.0% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2025 (increasing to 9.5% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee from 1 July 2025) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of $20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June.
Given the funding position of the Fund as at 30 June 2024, it was recommended to cease these past service contributions effective 1 January 2025.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each actuarial investigation which will be conducted annually, the next of which is due effective 30 June 2025.

continued on next page ...

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding past service contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

The amount of Council employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was $1,492,251.48. The last formal valuation of the Scheme was performed by fund actuary, Richard Boyfield, FIAA as at 30 June 2024.

Council's expected contribution to the plan for the next annual reporting period is $542,285.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2025 is:

Employer reserves only *	$'000	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,197.6	
Past Service Liabilities	2,092.0	105.0%
Vested Benefits	2,130.4	103.2%

* excluding other accumulation accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

The share of any funding surplus or deficit that can be attributed to Council is 4.93%

Council's share of that deficiency cannot be accurately calculated as the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils. For this reason, no liability for the deficiency has been recognised in Council's accounts. Council has a possible obligation that may arise should the Scheme require immediate payment to correct the deficiency.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.0% per annum
Salary inflation	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	2.5% per annum

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

The estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Fund's Actuary, the final end of year review, which will be a triennial actuarial investigation will be completed by December 2025.

3. Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various third party claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its functions and services. Council believes that it ordinarily holds adequate insurance coverage in relation to these third party claims and would not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

continued on next page ...

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

4. Development Contributions

Council levies Development Contributions upon various development across the Council area through the required Contributions Plans. As part of these Plans, Council has received funds for which it will be required to expend the monies in accordance with those Plans.

As well, these Plans indicate proposed future expenditure to be undertaken by Council, which will be funded by making levies and receipting funds in future years or where a shortfall exists by the use of Council's General Funds.

These future expenses do not yet qualify as liabilities as of the Reporting Date, but represent Councils intention to spend funds in the manner and timing set out in those plans.

5. Greenhouse Park

Council owns and manages a former landfill site at Greenhouse Park. The landfill was constructed prior to contemporary environmental regulations and used as both a putrescible and builders waste landfill. Following the closure of the site as a landfill, remediation of the site has been progressively occurring to transform the site into a natural area.

Council is also working with the EPA and specialised consultants to manage the landfill waste which was placed on the site. Total remediation costs at this stage are unknown and will be dependent on the remediation strategies implemented. Council is currently working with the EPA and specialised consultants to determine the remediation actions required.

6. Native Title

In January 2018, the National Native Title Tribunal accepted registration of a native title claim that included the Wollongong LGA. The claim is now before the Federal Court, and Council is one of a number of defendants to those proceedings. Private freehold land, and certain other land owned by Council is not affected. The claim will take some time to determine before the Federal Court.

F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly. During the financial year 27 (2024: 19) persons were identified as meeting the definition of a KMP. The number of KMP is higher than prior year as a result of October 2024 Councillor Elections.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

$ '000	2025	2024
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	**2,730**	2,693
Total	**2,730**	2,693

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has assessed other transactions with KMP and their related parties as not material for recognition in these statements.

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

$ '000	2025	2024
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	**111**	107
Councillors' fees	**499**	507
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	**106**	73
Total	**716**	687

F1-3 Other related parties

$ '000	Transactions during the year	Terms and conditions
2025		
Associates		
Marketing, events, business and investment in LGA	**1,701**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Event sponsorship & support	**15**	Based on specific events.
Advertisement	**8**	
Performing Arts Centre management	**1,287**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Town Hall management	**849**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Asset Maintenance	**142**	
Community Subsidy	**20**	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Venue Hire	**16**	

continued on next page ...

F1-3 Other related parties (continued)

$ '000	Transactions during the year	Terms and conditions
2024		
Associates		
Marketing, events, business and investment in LGA	1,560	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Event sponsorship & support	18	Based on specific events.
Advertisement	6	
Performing Arts Centre management	826	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Town Hall management	544	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Asset Maintenance	115	
Community Subsidy	20	Amounts provided under a funding agreement.
Venue Hire	20	

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

$ '000	2025	2024
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms		
Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Audit and review of financial statements	**257**	261
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	**257**	261
Total Auditor-General remuneration	**257**	261
Non NSW Auditor-General audit firms		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Other audit and assurance services	**52**	25
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	**52**	25
Total remuneration of non NSW Auditor-General audit firms	**52**	25
Total audit fees	**309**	286

G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

(a) Reconciliation of Operating Result

$ '000	2025	2024
Net operating result from Income Statement	**(10,238)**	40,989
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**98,096**	86,023
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	**6,276**	10,120
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	**(14,623)**	(59,964)
Prior period WIP written off during year	**16,701**	7,085
Losses/(gains) recognised on fair value re-measurements through the P&L:		
– Investments classified as 'at fair value' or 'held for trading'	**(1,845)**	(1,306)
– Investment property	**(550)**	(50)
– Fair value movement on CivicRisk Mutual	**–**	(255)
Unwinding of discount rates on reinstatement provisions	**1,003**	620
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	**2,450**	(103)
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	**(295)**	831
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	**12**	(38)
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	**417**	2,790
(Increase) / decrease of contract asset	**5,405**	(6,976)
Increase / (decrease) in payables	**(1,207)**	280
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	**4,405**	(397)
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	**665**	(201)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	**10,631**	2,228
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	**(453)**	(1,747)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	**1,062**	21,829
Net cash flows from operating activities	**117,912**	101,758

(b) Non-cash investing and financing activities

Other dedications	**13,435**	58,757
Contributed Art Works	**515**	535
Planning Agreement - Non-cash contribution	**–**	–
Total non-cash investing and financing activities	**13,950**	59,292

G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

$ '000	2025	2024
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment		
Infrastructure	**41,740**	30,019
Total commitments	**41,740**	30,019

Details of capital commitments

Infrastructure includes Beaton Park Tennis Court Upgrade, WWARRP Stage 2B, Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation, Lindsay Maynes Park Amenities Building, Helensburgh Pool - Design, Shone Avenue Retaining Wall and Shared Pathway, Sportsground Drainage and Irrigation, West Dapto Road Upgrade, Channel & Verge Modifications - Kanahooka Road, Corrimal Steam Train Restoration, Stanwell Park Beach Reserve Playground Renewal, and Unanderra Park Playground Renewal.

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant ‘non-adjusting events’ that should be disclosed.

G4 Statement of developer contributions

G4-1 Summary of developer contributions

$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year: Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
Drainage	15,958	**1,338**	**–**	**–**	**892**	**–**	**–**	**18,188**	**–**
Roads	(7,681)	**9,105**	**–**	**–**	**(330)**	**(5,559)**	**–**	**(4,465)**	**–**
Open space	6,138	**866**	**–**	**–**	**349**	**(51)**	**–**	**7,302**	**–**
Community facilities	1,502	**20**	**–**	**–**	**82**	**–**	**–**	**1,604**	**–**
Administration	(2,067)	**140**	**–**	**–**	**(114)**	**(178)**	**–**	**(2,219)**	**–**
Public transport	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
S7.11 contributions – under a plan	13,850	**11,469**	**–**	**–**	**879**	**(5,788)**	**–**	**20,410**	**–**
S7.12 levies – under a plan	37,458	**7,498**	**–**	**–**	**2,213**	**(554)**	**–**	**46,615**	**–**
Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans	51,308	**18,967**	**–**	**–**	**3,092**	**(6,342)**	**–**	**67,025**	**–**
S7.11 not under plans	381	**–**	**–**	**–**	**20**	**–**	**–**	**401**	**–**
S7.4 planning agreements	4,260	**2,072**	**–**	**–**	**209**	**–**	**–**	**6,541**	**–**
Total contributions	55,949	**21,039**	**–**	**–**	**3,321**	**(6,342)**	**–**	**73,967**	**–**

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, local infrastructure contributions, also known as developer contributions, are charged by councils when new development occurs. They help fund infrastructure like parks, community facilities, local roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage and traffic management. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

G4-2 Developer contributions by plan [1]

$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year: Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
S7.11 contributions – under a plan									
CONTRIBUTION PLAN – WEST DAPTO									
Drainage	15,958	**1,338**	**–**	**–**	**892**	**–**	**–**	**18,188**	**–**
Roads	(7,681)	**9,105**	**–**	**–**	**(330)**	**(5,559)**	**–**	**(4,465)**	**–**
Open space	6,138	**866**	**–**	**–**	**349**	**(51)**	**–**	**7,302**	**–**
Community facilities	1,502	**20**	**–**	**–**	**82**	**–**	**–**	**1,604**	**–**
Administration	(2,067)	**140**	**–**	**–**	**(114)**	**(178)**	**–**	**(2,219)**	**–**
Total	13,850	**11,469**	**–**	**–**	**879**	**(5,788)**	**–**	**20,410**	**–**

(1) The opening balances have been adjusted between categories to reflect the allocation of non-cash contributions

S7.12 Levies – under a plan

CONTRIBUTION PLAN – WOLLONGONG [A,B]									
City Wide	28,898	**6,055**	**–**	**–**	**1,713**	**(521)**	**–**	**36,145**	**–**
City Centre	8,560	**1,443**	**–**	**–**	**500**	**(33)**	**–**	**10,470**	**–**
Total	37,458	**7,498**	**–**	**–**	**2,213**	**(554)**	**–**	**46,615**	**–**

(A) The Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan is a levy based plan that reflects development activity in the Local Government Area excluding areas covered by the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan.

(B) Figures provided include amounts collected under the Wollongong City-Wide Development Plan as well as contributions received from relevant development consents approved prior to 2006 that contained conditions for contributions to be made under now repealed Development Contribution plans. These are transferred and applied towards items within the Section 7.12 Plan works schedule as the Section 7.12 Plan is the replacement for the plans repealed in June 2006.

G4-3 Contributions not under plans

$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2024	Contributions received during the year: Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2025	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
CONTRIBUTION PLAN – CALDERWOOD [A, B, C]									
Roads	381	–	–	–	20	–	–	401	–
Total	381	–	–	–	20	–	–	401	–

(A) The Calderwood Urban Release Area was historically in the Shellharbour City Local Government Area. However, the Urban Release Area was later expanded during the State Government's major project approval process to include land that straddles the local government boundary, which comprises 107 hectares of land in the Wollongong Local Government Area at Marshall Mount.

(B) In 2013, the Land and Environment Court imposed a development contribution condition on Stage 1 of the Calderwood development within Shellharbour City Council Local Government Area, requiring the payment of a contribution of $1,320 per lot to Wollongong City Council to be used towards upgrades of Marshall Mount Road and Yallah Road. The payments reflected in the above relate to these court proceedings.

(C) Wollongong City Council and Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited have entered into a Planning Agreement for the remainder of the contributions relating to the Calderwood development.

G4-4 S7.4 planning agreements

S7.4 planning agreements									
Roads	4,260	2,072	–	–	209	–	–	6,541	–
Total	4,260	2,072	–	–	209	–	–	6,541	–

End of the audited financial statements

H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)

H1-1 Council information and contact details

Principal place of business:
41 Burelli Street
Wollongong NSW 2500

Contact details

Mailing Address:
Locked Bag 8821
Wollongong NSW 2500

Telephone: (02) 4227 7111
Facsimile: (02) 4227 7277

Opening hours:
Administration Building: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Internet: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Email: council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Officers

GENERAL MANAGER
Greg Doyle

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER
Brian Jenkins

PUBLIC OFFICER
Todd Hopwood

AUDITORS
Audit Office of New South Wales
Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2, 201 Sussex Street,
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Elected members

LORD MAYOR
Tania Brown

COUNCILLORS
Ward 1
Dan Hayes
Richard Martin
Ryan Morris
Jess Whittaker

Ward 2
Andrew Anthony
David Brown
Kit Docker
Thomas Quinn

Ward 3
Linda Campbell
Ann Martin
Tiana Myers
Deidre Stuart

Other information

ABN: 63 139 525 939

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the general purpose financial statements

Wollongong City Council

To the Councillors of Wollongong City Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wollongong City Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
  - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the Division
  - are, in all material respects, consistent with the Council's accounting records
  - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993*, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 'Material budget variations'
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.

David Daniels
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2025
SYDNEY

Cr Tania Brown
Lord Mayor
Wollongong City Council
Locked Bag 8821
WOLLONGONG DC NSW 2500

Contact: David Daniels
Phone no: 02 9275 7103
Our ref: R008-1981756498-6234

30 October 2025

Dear Lord Mayor

Report on the Conduct of the Audit

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

I have audited the general- purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Wollongong City Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2025 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. The Report:

- must address the specific matters outlined in the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2024-25
- may include statements, comments and recommendations that I consider to be appropriate based on the conduct of the audit of the GPFS.

This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

INCOME STATEMENT

Financial performance

	2025 $m	2024 $m	Variance %
Rates and annual charges revenue	247.5	231.8	6.8
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes revenue	31.6	32.8	3.6
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes revenue	45.5	100.8	54.9
Operating result from continuing operations	(10.2)	41.0	125
Net Operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(55.7)	(59.8)	6.8

Operating result from continuing operations

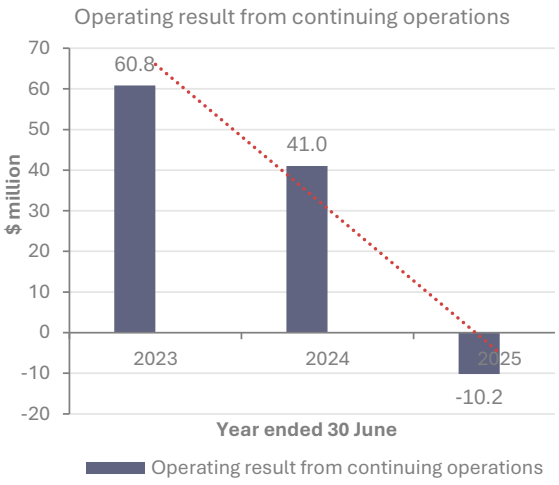
This graph shows the operating result from continuing operations for the current and prior two financial years.

The Council's operating result from continuing operations for the year of $10.2 million (loss) was $51.2 million lower than the 2023–24 result.

This was mainly due to:

- income decreased by $39.7 million because of reduced grants and contributions provided for capital purposes of $55.3 million, partially offset by increased rates and annual charges of $15.7 million. Refer to 'Council revenue' below for details.
- expenses overall remained constant, with increases in employee benefits and on-costs of $12.8 million (9.1%) offset by reduced materials and services of $12 million (9.8%)
- depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets expense increased by $12.1 million (14%) due increases in infrastructure plant, property and equipment.

The net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes (loss of $55.7 million) was $4.1 million higher than the 2023-24 result (which was a loss of $59.8 million). Refer to 'Grants and contributions revenue' below for details.



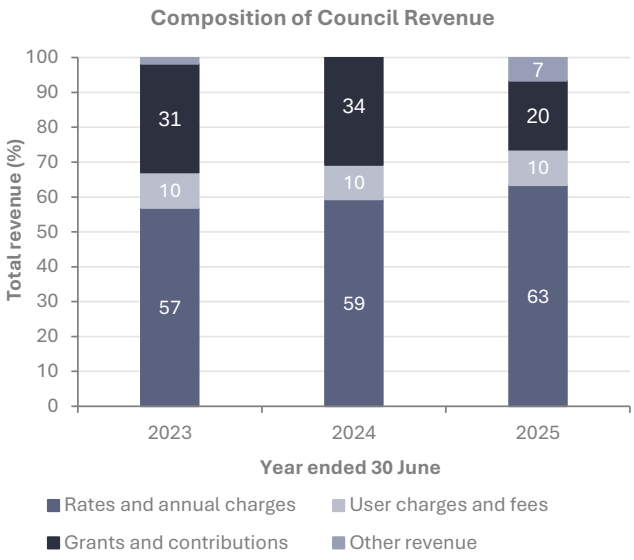
Income

Council revenue

This graph shows the composition of Council's revenue recognised for the current and prior two financial years.

The Council's revenue ($390.6 million) decreased by $39.7 million (9.2%) in 2024–25 primarily due to reduced grants and contributions provided for capital purposes ($45.5 million) of $55.3 million (54.9%). This is due to less contributed transport and other infrastructure assets from developers of subdivisions in the current year.

The decrease in grants and contributions provided for capital purposes is partially offset by increase in rates and annual charges ($247.5 million in 2024-25) by $15.7 (7%) primarily due to the rate peg increase of 5 percent and general increase in the number of rateable properties.

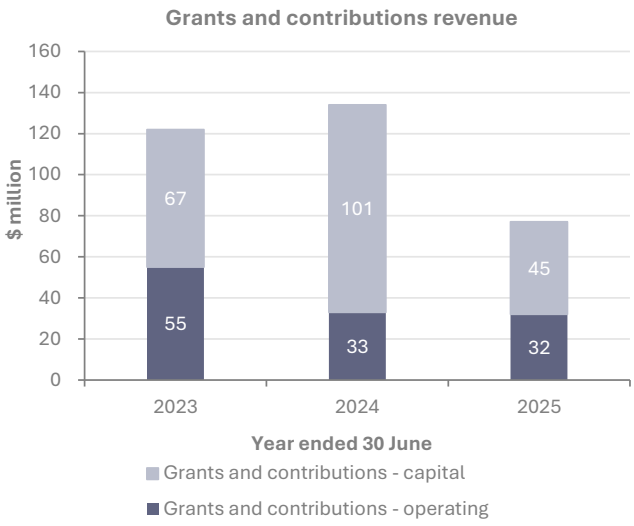


Grants and contributions revenue

This graph shows the amount of grants and contributions revenue recognised for the current and prior two financial years.

Grants and contributions revenue ($77.1 million in 2024-25) decreased by $56.5 million (42.3%) due to:

- decreased financial assistance grants ($15.5 million) by $4.8 million (23.8 per cent), primarily due to Council receiving 51 per cent for 2025-26 in advance (85 per cent was received in advance in 2023-24)
- decreased grants and contributions provided for capital purposes ($45.5 million) by $55.3 million (54.9%) as noted above.



CASH FLOWS

Statement of cash flows

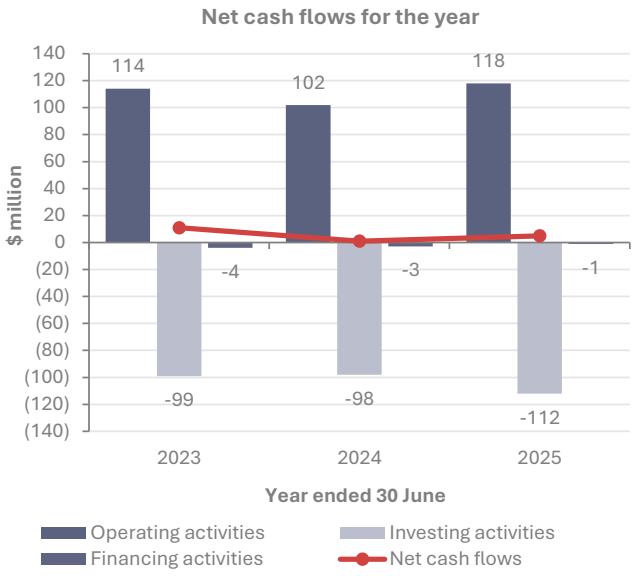
The Statement of Cash Flows details the Council's inflows and outflows of cash over a specific period. It helps in assessing the Council's ability to generate cash to fund its operations, pay off debts, and support future projects. It also aids in identifying any pressures or issues in the Council operating in a financially sustainable manner.

This graph shows the net cash flows for the current and prior two financial years.

The net cash flows for the year were positive $4.7 million (positive $0.5 million in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, the net cashflows:

- from operating activities ($117.9 million) increased by $16.2 million mainly due to increased receipts from rates and annual charges by $14.7 million and grants and contributions by $8.2 million
- used in investing activities increased by $14 million primarily due to increased acquisition of term deposits by $27.1 million. This is partially offset by increased proceeds from the sale or maturity of investments by $12.8 million.
- used in financing activities decreased by $2 million due mainly to reduced payments of borrowings by $1.9 million.



FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash, cash equivalents and investments

This section of the Report provides details of the amount of cash, cash equivalents and investments recorded by the Council at 30 June 2025.

Externally restricted funds are the cash, cash equivalents and investments that can only be used for specific purposes due to legal or contractual restrictions.

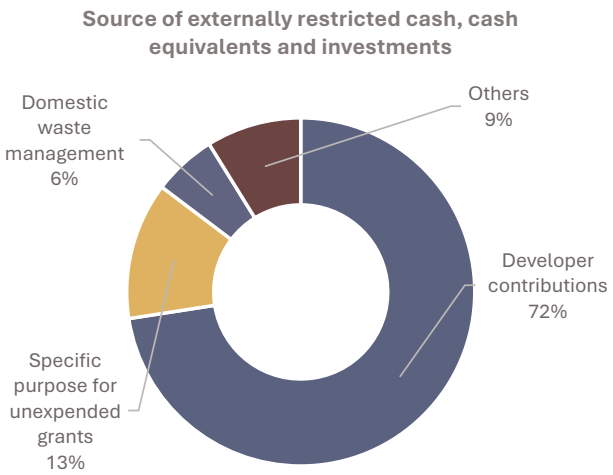
Cash, cash equivalents, and investments without external restrictions can be allocated internally by the elected Council's resolution or policy. These allocations are matters of Council policy and can be changed or removed by a Council resolution.

Cash, cash equivalents and investments	2025	2024	Percentage to cash and investments 2025	Commentary
	$m	$m	%	
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	**214.5**	**179.5**		Externally restricted balances are those which are only available for specific use due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contract. A breakdown of the sources of externally restricted balances is included in the graph below.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:				Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change.
• External restrictions	102.2	86.9	47.6	External restrictions increased mainly due to increased developer contributions of $18 million (32%).
• Internal allocations	68.6	68.7	32.0	

This graph shows the sources of externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments.

In 2024-25, the Council's main sources of externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments include:

- developer contributions of $74 million which increased by $18 million (32%)
- specific purpose unexpended grants of $13.4 million which increased by $1.7 million (14.1%).



Council liquidity

This graph shows the Council's unrestricted current ratio for the current and prior two financial years.

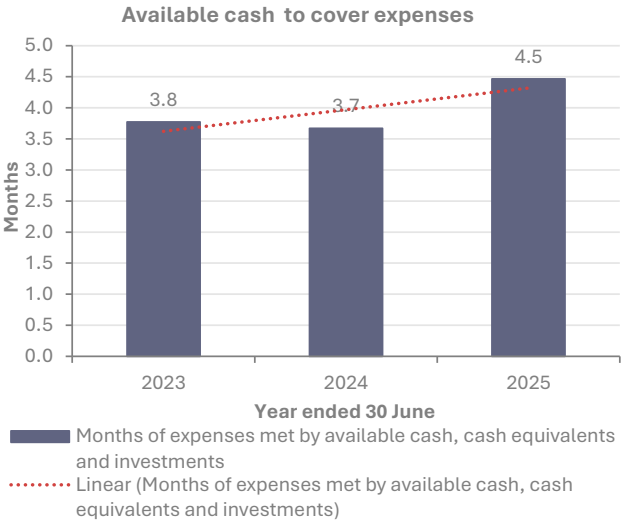
The unrestricted current ratio is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. It measures the ratio of unrestricted current assets to current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities.

In 2023-24, the average unrestricted current ratio was an average of 3.1x for regional councils.

This graph shows the number of months of general fund expenses (excluding depreciation and borrowing costs), the Council can fund from its available cash, cash equivalents and investments (not subject to external restrictions).

Further details on cash, cash equivalents and investments including the sources of external restrictions are included in the section above.

In 2023–24, the available cash to cover expenses was an average of 7 months for regional councils.

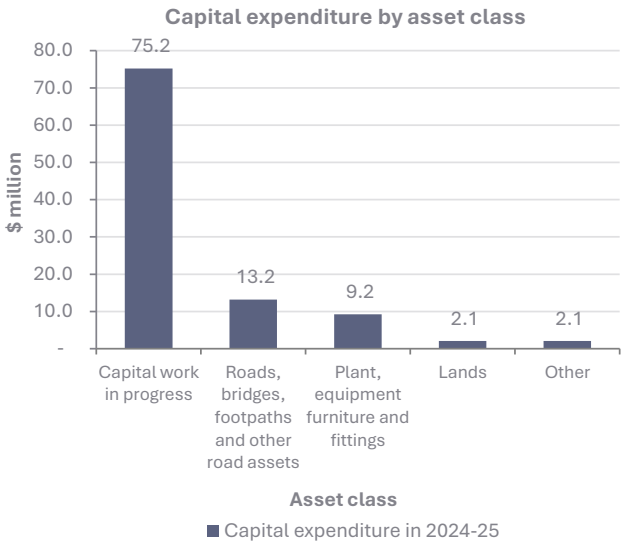


Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

This graph shows how much the Council spent on renewing and purchasing assets in 2024-25.

The Council acquired $101.8 million of new, replacement and contributed assets in 2024-25. At 30 June 2025, $75.2 million of capital works was in progress and mainly related to Traffic Facility Improvements, West Dapto Infrastructure expansion, Bellambi Gully Flood Mitigation, and various design works for future projects. A further $13.2 million was spent on roads, footpaths and stormwater drainage.

Renewals were materially in line with prior year. Additions of new assets decreased by $55.7 million (60.5 %) in 2024-25 compared to last year, mainly relating to the decline in additions to operational land, land under roads, roads, footpaths and stormwater drainage.



OTHER MATTERS

Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

David Daniels
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Wollongong City Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents Page

Statement by Councillors and Management 3

Special Purpose Financial Statements:

Income Statement of Waste Disposal 4
Income Statement of Tourist parks 5
Income Statement of Health & Fitness 6

Statement of Financial Position of Waste Disposal 7
Statement of Financial Position of Tourist parks 8
Statement of Financial Position of Health & Fitness 9

Note – Material accounting policy information 10

Auditor's Report on Special Purpose Financial Statements 13

Background

i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.

ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than $2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Wollongong City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the NSW Government Policy Statement *'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'*,
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines *'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality'*,
- the Local Government *Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*,

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 27 October 2025.

Tania Brown
Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Linda Campbell
Deputy Lord Mayor
27 October 2025

Greg Doyle
General Manager
27 October 2025

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
27 October 2025

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Waste Disposal

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	**30,140**	29,903
Rental Income	**241**	253
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**694**	16
Other income	**486**	643
Total income from continuing operations	**31,561**	30,815
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**2,772**	2,555
Borrowing costs	**1,003**	620
Materials and services [1]	**6,089**	17,821
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**1,528**	1,338
Calculated taxation equivalents	**612**	539
Waste levy	**13,634**	12,252
Total expenses from continuing operations	**25,638**	35,125
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**5,923**	(4,310)
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**5,923**	(4,310)
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**5,923**	(4,310)
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(1,481)**	–
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**4,442**	(4,310)
Plus accumulated surplus	**16,973**	30,615
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**612**	539
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**1,481**	–
– Dividend paid	**(13,876)**	(9,871)
Closing accumulated surplus	**9,632**	16,973
Return on capital %	**22.4%**	(5.9)%
Subsidy from Council	**–**	6,393
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**4,442**	(4,310)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**4,442**	–
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**2,221**	–

(1) Each financial year the provision for the remediation of Council's waste facility is calculated based on the forecast costs to rehabilitate the site. The movements in the provision are generally recognised against the value of the corresponding asset.

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Tourist parks

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	**9,593**	9,661
Rental Income	**53**	158
Other income	**–**	4
Total income from continuing operations	**9,646**	9,823
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**3,930**	3,919
Materials and services	**3,228**	3,136
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**1,451**	1,294
Calculated taxation equivalents	**664**	494
Total expenses from continuing operations	**9,273**	8,843
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**373**	980
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**373**	980
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**373**	980
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(93)**	(245)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**280**	735
Plus accumulated surplus	**6,952**	8,425
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**664**	494
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**93**	245
– Dividend paid	**(2,301)**	(2,947)
Closing accumulated surplus	**5,688**	6,952
Return on capital %	**2.0%**	2.6%
Subsidy from Council	**1,215**	671
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**280**	735
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**280**	735
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**140**	368

Wollongong City Council

Income Statement of Health & Fitness

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
Income from continuing operations		
User charges	**3,327**	3,001
Rental Income	**29**	1
Other income	**81**	16
Total income from continuing operations	**3,437**	3,018
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**3,039**	2,905
Materials and services	**1,642**	1,266
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**63**	65
Calculated taxation equivalents	**290**	214
Total expenses from continuing operations	**5,034**	4,450
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Plus accumulated surplus	**892**	1,255
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**290**	214
– Subsidy paid/contribution to operations	**1,556**	855
Closing accumulated surplus	**1,141**	892
Return on capital %	**(38.0)%**	(17.9)%
Subsidy from Council	**1,947**	1,775
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**(1,597)**	(1,432)
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	**–**	–
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	**–**	–

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Waste Disposal

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Investments	**5,982**	10,854
Total current assets	**5,982**	10,854
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**61,597**	62,853
Total non-current assets	**61,597**	62,853
Total assets	**67,579**	73,707
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	**40,546**	39,333
Total non-current liabilities	**40,546**	39,333
Total liabilities	**40,546**	39,333
Net assets	**27,033**	34,374
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**9,632**	16,973
Revaluation reserves	**17,401**	17,401
Total equity	**27,033**	34,374

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Tourist parks

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**38,180**	38,398
Total non-current assets	**38,180**	38,398
Total assets	**38,180**	38,398
Net assets	**38,180**	38,398
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**5,688**	6,952
Revaluation reserves	**32,492**	31,446
Total equity	**38,180**	38,398

Wollongong City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Health & Fitness

as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	2025 Category 1	2024 Category 1
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**8,422**	7,984
Total non-current assets	**8,422**	7,984
Total assets	**8,422**	7,984
Net assets	**8,422**	7,984
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**1,141**	892
Revaluation reserves	**7,281**	7,092
Total equity	**8,422**	7,984

Note – Material accounting policy information

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

The Council's declared business activities do not operate separate stand-alone bank accounts. The declared business activities do not include any assets or liabilities that are collected/settled by the Council (primarily receivables, payables and employee benefits). The Council does not recharge the declared business for liabilities settled on their behalf nor does it pass on cash or other assets for income of the declared business it has collected. Any net asset/liability position at the end of the period is accounted for as a notional dividend declared/contribution to/from the Council through equity (accumulated surplus).

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1
(where gross operating turnover is over $2 million)

a. Waste Disposal: Manages the disposal of solid waste generated within the city.

b. Tourist Parks: Operation, management & development of tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal & Windang.

c. Health & Fitness: Responsible for the management and upkeep of Council's Leisure Centres.

Category 2
(where gross operating turnover is less than $2 million)

Nil

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs.

However, where Council does not pay some taxes, which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements.

continued on next page ...

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – **25%** (23/24 25%)

Land tax – the first $1,075,000 of combined land values attracts **0%**. For the combined land values in excess of $1,075,000 up to $6,571,000 the rate is **$100 + 1.6%**. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds $6,571,000 a premium marginal rate of **2.0%** applies.

Payroll tax – **5.45%** on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of $1,200,000.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities. Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested. Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25% (2023/24 25%).

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved. Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations.

The activities reported in these financial statements are prepared notionally for external purposes only. Separate bank accounts are not held. The overall effect of subsidies received from Council is disclosed within individual income statements to reflect the net financial position of each business activity.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Operating result before capital income + interest expense}}{\text{Written down value of I,PP\&E as at 30 June}}$$

continued on next page ...

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.25% at 30/06/25.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities. The activities reported in these financial statements are prepared notionally for external purposes only. Separate bank accounts are not held. The overall effect of dividends paid to Council is disclosed within individual income statements to reflect the net financial position of each business activity.

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Buildings and other assets used in the operation of these business activities are owned and controlled by Council. A charge for their utilisation is included in the Income Statement and these assets have been excluded from the Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment in the Statement of Financial Position. The Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment figure consists operational equipment and land as these have not been captured through the Income Statement

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the special purpose financial statements

Wollongong City Council

To the Councillors of Wollongong City Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial statements (the financial statements) of Wollongong City Council's (the Council) Declared Business Activities, which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement of each Declared Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Statement of Financial Position of each Declared Business Activity as at 30 June 2025 and the Material accounting policy information note.

The Declared Business Activities of the Council are:

- Waste disposal
- Tourist parks
- Health & fitness.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's declared Business Activities as at 30 June 2025, and their financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards described in the Material accounting policy information note and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2024–25 (LG Code).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as the auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the LG Code. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Permissible income for general rates'.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and for determining that the accounting policies, described in the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements in the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.

David Daniels
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2025
SYDNEY

Wollongong City Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Wollongong City Council

Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents Page

Special Schedules:

Permissible income for general rates 3

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025 4

Wollongong City Council

Permissible income for general rates

$ '000	Notes	Calculation 2024/25	**Calculation 2025/26**
Notional general income calculation [1]			
Last year notional general income yield	a	191,188	**201,700**
Plus or minus adjustments [2]	b	820	**723**
Notional general income	c = a + b	**192,008**	**202,423**
Permissible income calculation			
Percentage increase	d	5.00%	**4.70%**
Plus percentage increase amount [3]	f = d x (c + e)	9,600	**9,514**
Sub-total	g = (c + e + f)	**201,608**	**211,937**
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	9	**5**
Less valuation objections claimed in the previous year	i	(2)	**(89)**
Sub-total	j = (h + i)	**7**	**(84)**
Total permissible income	k = g + j	201,615	**211,853**
Less notional general income yield	l	201,700	**211,852**
Catch-up or (excess) result	m = k – l	(84)	**1**
Plus income lost due to valuation objections claimed [4]	n	89	**6**
Carry forward to next year [6]	p = m + n + o	5	**7**

Notes

(1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.

(2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.

(3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).

(4) Valuation objections are unexpected changes in land values as a result of land owners successfully objecting to the land value issued by the Valuer General. Councils can claim the value of the income lost due to valuation objections in any single year.

(6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates

Wollongong City Council

To the Councillors of Wollongong City Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates (the Schedule) of Wollongong City Council (the Council) for the year ending 30 June 2026.

In my opinion, the Schedule is prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2024–25 (LG Code) and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the special purpose framework used to prepare the Schedule. The Schedule has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting obligations under the LG Code. As a result, the Schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 includes other information in addition to the Schedule and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprises the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025.

My opinion on the Schedule does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and the special purpose financial statements.

In connection with my audit of the Schedule, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Schedule or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Schedule

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation of the Schedule in accordance with the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Schedule, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the Schedule.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the Schedule is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited Schedule on any website where it may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the Schedule.

David Daniels
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2025
SYDNEY

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2024/25 Required maintenance [a]	2024/25 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings	10,230	14,599	14,013	13,636	526,865	1,017,063	8.7%	17.1%	65.3%	1.5%	7.4%
	Sub-total	**10,230**	**14,599**	**14,013**	**13,636**	**526,865**	**1,017,063**	**8.7%**	**17.1%**	**65.3%**	**1.5%**	**7.4%**
Other structures	Other structures	257	379	116	314	16,017	23,383	9.5%	50.4%	37.3%	2.6%	0.2%
	Sub-total	**257**	**379**	**116**	**314**	**16,017**	**23,383**	**9.5%**	**50.4%**	**37.3%**	**2.6%**	**0.2%**
Roads	Roads	164,907	241,598	8,712	15,459	995,261	2,260,272	25.6%	21.9%	42.0%	8.5%	2.0%
	Bridges	2,571	3,656	757	1,189	114,574	173,807	11.7%	38.7%	40.0%	2.7%	6.9%
	Footpaths	20,875	53,903	3,059	3,127	235,428	443,620	18.6%	14.3%	54.5%	10.9%	1.7%
	Sub-total	**188,353**	**299,157**	**12,528**	**19,775**	**1,345,263**	**2,877,699**	**23.7%**	**21.7%**	**43.8%**	**8.5%**	**2.3%**
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage	21,854	31,506	7,100	4,917	1,011,145	1,897,839	11.1%	28.0%	59.8%	0.7%	0.4%
	Sub-total	**21,854**	**31,506**	**7,100**	**4,917**	**1,011,145**	**1,897,839**	**11.1%**	**28.0%**	**59.8%**	**0.7%**	**0.4%**
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools & Open Space/Recreation	44,614	61,446	13,584	23,987	196,623	353,670	44.1%	1.2%	15.4%	9.8%	29.5%
	Sub-total	**44,614**	**61,446**	**13,584**	**23,987**	**196,623**	**353,670**	**44.1%**	**1.2%**	**15.4%**	**9.8%**	**29.5%**
	Total – all assets	**265,308**	**407,087**	**47,341**	**62,629**	**3,095,913**	**6,169,654**	**18.5%**	**21.8%**	**50.6%**	**5.0%**	**4.1%**

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

(1) Estimated Cost to Bring To Satisfactory Standard per Office of Local Government Requirements, reflects the estimated cost to restore all Council assets to condition '3'.

(2) Maintenance costs, per Office of Local Government Requirements, include both Maintenance and (appropriate) operational costs captured as Asset Operations in Council's financial system. Required maintenance reflects amounts calculated using benchmark data from other Group 5 Councils as % GRC.

(3) Cost to bring to agreed service level is defined as "The proportion of the GRC that have reached the intervention level based on condition." The outstanding renewal works compared to the total replacement cost of Councils assets. That is calculated as the cost of bringing condition 4 and 5 assets to condition 1.

continued on next page ...

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025 (continued)

Asset Condition Definitions #

Rating	Status
1	Excellent
2	Very Good
3	Good (Satisfactory)
4	Average
5	Poor

Wollongong City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2025

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

$ '000	Amounts 2025	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	Indicators 2023	Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals [1]	65,321	73.30%	72.05%	86.43%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	89,111				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	265,308	8.35%	7.61%	3.05%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	3,176,936				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	62,629	132.29%	83.48%	82.06%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	47,341				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	407,087	6.60%	6.19%	4.62%	
Gross replacement cost	6,169,654				

(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

ITEM 3 DRAFT QUARTERLY REVIEW STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 2025

On 30 June 2025, Council adopted the new Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy 2025–2035, and Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025–2026. This Quarterly Review Statement is the first quarterly review under the new Delivery Program.

The Quarterly Review Statement outlines progress towards the achievement of Council's Strategic Planning documents, in particular, the Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025–2026. The Statement addresses the financial and operational performance of Council and includes the Budget Review Statement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Council adopt the draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2025.

2 The favourable proposed budget adjustments from the Capital Budget ($3.6M) and Net Interest on Investments ($3.7M) be transferred to Strategic Projects Restricted Asset.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Steph Hummerston, Chief Financial Officer (Acting)
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

1 Draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2025

BACKGROUND

Council's draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2025 outlines the operational performance of Council's Strategic Planning documents – the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026.

This report also provides an overview of achievements against priority areas and demonstrates the organisation's performance through the inclusion of performance indicators.

Significant events and highlights during the quarter include:

- Council adopted the Wollongong Transport Strategy 2025–2035, Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025–2045 and Foreshore Plan of Management, setting a clear direction for the city's future growth and connectivity.
- Construction began on the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library at Warrawong — a $40M investment delivering high-quality facilities for the community.
- The King George V Oval skate space in Port Kembla opened to the public, and the Mount Kembla Trails were launched by the National Parks and Wildlife Service with Council's supporting infrastructure.
- Culture Mix returned to the city centre, celebrating Wollongong's cultural diversity through food, music, art and performance.
- Council secured over $18M in New South Wales Government funding for storm recovery works, along with additional funding for a Changing Place facility at Helensburgh Pool and local playground upgrades.
- The draft Economic Development Strategy 2025–2035 was endorsed for public exhibition, setting out a 10 year plan to strengthen the economy, attract investment and create local jobs.
- The 2025–2026 swim season began on 27 September, with 150 lifeguards ready to patrol 17 beaches and eight community pools across the city.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Preparation of the draft Quarterly Review Statement involved input from all Council Divisions and review by the Executive Management Committee and Senior Leadership Team.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 4 “We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	**Service**
4.14 Council demonstrates responsible leadership that is customer focused, demonstrates respect and inclusion, and uses resources that are managed effectively to ensure long-term sustainability.	Corporate Strategy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council commenced 2025-2026 with a budgeted deficit Operating Result [pre capital] of $13.3M and surplus Funds Result of $0.2M. Through the June Quarterly Review, the 2025-2026 budget was amended for projects still in progress at the end of the 2024-2025 financial year that would need to continue in the 2025-2026 financial year and a $7.9M transfer of the favourable end of year funds result to the Strategic Projects Restricted Asset. This resulted in a budgeted deficit Operating Result [pre capital] of $15.3M and a deficit Funds Result of $8.8M.

The proposed movements in this review will result in a budgeted surplus Operating Result [pre capital] of $10.6M (positive movement of $25.9M) and a further adjustment in the deficit Funds Result to $19.5M (negative movement of $10.7M). The additional Funds Result deficit is predominately driven by the timing of the payment of the Financial Assistance Grant.

In 2024-2025, Council received early payment of $11.9M of the 2025-2026 Financial Assistance Grant. While the timing of the payment had a positive impact on last year’s result it has a negative impact on the 2025-2026 budget. The total value of the 2025-2026 Financial Assistance Grant is $0.5M higher than budgeted. This means Council’s Available Funds and future year budgets reflect an improvement of $0.5M even though the current year budget has a reduction of $11.4M, which is the main contributor to the deficit Funds Result movement of $10.7M, that would otherwise have been a positive adjustment.

It is also proposed that the net improvement in Interest on Investments after the interest associated with Restricted Assets is transferred ($3.7M) be transferred to the Strategic Projects Restricted Asset in line with provisions in Council’s Financial Sustainability Policy. This and the other transfers outlined above will not have an impact on the Funds Result.

Additional financial reporting is included in the Budget Review Statement within the Draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2025.

CONCLUSION

The draft Quarterly Review Statement September 2025 provides an overview of Council’s performance for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 financial year. It demonstrates progress against the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 and is presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

Image: Austinmer Sunrise

Wollongong City Council

Draft Quarterly Review Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026

July – September 2025

wollongong
city of innovation

Image: Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony,
Sculpture in the Garden, Wollongong Botanic Garden

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our city is built, Dharawal Country. We recognise and appreciate their deep connection to this land, waters and the greater community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and those emerging and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who call this city home. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people to live in the area. We respect their living cultures and recognise the positive contribution their voices, traditions and histories make to the city.

Contents

General Manager's Message 4
About this Report 5
Reporting against the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 6
Summary of Progress by Goal 7
GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY 8
GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES 22
GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY 38
GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY 54
SUPPORT SERVICES 82
Budget Review Statement* 91

Image: Coledale Beach

General Manager's Message

This Quarterly Review Statement (July to September 2025) provides an update on our progress in implementing the Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025–2026. Service updates are aligned to the four Community Goals from the Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, along with Council's internal Support Services. These goals reflect what our community told us matters most: connected and vibrant communities, a liveable and sustainable environment, and a strong economy.

This Delivery Program supports major infrastructure projects and asset renewal to meet the needs of our growing community, while creating opportunities for local contractors, suppliers and businesses. This quarter, we have continued to focus on getting the basics right while progressing significant projects across the city.

Work progressed on upgrades to footpaths, roads and stormwater infrastructure, alongside planning and delivery for two new combined community centres and libraries in Helensburgh and the Southern Suburbs. These projects, together with investment in active transport, reflect Council's commitment to building safe, inclusive and liveable neighbourhoods.

Highlights from this quarter include:

- Council adopted strategic documents including the Wollongong Transport Strategy 2025–2035, Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025–2045 and the Foreshore Plan of Management.
- Construction commenced on the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library at Warrawong, a $40 million investment in high-quality community facilities.
- The King George V Oval skate space opened, and the Mount Kembla bike trails were launched by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service with Council's supporting infrastructure.
- Culture Mix returned, celebrating Wollongong's cultural diversity through food, music, art and performance.
- Council secured $18 million in New South Wales Government funding for storm recovery works, additional funding for a Changing Place facility at Helensburgh Pool and local playground upgrades.
- The draft Economic Development Strategy 2025–2035 was endorsed for public exhibition, outlining a ten-year plan to grow jobs and attract investment.
- The 2025–2026 swim season began on 27 September, with 150 lifeguards patrolling 17 beaches and eight community pools across the city.

Council remains mindful of economic pressures facing households and the rising costs of service delivery. We continue to manage our budget responsibly while addressing the ongoing impacts of severe weather events. Since 2019, seven natural disasters have been declared, causing significant damage to community assets and infrastructure. Recovery efforts continue to shape Council's financial outlook, and our focus remains on maintaining organisational sustainability and managing resources responsibly.

Customer service remains a key priority. We are investing in improving your experience through better access to services, clearer communication and simpler processes. Our goal is to provide the highest standard of local government service and make Wollongong a great place to live, work and play.

Quarterly Reviews are an important way of keeping our community informed, providing a transparent account of Council's financial position and progress against our plans. I would like to thank all staff and the community for their contributions to the achievements in this report. This Review will inform the Annual Report, due in November 2026.

Greg Doyle | General Manager

Image: Kembla Street, Wollongong separated cycleway - dedicated cycling space

About this Report

The Quarterly Review provides an update on Council's progress and outcomes against the services and actions outlined in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. It presents Council's financials and budget and provides the community with the original and revised annual budgets with explanations if any significant adjustments have occurred.

Regular reporting provides transparency and helps keep the community informed about the delivery of Council's plans – highlighting achievements as well as any changes or delays. While Council aims to deliver all services as planned, adjustments may be required due to a range of external or operational factors. This report provides a regular opportunity to share progress updates with our community.

This Quarterly Progress Review reflects activities and outcomes against the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 for the September 2025 quarter.

Council's services form the foundation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. These services are grouped under their best fit community goal. Internal services are included as a group called Support Services to reflect their role in supporting the delivery of all goals.

Council monitors its service delivery as part of a continuous improvement approach informed by community feedback, with a focus on improving efficiency and outcomes for the community.

Progress is reported through this Quarterly Review Statement and annually through the Annual Report. Council also tracks long-term progress towards the Community Strategic Plan through the State of our City Report. These reports are available on Council's website:
https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/council-documents/csp/progress-reports

Reporting against the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025 - 2026

We are a sustainable and climate resilient city	We have well planned, connected, and liveable places	We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity	We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community

Community Strategic Plan

Resourcing Strategy

Delivery Program and **Operational Plan**
delivered through Council Services

Environmental Services	Development Assessment	Arts and Culture	Aged and Disability Services
Natural Area Management	Emergency Management	City Centre Management	Aquatic Services
Botanic Gardens and Annexes	Land Use Planning	Engagement, Communications and Events	Community Facilities
Floodplain Management and Stormwater Services	Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries	Economic Development	Community Programs
Waste Management	Property Services	Tourist Parks	Corporate Strategy
	Regulatory Compliance		Integrated Customer Service
	Transport Services		Leisure Centres
			Libraries
			Parks and Sports fields
			Public Health and Safety
			Youth Services

Support Services
Employee Services, Financial Services, Governance & Administration, Infrastructure Strategy & Support, Information Management & Technology

This Quarterly Review reports on progress of activities and actions within Council's Services. Council's Services are presented under their best fit goal. Council's internal Services form an additional group called Support Services to demonstrate that these Services support the delivery of all goals.

Image: Coledale Beach

Summary of Progress by Goal
Status of Actions for September 2025 Quarter

Status	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Support Services	Overall %
On-Track/ Complete Action is progressing or achieved as planned	100% *(17/17)*	96% *(23/24)*	95% *(21/22)*	85% *(45/53)*	93% *(13/14)*	92% *(119/130)*
Deferred A decision has been made to reschedule the timing of the project or actions	0% *(0/17)*	0% *(0/24)*	0% *(0/22)*	4% *(2/53)*	7% *(1/14)*	2% *(3/130)*
Not scheduled to commence The action was not due to commence during the reporting quarter	0% *(0/17)*	0% *(0/24)*	4% *(1/22)*	4% *(2/53)*	6% *(0/14)*	2% *(3/130)*
Delayed Unforeseen event has changed the timing of a project or action	0% *(0/17)*	4% *(1/24)*	0% *(0/22)*	7% *(4/53)*	0% *(0/14)*	4% *(5/130)*

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

September Quarter Highlights

Council crews and the Rise and Shine team removed a large amount of hazardous waste at City Beach dunes, Wollongong, in August 2025.

A family enjoying the Nature Shake environmental education event at Wollongong Botanic Garden, Keiraville.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*

About this Service

The Botanic Garden and Nursery service involves managing and promoting the conservation, education, recreation and aesthetic values of the main 30 hectare site in Keiraville, including the maintenance of the Gleniffer Brae grounds and the three natural area annexes of Mt Keira, Puckey's Estate and Korrungulla Wetland. Environmental education programs and interpretation are conducted at the Botanic Garden Discovery Centre.

Quarterly Progress Update

During the quarter, the Botanic Garden welcomed 96,431 visitors. The Friends of the Botanic Garden contributed 978 volunteer hours, supporting programs and maintenance activities. The Nursery produced 12,670 new plants and distributed 25,343 plants, including 5,469 locally sourced natives purchased by more than 620 Greenplan customers. Inspections and scheduled maintenance across the Garden and annex sites continued as planned.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver Botanic Garden visitor programs, interpretation, education, events, and priority actions	On-Track	The Botanic Garden hosted Nature Shake on 5 and 6 September 2025, a two-day festival celebrating nature and sustainability for schools and the wider community. The event attracted around 2,000 participants and featured a range of interactive environmental and cultural activities. Environmental outreach programs were also delivered in partnership with Barnardo's, NAIDOC Warrawong, the Illawarra Nature Festival and Illawarra Health. Aboriginal cultural excursions began during the quarter, with Gumaraa providing education and activities at Nature Shake. New ongoing programs were also introduced, including a weekly after-school nature program and school excursions at Green Connect Farm.
Implement priority actions from the Botanic Garden Masterplan	On-Track	The exhibition period concluded for the draft Botanic Garden Masterplan during the quarter with 122 responses received. The renewal project of the Kawasaki Bridge, at the Botanic Garden, continues.
Manage the Mount Keira Summit Park in accordance with the Plan of Management	On-Track	Mt Keira Summit Park was managed with regular weekly safety inspections and landscape maintenance works completed as required.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Botanic Garden and Annexes Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver priority actions from the Urban Greening Program	On-Track	Council continued to deliver key planting projects under the Urban Greening Program, with 238 park and street trees and 2,369 canopy trees established across natural areas. On 27 July 2025, 65 community volunteers took part in National Tree Day at Holborn Park, Berkeley, planting 1,500 native plants. These activities contribute directly to expanding canopy cover and improving local biodiversity across the city.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Environmental Services

Responsibility *Manager City Strategy*

About this Service

This service involves Council working with the community in relation to local climate change mitigation, adaptation, monitoring and reporting, coastal and estuary management, biodiversity planning, contaminated lands management, development assessment for environmental impacts, environmental education, volunteer management and partnerships, waste minimisation and environmental advocacy.

Quarterly Progress Update

Waste and sustainability education initiatives continued throughout the quarter, supporting waste reduction, recycling and biodiversity awareness across the community. Plastic Free July activities promoted correct Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) use through radio messaging, a community clean-up at Stuart Park, North Wollongong, and online education campaigns. The August Household Chemical CleanOut event and library-based recycling initiatives encouraged responsible disposal of problem wastes.

Wollongong and Shellharbour councils and volunteers completed environmental DNA water sampling at 23 creek sites between Mullet Creek and Macquarie Rivulet, providing valuable insights into local biodiversity, including confirmation of platypus at four sites. The findings were presented at the Illawarra Biodiversity Festival and the University of Wollongong. The quarter also saw community participation in City Beach, Wollongong, dune restoration and Bushcare planting events marking the end of Biodiversity Month.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement priority actions in the certified Coastal Management Program for Lake Illawarra including progressing the Entrance Options Study	On-Track	Chapter E15 – Water Sensitive Urban Design of the Wollongong Development Control Plan was exhibited during the quarter, receiving 22 submissions from community members, agencies and industry representatives. A report responding to submissions will be presented to Council in November 2025. The annual Catchment and Estuary Health Reports have been finalised, showing slight overall improvement. Lake Illawarra received a B (Good) grade, demonstrating resilience, with all three monitored recreational sites achieving higher water quality compliance than last year. Council's Rise and Shine team continues to lead regular clean-up events around the Lake, with recent activities at Kanahooka and Primbee removing about 10 large bags of rubbish. Over the past year, 42 tonnes of waste have been collected. Wollongong and Shellharbour councils, with scientists from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Fisheries), presented findings from environmental DNA sampling across 21 sites at the Illawarra Biodiversity Festival and the University of Wollongong. Both councils have written to the NSW Premier seeking a Strategic Business Case for long-term management of the Lake Illawarra entrance, alongside work assessing foreshore protection options at Windang.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Carry out sustainability and environmental education programs	On-Track	Council delivered a range of community education programs promoting waste reduction, sustainability and environmental awareness. Plastic Free July activities included radio messaging, the Blue Light plastic clean-up at Stuart Park, Wollongong, online resources about microfibres, a Bring Your Own coffee cup campaign and a family treasure hunt during the school holidays. A monthly mail campaign encouraged residents to downsize red bins, while new Community Recycling Stations were launched at libraries with education materials and Green Team pop-ups. The August 2025 Household Chemical CleanOut event was strongly promoted through banners, direct mail and Green Team appearances at local Bunnings stores. The Green Team also attended major events including the Bellambi Neighbourhood Plan launch, NAIDOC Family Fun Day, the Bunnings Spring Launch and the Nature Shake festival. The Botanic Garden hosted the two-day Nature Shake event for schools and the community and participated in the Warrawong NAIDOC, Illawarra Nature Festival and Culture Mix events.
Deliver commitments made under the Global Covenant of Mayors including the implementation of Council's Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2023-2030	On-Track	A key highlight this quarter was the successful community information sessions on the Illawarra Shoalhaven Community Renewables Program. The Wollongong session attracted more than 90 participants interested in discounted solar and battery systems and potential participation in a future virtual power plant. This initiative supports the Community Strategic Plan and is an endorsed action in Council's Climate Change Mitigation Plan. Council staff also partnered with Renew Illawarra at the Nature Shake festival to promote the benefits of transitioning to all-electric homes, demonstrating induction cooking through interactive pancake sessions that drew strong community engagement. Charge point operators, supported by Council, were successful in securing NSW Government funding for six kerbside electric vehicle charging sites across the Wollongong Local Government Area. Council finalised its assessment of energy access and poverty, as required under the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which will inform the development of a future Energy Access and Poverty Plan. In addition, all Council sites are now powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity, achieving zero emissions for grid-supplied energy. A solar feasibility assessment has also been completed for key Council buildings to guide a future rollout of solar and battery systems.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Prepare and deliver the Wollongong Coastal Management Program	On-Track	Work has continued on Stage 2 of the Coastal Management Program for the Wollongong coastline. Three specialist studies are underway to inform the future Coastal Management Program: Coastal Hazards Studies and Risk Assessment, an Aboriginal Cultural Values and Assets Assessment, and Coastal Wetland and Littoral Rainforest Mapping. During the quarter, the final Coastal Hazard Study was completed, providing analysis of coastal cliff and entrance instability, coastal and tidal inundation, beach erosion, shoreline recession and estuary foreshore erosion. The Coastal Wetland and Littoral Rainforest Mapping project was also finalised. The next step, to be completed in the December 2025 quarter, will be a comprehensive risk assessment to determine the priority coastal hazard risks to be addressed in the draft Coastal Management Program.
Update and deploy the Urban Greening Strategy Action Plan 2025-2029	On-Track	Implementation of the updated Urban Greening Strategy Action Plan continued during the quarter, supported by community engagement and education activities. Council promoted the Greenplan program and verge gardening initiatives at Nature Shake, the Biodiversity Festival and Let's Talk community engagement sessions, encouraging residents to contribute to a greener city.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Floodplain Management and Stormwater Services

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

This service strategically plans for a coordinated approach to floodplain risk management and stormwater management including protection of waterways, beaches, lakes, lagoons and creeks. This service manages and maintains 835 kilometres of stormwater drainage and associated infrastructure assets across the city that aim to be safe, efficient, effective, and sustainable.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council continues to deliver its core stormwater services through a range of pipe and headwall reconstruction projects to maintain and improve network functionality across the city.

At Hayward Street, Kanahooka, coordination with a service provider is ongoing to relocate a gas main and enable pipe reconstruction. Investigations at Cliff Road, Wollongong, identified discrepancies in existing pipe locations, with further work dependent on the finalisation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. At Strathearn Avenue, Wollongong, site inspections and utility locating are underway to assess defects beneath a playground and determine reline feasibility. The Hilltop Avenue, Lake Heights, project is progressing through legal and arborist review, with design documentation in preparation.

Headwall reconstruction works at Wollamai Crescent, Berkeley, and Thames Street, West Wollongong, are advancing through design and structural appraisal. Pipe reconstruction at Flagstaff Road, Warrawong, remains under review due to missing Closed Circuit Television data and complex pipe geometry. At Barellan Avenue, Dapto, sinkholes and utility conflicts are being assessed to inform design direction. The Hennings Lane, Austinmer, project has reached detailed design, pending final review.

These projects reflect Council's continued investment in maintaining stormwater infrastructure and reducing localised flood and drainage risks.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and implement Floodplain Risk Management Plans	On-Track	Council continues to progress the development and implementation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans across the Local Government Area. The Collins Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was adopted by Council on 15 September 2025. The Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was placed on public exhibition from 25 August to 26 September 2025, with Council staff and consultants engaging directly with residents during the Let's Talk Thirroul session on 24 September. Feedback received is now being analysed. Similarly, the Wollongong City Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was placed on exhibition from 22 September 2025, supported by community engagement at the Let's Talk Wollongong session held on 24 September. These initiatives demonstrate Council's continued commitment to reducing flood risk and strengthening community resilience through evidence-based planning and consultation.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Floodplain Management and Stormwater Services (Continued)

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Plan and design new stormwater infrastructure	On-Track	Council continues to progress the planning and design of new stormwater infrastructure to address localised drainage issues and improve network performance across the city. Concept design for the Market Street, Wollongong, drainage upgrade has been developed, with preliminary modelling underway and ongoing engagement with strata management regarding driveway access. At Coledale Surf Life Saving Club, site investigations have been completed and preferred solutions are being explored. The Stuart Park Drainage Improvements project is awaiting the outcome of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to inform design feasibility. Survey work has commenced at Beach Road, Stanwell Park, to support hydraulic modelling, while the Gipps Street, Wollongong, drainage upgrade has progressed to detailed modelling following completion of survey investigations. These projects reflect Council's continued commitment to delivering resilient, well-planned stormwater infrastructure that supports safer and more sustainable urban environments.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Natural Area Management

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*

About this Service

Manage Council's natural areas restoration works program, carry out weed and pest management, and coordinate volunteer programs in natural areas. Management of natural areas under Council care and control and conservation of endangered ecological communities and threatened species. These activities are funded through a combination of Council's own operating funds, external grants, partnerships with other organisations, and the support of community volunteers.

Quarterly Progress Update

Bush restoration and volunteer support contracts were awarded under Council's natural areas restoration and volunteer support tender panel. Work Health and Safety and environmental inductions were completed for all contractors. Ongoing support was provided to 50 Bushcare and Dunecare groups across the Local Government Area, including Eucalyptus workshops, promotional activities at the Illawarra Biodiversity Festival and Nature Shake, and presentations to University of Wollongong Conservation Biology students at Puckey's Estate.

The Rise and Shine program continued to support community clean-ups and waste removal, with a focus on Lake Illawarra and other foreshore sites.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement annual bushfire hazard reduction works program for Asset Protection Zones on Council managed lands	On-Track	During the quarter, funding submissions were made to the NSW Rural Fire Service. Funding of $56,000 was approved, with a further 17 applications totalling $47,000 awaiting assessment. The Asset Protection Zone program will be implemented following the determination of all funding applications. Planning is underway for three broadacre burns across the Local Government Area in collaboration with the relevant fire agencies.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Waste Management

Responsibility *Manager Open Space and Environmental Services*

About this Service

Deliver high quality, value for money, sustainable, customer focused municipal waste services including collection services and the Whytes Gully Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park.

Collections services include general waste, recycling, Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO), kerbside on-call and community drop off events scheduled throughout the year, and education activities for the community are aimed at awareness of these services and opportunities to encourage responsible waste diversion actions.

Litter and public bin collection at 1,300 locations and cleaning of public toilet facilities.

Deliver key actions identified in the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034.

Quarterly Progress Update

The focus for the quarter was on meeting regulatory requirements, including annual reporting to the NSW Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Improvements to site safety and access were also progressed in consultation with SafeWork NSW.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Educate, incentivise, and continue to deliver waste diversion programs aligned with problematic and high emissions waste streams	On-Track	A range of waste and recycling education programs were delivered to encourage waste reduction and promote correct sorting practices. The “Plastic Free July” campaign featured i98FM radio advertising focused on the message “no fruit stickers in Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO).” A new Blue Light plastic clean-up evening was held at Stuart Park, attracting strong media and community interest. Council’s website was updated to include new information on microfibres, and a “bring your own coffee cup” promotion was held at Uncle Earl’s Café. Families were invited to take part in a July school holiday treasure hunt. A monthly staggered direct mail campaign also commenced across the Local Government Area, encouraging residents to downsize their red waste bin. The Community Recycling Station transition was implemented across Council libraries, supported by new education materials and Green Team pop-ups engaging with library users. In preparation for the 31 August Household Chemical CleanOut event, Council promoted the program through outdoor banners at two libraries, 36,000 direct mail flyers to residents, and Green Team pop-ups at local Bunnings stores in the week leading up to the event.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Waste Management Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Continue to develop and implement the landfill gas management system at Whytes Gully	On-Track	Landfill gas capture continued during the quarter, with additional pipework installed as part of the new cell construction. More than 5,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent landfill gas were abated, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting Council's sustainability goals.
Develop and deploy Emergency and Natural Disaster Waste Management Plan	On-Track	Development of a draft Emergency and Natural Disaster Management Plan is underway.
Provide opportunity for the community to participate in the diversion of problematic and high emissions waste streams	On-Track	A drop-off day for household chemical waste was provided during the quarter with planning for future events such as green waste and soft plastic drop-offs underway.
Transition to a circular economy through the update of the service delivery model within the Community Recycling Centre, per the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034	On-Track	An expanded list of drop-off items for e-waste and embedded batteries has been successfully implemented at the community recycling centre during the quarter.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		September 2024	September 2025
Number of visitors to Wollongong Botanic Garden	360,000 per annum	100,158	96,431
Residents' average satisfaction score with Botanic Garden	Maintain	4.60*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of participants in environmental education programs	4,000 per annum	1,161[1]	3,649
Number of participants in environmental programs	Increase	4,682	8,389
Number of engagements in environmental programs	At least 85,000 per annum	New Measure	61,084
Residents' average satisfaction score with environmental programs and education	Increase	3.40*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Percentage reduction in Council's greenhouse gas emissions	100% by 2030	13% reduction since 2021	Annual measure *(data available June 2026)*
Number of hours worked by volunteers in Bushcare, Dunecare and FiReady sites	Increase	2,936	2,675
Number of participants in Council tree planting activities	Increase	New Measure	688
Ratio of trees planted versus trees removed on public land	2 : 1 minimum	Not available	17 : 1

* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.
[1] Results lower than expected due to a new program being implemented at the Discovery Centre, Botanic Gardens.

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		September 2024	September 2025
Residents' average satisfaction score with protection of our natural environment	Increase	3.30*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of participants in waste education programs (formal and online)	Increase	New measure	150
Percentage of residential waste diverted from landfill via all kerbside residential bins (including recycling and organics)	Increase	Not available	Annual measure *(data available June 2026)*
Percentage of contamination in FOGO bin	Less than 10% *(contract figure)*	2%^	1.3%
Percentage of contamination in recycling bin	Less than 10% *(contract figure)*	14%^	10.4%
Percentage of material diverted from landfill via recycling and FOGO kerbside bins	Increase	51%	50%
Residents' average satisfaction score with Domestic Waste Collection service (i.e. red bin)	Maintain	4.40*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with Recycling Waste collection service	Maintain	4.30*	*(next survey late 2025)*

* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.
^ *2021 figure.*

GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		September 2024	September 2025
Residents' average satisfaction score with Green Waste (including FOGO collection service	Maintain	4.40*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with public bin collection	Maintain	4.00*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with waste disposal depot facilities	Maintain	3.80*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with street cleaning	Maintain	3.60*	*(next survey late 2025)*

*Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

To learn more about how we're tracking, our Delivery Program Measures Dictionary outlines definitions, targets, trends, baseline and current data (where available), along with data sources and how often they're collected. The dictionary can be found on Council's website:

Home | Council| Council Documents| Our Wollongong Our Future| Delivery Program and Operational Plan

https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

September Quarter Highlights

Stage 1 of the Cleveland Road upgrade, West Dapto, is underway, widening 440 metres of road and delivering new and improved shared paths on both sides.

Stage 2 of the West Dapto Road upgrade is underway, improving the Shone Avenue intersection and delivering new road, bridge and drainage works.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Development Assessment

Responsibility *Manager Development Assessment and Certification*

About this Service

The service undertakes assessment and determination of planning matters to facilitate balanced planning outcomes to serve the current and future community. This includes development applications; construction certificates; complying development; building and subdivision certificates; pre-lodgement advice, managing review panels; Fire Safety Statements and upgrades; building compliance inspections; audits on completed buildings; providing expert evidence in Land and Environment Court Appeals; and advice to Council and stakeholders in all aspects of the development assessment process.

Quarterly Progress Update

During the quarter, Council continued to assess a wide range of development applications, with a focus on improving processing times and customer experience. This included progressing actions from the customer experience review and providing pre-lodgement advice to a variety of stakeholders.

Council also continued to provide Principal Certifying Authority services for buildings and subdivisions, offering an alternative to private certification.

The Design Review Panel met during the quarter and provided advice on one matter to support high-quality design outcomes. The Wollongong Local Planning Panel considered and determined 10 matters, while the Southern Regional Planning Panel was briefed on one matter and determined one application.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Progress outcomes resulting from the Service Optimisation review of customer experience in accessing information related to Development Assessment	On-Track	During the last quarter, implementation of recommendations progressed with the majority now completed and awaiting final sign-off, and the final two well progressed. Work has commenced on the preparation of a post implementation survey, which is scheduled for distribution to identified customers in late 2025.
Administer the Design Review Panel in relation to key sites or significant development	On-Track	Council continues to work with the Design Review Panel to achieve design excellence in the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel provided advice on one matter during the quarter.
Administer the Wollongong Local Planning Panel	On-Track	Council continues to work with the Wollongong Local Planning Panel to finalise the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel determined 10 matters during the quarter.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Development Assessment (Continued)

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
In conjunction with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, administer the Southern Regional Planning Panel	On-Track	Council continues to work with the Southern Regional Planning Panel to finalise the assessment and determination of Development Applications. The Panel determined one matter and was briefed on one further matter during the quarter.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Emergency Management

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

The service provides support in the planning and preparation for significant emergencies that may impact the safety and security of residents and visitors to the city. This involves Council's operational response to support Emergency Service Agencies during incidents and emergencies.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council continues to deliver its core emergency management functions by providing executive and project management support to the Illawarra Local Emergency Management Committee and the Illawarra Local Rescue Committee.

Council is also collaborating with the NSW Government and the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Joint Organisation on the development of a Disaster Adaptation Plan. This plan identifies local natural hazard risks and outlines prioritised actions to reduce these risks. The NSW Government is preparing a business case to explore a funding model to support additional risk reduction investment for priority projects identified through completed and assured Disaster Adaptation Plans.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and deploy a Disaster Adaptation pilot and collaborate with the NSW Government on implementation	Delayed	Council developed a Project Plan for a Disaster Adaptation Pilot Program and prepared a grant application to fund the Disaster Adaptation Pilot Program under the NSW Government's Disaster Ready Fund. In July 2025, Council was advised that its application for funding under Round 3 of the Disaster Ready Fund was unsuccessful. While the feedback on Council's application was positive, the program was significantly oversubscribed. Council is expected to have the opportunity to reapply under Round 4 of the Disaster Ready Fund in 2026. Council continues to collaborate with the NSW Government and the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Joint Organisation on the development of a Disaster Adaptation Plan. The Plan identifies natural hazard risks across the region and sets out prioritised actions to reduce these risks. The NSW Government is preparing a business case to explore a funding model that would support additional risk reduction investment for priority projects identified through completed and assured Disaster Adaptation Plans.
Partner with the State Emergency Service to upgrade Wollongong Unit facilities at Montague Street	Deferred	Council has continued to partner with the State Emergency Service on the upgrade to the Wollongong Unit. Council is waiting for further information from the State Emergency Service.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Emergency Management (Continued)

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Continue to advocate for policy reform and funding from the State and Federal Governments to support disaster recovery and future resilience	On-Track	Council has received confirmation from Transport for NSW and NSW Public Works that up to $18 million in funding has been approved for the repair and replacement of infrastructure damaged during the April 2024 storm event.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Land Use Planning

Responsibility *Manager City Strategy*

About this Service

Land Use Planning manages the plans, policies and certificates assisting our community to understand the role and function of lands within Wollongong Local Government Area.

The team develop longer term strategies and plans to ensure we live, work, and play sustainably, protecting what we value and ensuring development contributes to great places for our community.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council adopted the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025–2045 and the Wollongong Foreshore Plan of Management for both Crown and Council land. The Hill 60 Port Kembla Plan of Management for Crown land was placed on public exhibition, and the Draft Wollongong Development Contributions Plan 2025 and Draft Wollongong Forts Conservation Management Plan were both endorsed for exhibition. Council also endorsed the Minor Planning Proposal for 21 Barham Place, Horsley, to permit the subdivision of the land into three lots and resolved to prepare and exhibit the Yallah Marshall Mount Planning Proposal to make minor housekeeping amendments. In addition, Chapter E15 – Water Sensitive Urban Design of the Wollongong Development Control Plan was placed on public exhibition.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement key priorities of the Wollongong Housing Strategy 2023	On-Track	A draft Affordable Housing Contributions Plan and Planning Proposal was presented to Council for consideration in September and Council endorsed the release of the draft for public feedback. Arrangements are now being made to commence public exhibition. State Housing policy initiatives, including the Housing Delivery Authority determinations continued to be monitored.
Partner with external agencies on regionally significant precinct planning projects	On-Track	During the quarter, work continued on several regionally significant precinct planning projects. These included the Wollongong Health Precinct Master Plan being led by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and NSW Health, and the exhibition of BlueScope's Port Kembla Transformational Lands Precinct by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Work also commenced on the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2026, while Homes NSW continued progressing both the Gwynneville Planning Proposal and the proposed Bellambi Point renewal project.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Land Use Planning Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and finalise the Local Strategic Planning Statement	Complete	On 28 July 2025 Council adopted the Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025-2045, a 20-year land use planning vision for the Local Government Area. The Statement identifies key planning priorities that focus on protecting and retaining many elements that make Wollongong unique, as well as embracing the future with the aim to support healthy communities and liveable places. The Statement is used to guide land use planning across the city and will inform changes to planning controls.
Prepare stage 1 implementation of the City Centre Urban Design Framework	On-Track	A planning proposal and draft Development Control Plan Chapter D13 are being prepared to implement selected actions from the City Centre Urban Design Framework. The report to Council will also include related actions from the Tourism Accommodation Strategy and Net Zero Wollongong: Climate Mitigation Plan that apply to the City Centre area.
Undertake studies to inform the periodic review of the West Dapto Development Contribution Plan	On-Track	The West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2025 was adopted by Council in April 2025. Council staff continue to progress the design of key infrastructure projects, such as the proposed Darkes Town Centre Sporting and Community Hub, which will inform future reviews of the Plan. The West Dapto Riparian Corridor Management Strategy also concluded its public exhibition during the quarter, with feedback now under consideration.
Develop a Local Infrastructure and Development Strategy for the West Dapto Urban Land Release Area	On-Track	This project has commenced with the prioritisation of infrastructure for delivery throughout West Dapto Urban Release Area. West Dapto presents various competing infrastructure needs and development fronts and a methodology to support prioritisation will inform the final strategy.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service

This service provides memorial, burial and funeral service facilities at six sites across the Local Government Area. These include Wollongong Memorial Gardens, Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, Wollongong Cemetery, Bulli Cemetery, Scarborough Cemetery and Helensburgh Cemetery. The service also maintains three non-operational sites of historical and cultural significance. These include Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery, Settler's Cemetery and Waterfall General Cemetery.

Quarterly Progress Update

A grasslands trial has commenced at Wollongong Cemetery, with an area planted with native grasses in sections that are difficult to mow and maintain due to the close proximity of graves. If successful, the trial may be expanded to other areas of the cemetery. Wollongong Lawn Cemetery has also been included in an application for funding under the Greening Our City grants program, which, if successful, will support the planting of more than 60 new trees and the creation of two 'tiny forests'. Staff also reviewed the results of the recent staff survey and developed an action plan to strengthen staff engagement moving forward.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage the commercial operations of the Wollongong Memorial Gardens and cemeteries	On-Track	This quarter saw the opening of the Ever After Garden at Wollongong Memorial Gardens. This is the fourth stage of development to provide a greater range of interment options for the community. The garden includes a pergola for reflection and for holding garden-side services, as well as 25 quad gardens, which sold out from the waiting list within the first week. A volunteer pruning day was also held during the quarter, delivered in partnership with Council's Waste Education team, who provided a composting session on the day. Due to the success of these events, staff are exploring opportunities to host them more regularly and expand to other cemeteries.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Property Services

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service

This service manages over 325 commercial leases and licenses and 800 parking licenses on behalf of Council and includes the management, development, maintenance, and disposal of Council owned property in order to meet Council's statutory requirements and contribute to the expansion of Council's revenue base. Leases and licenses also ensure the effective management and coordination of community and business use of Council's public spaces, buildings, and facilities.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council endorsed the acquisition and lease of 267 Keira Street, Wollongong, to support the future expansion of MacCabe Park. It also resolved to approve the road closure, sale and easement of part of Globe Lane and Globe Way, Wollongong. Easements were granted in Figtree for flood mitigation infrastructure and in West Wollongong for a community battery installation.

New lease and licence agreements were secured for Units 6 and 8 at Kembla Terraces, Wollongong, the Wilga Street car park in Corrimal, the Windang Golf Driving Range, and a bus licence for Country Leisure to support community service delivery. Council's city centre car parks continued to perform strongly, maintaining high occupancy levels throughout the quarter.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Identify and implement business improvement initiatives to deliver commercial returns on Council's property portfolio	On-Track	Property Management continues to focus on innovative strategies to improve operational efficiency and service delivery. During the quarter, work progressed to streamline the OneCouncil Property System through the implementation of a new portfolio dashboard and digital task management tools, enhancing visibility and workflow across property operations. Council also began using an external real estate marketing platform to promote its commercial properties for lease, broadening market reach and engagement with prospective tenants. These initiatives are supporting a more agile, data-driven approach to property management and align with Council's broader goals for digital transformation and customer service excellence.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Regulatory Compliance

Responsibility *Manager Regulation and Enforcement*

About this Service

This service involves environment and development compliance, animal control, and parking in accordance with statutory requirements and Council Policy. Education programs and information to raise community awareness also forms part of this service.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council received and responded to a high volume of requests across general compliance, parking, animal management and illegal dumping during the quarter. This included 456 abandoned vehicles, 15 hoarding or squalor cases, 73 footpath obstructions, 22 overgrown properties, 781 parking incidents, 89 aggressive dog reports, 76 barking dog complaints, 241 stray animals and 345 reports of illegal dumping.

Development and Environment Compliance programs were delivered, with officers actioning over 380 requests relating to potential breaches of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. Matters investigated included unauthorised building works, water pollution, non-complying activities, vegetation removal and stormwater management issues. Where appropriate, regulatory action was taken through fines, notices and orders to ensure compliance.

Council's Animal Care and Impounding Service continued to manage the needs of lost, stray and surrendered animals. During the quarter, 103 cats and 94 dogs were impounded. Positive outcomes were achieved, with 112 animals adopted and 106 placed in foster care, easing capacity pressures and supporting animal welfare. A further 10 animals were transferred to rehoming organisations. Council also partnered with the NSW Animal Welfare League and Lost and Found Pets Illawarra to deliver a community program providing free cat desexing for low-income residents and complimentary pet microchipping. This initiative supported responsible pet ownership, with 84 cats desexed and 103 pets microchipped.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Complete feasibility studies to inform future companion animal care and rehoming operations	On-Track	Council has appointed a consultant to undertake a feasibility study into the potential development and operation of a Council-run Animal Care an Impounding Facility. Significant data has been provided to support the study, and Council staff are actively assisting to ensure momentum is maintained.
Carry out proactive surveillance and inspection program of known dumping hot spots	On-Track	A total of 140 investigations of illegal dumping incidents were conducted during the quarter, with two cautions/warnings provided and four verbal clean up directions issued. Seven Penalty Infringement Notices were issued totalling $77,000.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Regulatory Compliance Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Target compliance of subdivision and residential building sites for sediment and erosion control, hours of operation, waste management (including storage and management of building materials), and dust control	On-Track	Council staff completed more than 160 inspections of residential building sites during the quarter, focusing on erosion and sediment control, waste management, dust suppression, hours of operation and compliance with development consent conditions. Three Notices and Orders were issued to rectify non-compliances, along with four Clean-up Notices, 45 verbal warnings and eight fines for breaches of relevant legislation. Council staff also presented at the Master Builders Association industry night, highlighting builders' responsibilities in preventing environmental harm and sharing practical guidance on achieving positive environmental outcomes through effective on-site management practices.
Maintain a proactive compliance program for companion animals in public places, including beaches, foreshore areas, and parks	On-Track	During the quarter, Council staff conducted 334 patrols of beaches and foreshore areas, and 150 patrols of parks, to monitor dog and owner behaviour. Educational engagement remained a key focus, with 284 verbal warnings or discussions held with dog owners during beach patrols and 50 during park patrols. A total of 80 penalty notices were issued for Companion Animal offences, including 17 for breaches in public spaces.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Transport Services

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

This service provides the delivery, management, and advocacy of transport services and associated infrastructure. The service aims to provide a transport network that is safe, efficient, equitable, effective, and sustainable. The service supports the community through creating the provision of transport access for residential, business, recreation, leisure, and tourism activities.

This service also includes provision of road safety, traffic and integrated transport planning support, and advice. Road Safety Education Programs and change behaviour programs are a critical activity implemented across all aspects of our transport services.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council's Safer Routes to School Working Group continued site audits and engagement with school communities to identify safety improvements around schools. A costed action list is being developed to support future advocacy with Transport for NSW and the Department of Education. The team also applied for multiple transport safety grants, including the Safer Local Roads, Black Spot and Towards Zero Safer Roads Programs.

During the quarter, 266 heavy vehicle access requests were processed. Council continues to work with Transport for NSW and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on the Heavy Vehicle Automated Access Program, which will streamline future approvals.

Council participated in the NSW Roads Act Review through submissions and industry workshops and remains involved in the Peer Reference Group guiding this work.

Three Wollongong Local Transport Forum meetings were held, considering 34 traffic matters and approving road closures for upcoming events, including the World Triathlon. Legislative changes to the forum's delegations took effect from 1 August 2025, with updates to the charter now underway.

Council staff responded to over 120 requests from the community, Councillors and Members of Parliament, covering topics such as e-bike management, traffic calming and pedestrian access. Staff also continued to collaborate with Transport for NSW on key regional projects including the Mount Ousley Interchange, Bulli Bypass investigation, M1 South-Facing Ramps (Dapto) and the BlueScope Surplus Lands Planning Proposal.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Collaborate with the New South Wales Government to fund and deliver the Safe Routes to School Program	On-Track	Council's Safer Routes to School Working Group continued to deliver audits, meetings and reporting across the Wollongong Local Government Area. Three draft reports were completed for Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts, Keira High School and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Six draft reports from the previous quarter remain under school review, and 24 investigations are underway. The team supported schools in Dapto affected by the planned West Dapto Road closure and continued to plan for future grant funding opportunities. The refreshed Safer Routes to School webpage now features proactive safety messaging and public access to completed and in-progress school reports. Two school crossing upgrades at Nolan Street and Jacaranda Avenue progressed through the Local Transport Forum towards construction, while signage improvements at Stanwell Park are scheduled for installation. Council also rolled out a new education campaign about "No Parking" zones around schools, implemented at seven locations to improve safety and traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up times.
Develop and implement the Integrated Transport Strategy	On-Track	Council reviewed community feedback on the draft Wollongong Integrated Transport Strategy, including input from young people through the Youth Forum. Following consideration of the feedback, the Strategy was adopted by Council at its meeting on 15 September 2025.
Review the management of road signage as part of the Service Optimisation Program	On-Track	Data analysis and stakeholder engagement activities continued.
Work with the NSW Government to deliver the Bourke Street Virginia Street to Cliff Road, Wollongong, shared path	On-Track	The Virginia Street shared path from Bourke Street, Wollongong, is nearing completion. The Bourke Street shared path from Virginia Street to Cliff Road, Wollongong, is with Transport for NSW for investigation into design options. A draft report has been received for review. Consultation is anticipated to occur in 2026.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement actions from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030	On-Track	Council is finalising the Cycling Network Plan and Program, which advances multiple actions from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030. Engagement activities, including 'ride-alongs' with cycling advocates and a stakeholder workshop in August, have informed the final version of the plan, which will be published in 2025. The plan sets out a ten-year program for new cycleway delivery and identifies key routes to guide investment and future grant funding opportunities. Council also continues to deliver priority cycling projects under the Infrastructure Delivery Program, including the near-completion of the Throsby Drive cycleway — a critical link to the Wollongong City Centre — and upgrades along the Grand Pacific Walk at Austinmer.

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		September 2024	September 2025
Number of undetermined development applications	250	233	241
Percentage of undetermined development applications over 90 days	20%	20%	16%
Average net determination days for development applications	100	New measure	65
Residents' average satisfaction score with planning controls for development in your local area/town centre	Increase	2.80*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Occupancy rate of commercial buildings	90%	98%	98.7%
Percentage of regulatory programs/patrols undertaken versus programmed/statutory	100%	New measure	100%
Percentage of residents aware of Council's animal care and impounding service	Increase	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with domestic animal control in public places	Minimum score of 3.75	3.50*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of local roads	Increase	2.80*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of footpaths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of cycleways	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of shared use paths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with availability of footpaths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*

* Latest data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023

GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		September 2024	September 2025
Residents' average satisfaction score with availability of cycleways	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with availability of shared paths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Length (lineal metres) of pathways renewed at end of life	Decrease in lineal metres assessed as Condition 5*	New measure	Annual measure *(data available June 2026)*
Length (lineal metres) of newly constructed pathways	Increase	New measure	Annual measure *(data available June 2026)*

* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023

To learn more about how we're tracking, our Delivery Program Measures Dictionary outlines definitions, targets, trends, baseline and current data (where available), along with data sources and how often they're collected. The dictionary can be found on Council's website:

Home | Council| Council Documents| Our Wollongong Our Future| Delivery Program and Operational Plan

https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

September Quarter Highlights

Lord Mayor of Wollongong Councillor Tania Brown, presenting the Keys to the City to 2025 NBL Champions Illawarra Hawks, pictured with team officials.

Performers at the 2025 Culture Mix Festival.
Image credit: Jane Dempster.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Arts and Culture

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Provide support and showcase arts and creative industries, and community participation in creative life and celebrate our unique places and spaces.

Quarterly Progress Update

This quarter marked a major milestone for the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, which received the national IMPACT Award for Performing Arts Centre of the Year from Performing Arts Connections Australia — a proud achievement for the city and the team. Illawarra Performing Arts Centre closed its season with the critically acclaimed production Julia, which drew near-record attendance and standing ovations for Justine Clarke's powerful performance.

The Town Hall remained a vibrant hub, hosting the Wollongong Schools Choral Festival and Ima Onam, a celebration of Indian culture. *Culture Mix* returned to the city centre, attracting over 20,000 people for its largest and most successful event to date, delivered through a collaborative approach that celebrated the city's cultural diversity.

Three new public art projects were unveiled — including Tad Souden's Wollongong at Work exhibition, Sarah Rowan's mural at Helensburgh, and restoration of the Gurangaty Fountain. The Small Cultural Grants Program awarded 21 grants supporting local creatives, while the Live at Lunch program relaunched in Crown Street Mall, Wollongong, featured live performances to bring vibrancy to public spaces.

Wollongong Art Gallery presented eight exhibitions and 54 public and education programs, engaging more than 1,000 participants and acquiring 15 new artworks. Creative Wollongong Studios supported six artists in residence and formed a new partnership with Wollongong Youth Services to create more opportunities for young people in the arts.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Contribute to the vibrancy, growth and sustainability of the 24-hour economy through programming, partnerships, policy reform and advocacy	On-Track	The internal 24-Hour Economy Working Group met in August 2025 to coordinate cross-divisional priorities, with discussions focused on the Special Entertainment Precinct, the Live Music Census and reducing regulatory barriers for businesses. Council provided formal feedback to the NSW Productivity and Equality Commissioner on the review into regulatory barriers affecting the night-time economy, highlighting the importance of balanced development controls, licensing frameworks and late-night transport options. Wollongong was also represented at the NSW 24-Hour Economy Commissioner's Advisory Council and continues to advocate for improved public transport frequency and operating hours to support a safer and more connected night-time economy. Six Wollongong Uptown precincts — Keira Collective, Globe Lane, Lower Crown, Thirroul Collective, Bulli Heritage Precinct and Port Kembla Collective — continued to activate and strengthen their local identities under the NSW Government's Uptown Program.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Arts and Culture Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver community cultural development festival	On-Track	Final planning and promotional activities were completed for Culture Mix 2025, including a comprehensive marketing campaign across digital, print, radio and outdoor media. The event was held on 20 September 2025 and celebrated the city's cultural diversity, attracting more than 20,000 people to the city centre. Visitors enjoyed a vibrant program featuring food and cultural stalls, live performances and interactive activities. Feedback from attendees and media coverage were overwhelmingly positive. Post-event reporting is now underway.
Implement actions from the Cultural Plan – Creative Wollongong 2024-2033	On-Track	The Wollongong at Work portrait series by photographer Tad Souden was unveiled by Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Councillor Tania Brown, celebrating local people from diverse cultural backgrounds. The event included a haka performance and blessing by Cook Islands elders, adding a meaningful cultural connection. The Creative Wollongong Short Film Competition launched at a Screen Illawarra networking event attended by more than 100 people. A sold-out birdwatching event, hosted by ecologist Beth Mott, helped promote the competition's theme and encourage community participation. Artist Mignon Steele's Perpetual Chorus, a 50-metre mural in Crown Street Mall, entered its interactive phase during the Culture Mix Festival, with community members contributing to the evolving artwork. Council commissioned Chinese artist Mia Bian to create Dreaming Botanica, an exhibition installed in the Ethel Hayton Walkway lightboxes during Culture Mix. The work explored cultural identity through botanical imagery and symbolism. The Helensburgh Water Tanks Mural by artist Sarah Rowan was unveiled at the Rex Jackson Sports Precinct, celebrating the area's rich sporting history in collaboration with local clubs. The Live at Lunch program also relaunched in July, bringing live music to four locations across Crown Street Mall and Lower Crown Street, Wollongong. The program showcases local artists, activates public spaces and supports local businesses and the creative community.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Arts and Culture Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Implement the funding agreement with Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Limited	On-Track	The Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) received the national IMPACT Award for Performing Arts Centre of the Year from Performing Arts Connections Australia. The centre's final blockbuster production for the year, Julia, drew near-record audiences, matching attendance levels last seen in 2017 with Velvet at the Spiegeltent. The Wollongong Town Hall also remained vibrant, hosting the annual Wollongong Schools Choral Festival and Ima Onam, a colourful celebration of local Indian culture.
Implement the 'Animating Wollongong: Public Art Strategy 2022-2032'	On-Track	Three major public art projects were unveiled during the quarter, reflecting strong community collaboration and local pride. At Helensburgh, artist Sarah Rowan completed a large-scale mural across eight water tanks at Rex Jackson Oval. Developed through extensive community engagement with local sports clubs, the project transformed a previously plain site into a vibrant celebration of the town's sporting history and was met with overwhelming community support and positive media coverage. The Wollongong at Work photographic exhibition by Tad Souden was also unveiled in Bonacina Walk, Wollongong. Opened by Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown, and members of the Cook Islands community, the exhibition celebrates Wollongong's cultural diversity through portraits and personal stories of residents in their everyday working lives. Public art maintenance continued across the city, including major repairs to the Gurungaty Fountain and scheduled cleaning of other artworks. Planning also progressed for new commissions, including artworks for the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library and a new work in Ward 3 inspired by the cultural stories of the original Magari sculpture.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Arts and Culture Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Implement priorities from Framing our Future: Wollongong Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2020-2025	On-Track	Wollongong Art Gallery presented eight exhibitions celebrating diverse artistic voices and cultural perspectives. Greetings from Wollongong, curated by Kaylene Milner, explored the city's creative legacy through Redback Graphix, filmmaker Mary Callaghan and key collection works. HERE + NOW V: There's No Place Like Home, curated by Matthew Grayson, examined the concept of home as both sanctuary and site of tension, while First Nations Cadet Alinta Maguire curated FEVER and Recollection, affirming the Gallery's commitment to Aboriginal storytelling. Other highlights included Fafangu: To Awaken by Tongan artist Adriana Mahanga Lear, the touring exhibition Restless Legs by Archibald Prize winner Mitch Cairns, Dream Vitrine by Patrick Pound, and Material Matter Memory in the Community Gallery. More than 30 education programs were delivered, engaging families, schools and community groups through workshops, enrichment programs and the Art and Dementia initiative. Public programs featured artist talks, film screenings, lectures and performances celebrating NAIDOC Week and local creative practice. The Gallery continued its focus on collection care, research and new acquisitions, including 15 purchases and 21 works from the Community Donated Archive Collection. A targeted campaign for the Wollongong Art Prize attracted more than 1,000 entries. Audience engagement remained strong, with steady website growth, high social media interaction and over 1,300 e-newsletter subscribers.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

City Centre Management

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

From Wollongong Station to the Wollongong Foreshore, City Centre Management supports the activation of the Wollongong Central Business District and works with partners to improve its attractiveness and increase visitation. This service delivers a range of activation, marketing, and placemaking strategies/initiatives and works with a range of business stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration. This service also ensures the smooth operation of the City Centre and, particularly, Crown Street Mall which is funded by the Special Mall Levy.

Quarterly Progress Update

City Centre Management continued its focus on supporting local businesses and activating Wollongong's central business district through engagement, marketing and events. Work progressed with the three Wollongong CBD Uptown Groups, developed through the NSW 24-Hour Economy Commissioner's Program, to explore collaborative marketing and place-making initiatives that strengthen the city's day and night-time appeal.

Live music remained a key feature in Crown Street Mall, Wollongong, with the Live @ Lunch program expanded to two days a week across four performance sites. Busking activity also increased, particularly among performers under 18, providing opportunities for young musicians to gain experience in a vibrant public setting.

The Culture Mix festival brought colour and energy to the city centre, celebrating cultural diversity through music, dance and art. Planning is also underway for the 2025 Christmas program, which will feature festive decorations and events for the whole community to enjoy.

Digital engagement remained strong, with nearly 30,000 visits to the Wollongong CBD website and over 16,000 social media interactions across Facebook and Instagram.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver an integrated marketing campaign that reflects the 'city experience'	On-Track	A key focus this quarter was supporting businesses in Globe Lane, Wollongong, during construction of The Globe development through a coordinated campaign across digital, social and radio channels. Dedicated website content, regular social media features and refreshed radio advertising promoted the message that Globe Lane remains open and accessible. By sharing positive stories and showcasing local traders, the campaign reinforces that the city centre continues to be a vibrant destination even during redevelopment.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

City Centre Management Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver increased City Centre marketing and activation initiatives to support the local and regional economy	On-Track	Council continued to promote the Wollongong central business district as a vibrant destination, with a strong focus on supporting local businesses. The Wollongong CBD website attracted nearly 30,000 visits and more than 3,000 direct clicks to local business and event listings. Social media engagement remained strong, reaching over 146,000 people on Facebook and 94,000 on Instagram, and generating more than 16,000 interactions. These efforts continue to raise awareness of what the city centre has to offer and encourage people to explore, shop, dine and enjoy local events, contributing to a thriving city economy.
Implement a range of activation initiatives across the City Centre Precincts	On-Track	The refreshed Live at Lunch program launched in July, trialling four live music activation sites across Crown Street Mall and Lower Crown Street, Wollongong. The program celebrates local talent, activates public spaces and supports nearby businesses and the creative sector. During the quarter, 43 busking applications were received for Crown Street Mall, Wollongong, with under-18 performers making up 65 per cent of requests, highlighting the growing popularity of busking among young people. The launch of the Heaps Normal Sound System in Globe Lane, Wollongong, further supported local live music. Crown Street Mall markets and third-party events also continued to contribute to the activation and vibrancy of the city centre.
Develop and implement Placemaking projects	On-Track	Placemaking activities in the city centre continue to activate public spaces, with the Live at Lunch program extending into the Lower Crown Street precinct. The scope and brief for the placemaking elements of the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library were also finalised. The project will integrate artworks celebrating the area's diverse cultural and Aboriginal communities into the centre's exterior landscape design.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Economic Development

Responsibility *Director Planning and Environment*

About this Service

This service promotes sustainable economic development across the Wollongong Local Government Area through implementation of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029. The service contributes to a number of economic development programs and initiatives in partnership with business, government, the University of Wollongong, and a range of business and industry stakeholders.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council facilitated 19 business and investor enquiries, ranging from general business support to major projects progressed through Invest Wollongong. The monthly business e-newsletter continued to be distributed to more than 28,000 local contacts, maintaining a strong average open rate of 40 per cent. The August 2025 Economic Insights Report was also released, providing updated economic data, including job target figures and local spending trends.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029	On-Track	Council is well progressed in implementing the Economic Development Strategy 2019–2029. Achievements over the first six years include increasing local content weighting in procurement assessment from five to ten per cent, hosting a 'Doing Business with Council' showcase, establishing the Wollongong Central Business District Night Time Economy Policy, and creating the Major Project Charter and Committee. Other highlights include the Tourism Accommodation Roundtable and Strategy 2025, the ongoing Invest Wollongong initiative promoting the city beyond the region, the We Shop the Gong buy local campaign, and the monthly business e-newsletter distributed to more than 28,000 local contacts. During the quarter, Council sponsored the annual i3net Industry Showcase, which brought together more than 200 Illawarra industry leaders, and sponsored the Excellence in Innovation category at the 2025 Illawarra Business Awards. Work also continued on developing the draft Economic Development Strategy 2025–2035, which Council endorsed for public exhibition on 15 September 2025. The draft Strategy outlines a ten-year plan to build on Wollongong's economic transformation, with five strategic priorities: supporting business growth and investment, fostering a business-friendly environment, enhancing vibrancy and connectivity, driving innovation and inclusion, and promoting environmental sustainability. It sets a target of 20,500 net new jobs by 2035 and details 58 actions and several momentum-building projects designed to unlock new employment opportunities, improve infrastructure and support sustainable regional growth.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Economic Development Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
In partnership with NSW Government and the University of Wollongong, deliver the Invest Wollongong program	On-Track	Invest Wollongong continued promoting the city as a leading business destination. A new promotional video capturing the experience of doing business in Wollongong was launched at the 2025 Illawarra Business Awards, shaped by insights from local business leaders. The latest feature in the Invest Wollongong Business Leader Series profiled local company RoboFit, whose work using robotic exoskeletons to support people with spinal cord injuries and neurological conditions attracted record engagement — more than 28,000 impressions and over 3,000 full video views. LinkedIn campaign content and targeting were refreshed to expand reach among key audiences. The Invest Wollongong digital marketing program achieved strong results this quarter, with more than 8,000 website visits, 179 prospectus downloads, 134 new LinkedIn followers (now reaching 3,669), 1.1 million digital ad impressions, and 75,000 completed video views.
Collaborate with external agencies on regional economic development and tourism initiatives	On-Track	Council launched the 2025 Cruise Wollongong Prospectus in collaboration with Destination Wollongong and the Cruise Wollongong Taskforce. The Prospectus makes the case for Wollongong to become NSW third cruise terminal and turnaround port and responds to the NSW Government's establishment of the Cruise Industry Advisory Panel to identify future growth opportunities for the sector. Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Councillor Tania Brown, led advocacy with the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Southwest Sydney Councils (Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly) to form the 'LG8' which is a collaboration of all eight councils to work together with a focus on connectivity, productivity, housing and job creation. A key focus of the collaboration will be around cementing the economic importance of this region to Greater Sydney and NSW and improving the connection from the Port at Port Kembla to the Aerotropolis and the Western Sydney Airport.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Economic Development Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Complete a mid-term review of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029	Complete	Council has completed the mid-term review of the Economic Development Strategy 2019–2029. The review confirmed that all three strategic objectives have been achieved, including creating 10,500 net new jobs—four years ahead of schedule—raising median incomes and aligning target sectors with the local talent pool. Of the 56 action items, 84 per cent have been completed or are underway, with 16 per cent yet to commence. The review findings informed the preparation of the new draft Economic Development Strategy 2025–2035, which Council endorsed for public exhibition on 15 September 2025. The exhibition period will run until 6 November 2025.
Develop and deploy an updated funding agreement with Destination Wollongong	On-Track	Council staff are working closely with Destination Wollongong to develop a new funding agreement. Destination Wollongong is finalising its strategic priorities and key performance indicators to inform the agreement, which is expected to be presented to Council for consideration during the December 2025 quarter.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Engagement, Communications and Events

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

The service is responsible for communications and marketing including; proactive and reactive communications; community engagement; delivery of major community events; management of Sister City Relations; coordination of Council's Financial Assistance Policy; and the provision of communications, marketing, graphic design, digital content, print, and signage needs for the organisation.

Quarterly Progress Update

Five major events were hosted in Wollongong — most of them new additions to the city's calendar. These included the Australian Darts Masters, Basketball NSW Junior State Championships, Kids in Care Cup, Regional Academies of Sport Netball Challenge and the Australian Shortboard Surfing Titles. In September 2025, Council hosted a morning tea to honour local Order of Australia recipients, and at the first Hawks game of the 2025–2026 season, Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown, presented the team with the Key to the City in recognition of their 2024–2025 National Basketball League Championship win.

Neighbourhood Hubs were launched on Council's engagement website, (our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au), providing suburb-specific updates on local projects, events and engagement activities. The hubs are designed to make it easier for residents to stay informed about what's happening in their area.

This quarter also saw a broad range of community-focused communications, including promotion of the Wollongong Art Gallery's reimagined Art Prize and media coverage of the Diamonds' netball match in Wollongong. Strategic communications supported key projects and issues such as the Helensburgh Pool upgrade, Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library, the temporary closure of part of West Dapto Road, and a dog attack in Bulli. Updates were shared across Council's website, social media channels and in response to media enquiries.

Work also progressed on Council's brand strategy and improvements to the website's homepage functionality.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and deliver an organisational Brand Strategy	On-Track	Work is progressing on the organisational Brand Strategy, with preliminary market research findings reviewed during the quarter. The next phase involves analysing the insights and identifying actions to inform the development of the strategy.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Engagement, Communications and Events Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver a diverse range of community engagement opportunities to receive feedback and guide Council's services	On-Track	Community input was sought across a range of projects this quarter, including the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, Hill 60 Plan of Management, Draft Botanic Garden Masterplan, Economic Development Strategy, Conservation Management Plan, the Lake Avenue–Gorrell Street 'Park' project in Cringila, and the Kerbside Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot Evaluation. Plans and policies placed on public exhibition included the Customer Service Policy and Charter 2025, Draft Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2025, Hewitts Creek and Wollongong Flood Risk Management Studies and Plans, and Chapter E15 – Water Sensitive Urban Design. Other exhibitions included planning proposals for The Globe and 190 Military Road, the Wollongong City Centre Planning Review, and the 2025 reviews of the Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice. Targeted engagement with local Aboriginal communities continued for projects such as the Dogs on Beaches and Parks review, Hill 60 Tunnels Project, Windang Foreshore, draft Marine Animal Retrieval Procedure, and the Hewitts Creek Flood Risk Management Study and Plan. Let's Talk engagement activities were held across the city, including Expos in Bellambi, Thirroul and Wollongong, and Pop Ups at key community locations such as Hill 60, Warrawong NAIDOC Family Fun Day, Botanic Garden Plant Sale, Port Kembla Skate Park and Fairy Meadow Park Run.
Deliver civic activities which recognise and celebrate the city's people	On-Track	In September 2025, Council hosted a morning tea to recognise local Order of Australia recipients. At the first Hawks game of the 2025–2026 season, Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown, presented the team with the Keys to the City in celebration of their 2024–2025 National Basketball League Championship win.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Engagement, Communications and Events Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Host six major events reflecting priority sectors and contribute to the acquisition and management of signature events	On-Track	Five major events were staged in Wollongong this quarter, most of them new additions to the city's calendar. The Sports and Great Outdoors sectors were key drivers, delivering strong participation and impressive crowds. The Australian Darts Masters again generated significant exposure, attracting more than 2,300 interstate and international visitors. Junior multi-day tournaments, including the Basketball NSW Junior State Championships, Kids in Care Cup and the Regional Academies of Sport Netball Challenge, drew high visitation and strong community engagement. Surfing Australia's Shortboard Titles also brought more than 150 elite surfers to the northern suburbs for five days of competition.
Prepare and implement a Major Events Strategy	Not Scheduled to commence	This project is due to commence during the December 2025 quarter, with delivery by mid-2026.
In partnership with the NSW Government's Permit Plug Play Pilot Program, implement initiatives that simplify and reduce the cost of holding street-based events for local community and business groups	On-Track	Proposed Local Environmental Plan amendments to make events development exempt are awaiting finalisation by the NSW Government, anticipated before the end of the next quarter. Contracting for event-enabling infrastructure is underway, and the pilot event is scheduled for 22 March 2026.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Tourist Parks

Responsibility *Manager Commercial Operations and Property*

About this Service

Wollongong City Tourist Parks provide beachside accommodation for visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang. The three Tourist Parks compete in a commercial environment and operate accordingly to ensure they remain commercially viable and provide an acceptable return to Council.

Quarterly Progress Update

Park staff focused on completing their Winter Works Program, which included replacing cabin flooring affected by building movement and upgrading curtains to modern blinds for improved appearance and easier maintenance. Several decks were sanded and re-lacquered, and all cabins received a full internal deep clean. Staff also met to discuss the results of the recent staff survey and developed an action plan to address identified areas for improvement.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage Council's three commercial tourist parks at Bulli, Corrimal and Windang to optimise service delivery and contribute to Council's financial sustainability	On-Track	The Corrimal Beach Tourist Park kiosk lease commenced this quarter, introducing convenient food and beverage options for park users in time for the summer peak season. This addition is expected to enhance the overall guest experience and support increased visitor numbers. Meanwhile, at Windang Beach Tourist Park, the playground has been upgraded, delivering improved recreational facilities for both park guests and the broader local community. These enhancements reflect our ongoing commitment to improving amenities and services across our tourist parks.

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		September 2024	September 2025
Number of Crown Street Mall inbound people movements via public domain entrances[1]	Increase	416,686 [2]	831,331
Residents' average satisfaction score with graffiti prevention and removal	Maintain	3.40*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of visitors to the Wollongong Art Gallery	Increase	12,057	14,920
Residents' average satisfaction score with Wollongong Art Gallery exhibitions	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of visitors to the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall	Increase	37,069	35,777
Residents' average satisfaction score with Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall	Maintain	4.30*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of visits to Wollongong City Council's website	Increase	New measure	1,120,000
Residents' average agreement score with the statement 'it is easy to find information on Council's website'	Increase	3.60*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Percentage of residents using Council e-newsletter, social media channels and website to get information	Increase	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Percentage growth in audiences using Council-owned channels (e.g. e-newsletter, social media, website) to get information	Increase	New measure	2.6%
Percentage of residents participating in Council community engagement activities	Increase	47%*	*(next survey late 2025)*

[1] People entering Crown Street Mall via surrounding streets and laneways. It does not measure people entering via Wollongong Central or car parks.

[2] Estimated using Mall entry points where technology is available to count.

* Latest data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023

GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available)	Result
		September 2024	September 2025
Residents' average agreement score with Council informing the community about its services and facilities	Minimum score of 3.75	3.10*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of new business enquiries/ engagements	120 per annum	New measure	19
Number of jobs located within the Wollongong Local Government Area	Increase	102,802[1]	102,957[2]
Occupancy rate of tourist park powered sites	Greater than 50%	34%	35%
Occupancy rate of tourist park cabins	Greater than 65%	54%	50%
Percentage of tourists satisfied with Council's tourist parks (Bulli, Corrimal and Windang)	Greater than 85%	New measure	91%

*Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023
[1] Australian Bureau of Statistics, labour force survey 2023
[2] Australian Bureau of Statistics, labour force survey 2024

To learn more about how we're tracking, our Delivery Program Measures Dictionary outlines definitions, targets, trends, baseline and current data (where available), along with data sources and how often they're collected. The dictionary can be found on Council's website:

Home | Council| Council Documents| Our Wollongong Our Future| Delivery Program and Operational Plan

https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

September Quarter Highlights

Image: Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Councillor Tania Brown, The Hon. Ryan Park MP, Wollongong Mountain Bike Club Vice President Craig Morris and National Parks and Wildlife Service Director South Coast Julie Peterson at the Kembla Mountain Bike Trails.

Construction commenced on the landmark Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library, Warrawong.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Aged and Disability Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Build the capacity of older people and people with disability to participate fully in community life.

Promote access to services for frail, older people and people with disability and their carers to enable them to continue to live independently in the community.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council continued to deliver services under the Commonwealth Home Support Program, supporting older community members to stay connected, maintain independence and reduce social isolation. Services provided included individual community support such as grocery shopping, social group activities and outings, and in-home respite care for clients while carers took a break.

During the quarter, the team delivered 632 services in July (totalling 2,323 hours), 577 services in August (2,102 hours), and an estimated 614 services in September (2,200 hours). Year to date, the service has achieved around 60 per cent of its target hours.

Council has commenced planning for the transition of this service to a local aged care provider by 30 November 2025 to ensure continuity of support for clients.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Support the delivery of programs providing social connection for older people and their carers	On-Track	Council staff completed annual care plan reviews for 60 clients to understand their goals and ensure they are receiving the right level of care to meet their needs. All 200 social support clients are now compliant with their updated care plans in preparation for the upcoming transition to the new provider. Social groups enjoyed a range of activities during the quarter, including educational talks from the Seniors Rights Service and Wollongong Local Police on home safety and how to avoid scams. Participants also took part in exercise classes led by accredited exercise physiologists to support mobility and reduce the risk of falls. Group outings included visits to Cordeaux Dam, the Wollongong Botanic Garden and the MET Café, operated by Southern Youth and Family Services. Staff and volunteers also completed First Aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training to ensure their skills and accreditations remain current and well equipped to continue supporting this vulnerable group within our community.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Aged and Disability Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Prepare a transition plan to exist Social Support Services prior to 30 June 2027 to ensure effective and appropriate transition of service users to new services	Complete	In late June 2025, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing was formally notified of Wollongong City Council's decision to transition its social support services to a local aged care provider by 30 November 2025. Council accepted Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) grant funding for the period from July to November 2025 to continue delivering social support services until the transition is complete. Council provided the Department with recommendations for four local providers that had expressed interest in assuming responsibility for the service and its clients, as well as offering employment opportunities for existing staff and volunteers. A communications plan is also underway to ensure clients, volunteers and staff are informed and supported throughout the transition process.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Aquatic Services

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council operates 17 patrolled beaches, two heated swimming pools at Dapto and Corrimal, six free public swimming pools located at Helensburgh, Thirroul, Western Suburbs (Unanderra), Continental Baths (Wollongong), Port Kembla and Berkeley. We have nine ocean rock pools situated at Coalcliff, Wombarra, Coledale, Austinmer, Bulli, Woonona, Bellambi, Towradgi and Wollongong Gentleman's pool. Aquatic Services also provides ocean and pool lifeguard services, and surf education programs.

Quarterly Progress Update

Steady attendance figures were recorded this quarter, despite periods of wet and unfavourable weather that affected outdoor activity. Preparations for the upcoming swimming season are well advanced, with more than 50 new lifeguards and pool attendants recruited. Inductions and training are underway to ensure all staff are ready for the opening of 17 beaches and eight community pools on 27 September 2025.

Refurbishment of Helensburgh Pool is progressing on schedule, with reopening planned for January 2026. The project will deliver upgraded facilities for the local community. In a significant step forward for service planning, people counters are being installed at all eight community pools before the start of the season, providing accurate visitation data to guide future planning and service delivery.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and deploy the Beach Services and Surf Sports Strategy	On-Track	Procurement for the Beach Services and Surf Sports Strategy is being finalised, with consultants to be appointed during September 2025. Work on the strategy will commence in time for the start of the swimming season and will include initial consultation with key stakeholders.
Implement funded actions from the Beach and Foreshore Access Strategy 2019-2028	On-Track	Tender documentation for Stage 2 of the North Beach Seawall Project has been completed, with procurement expected to be finalised by November 2025. This stage includes an accessible beach ramp with handrails and tactiles, as well as a mid-tier terrace designed to support events and provide dedicated spaces for people with specific access needs, improving overall site accessibility. Austinmer Surf Life Saving Club is also progressing facility upgrades, including new accessible toilet amenities.
Work with the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club to explore storage options	Delayed	Council has continued to work with the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club to explore suitable options for additional storage space. Planning and investigation work has been completed, including an assessment of the lower level of the Pavilion building at North Beach. Further progress is dependent on the resolution of site constraints and future funding opportunities.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Aquatic Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Progress concept plans, investigations, and detailed designs for a Community Recreation and Aquatic Centre in Cleveland to service the Southern Suburbs	Deferred	This project remains on hold while Council undertakes a new Aquatics and Indoor Sports Strategy, which is currently under development. This strategy will provide the evidence base and strategic direction required before progressing with concept planning and design for the proposed facility.
Develop and deploy the Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy	On-Track	The Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy procurement is being finalised, with consultants set to be engaged during September 2025. Work on the strategy will commence in time for the start of the swimming season, including initial consultation with key stakeholders.
Plan, design and undertake renewal works at Council's Community, Commercial Pools and Ocean Rock Pools in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Program	On-Track	Construction is progressing on the refurbishment of Helensburgh Memorial Pool. The project includes structural repairs, tiling and painting of the existing 25-metre and toddlers' pools, refurbishment of the amenities building with new partitions and fixtures, and accessibility improvements including a Changing Places toilet and upgraded accessible parking. Works also include plant room refurbishment, replacement of ageing equipment, and upgrades to the pool concourse and surrounds. These improvements will enhance accessibility for users and extend the life of this much-loved community facility.
Implement funded actions from The Future of Our Pools Strategy 2014-2024 including facility upgrades	On-Track	The Future of Our Pools Strategy 2014–2024 has been largely implemented, with many upgrades delivered across the city. These include the redevelopment of Port Kembla Pool amenities with contemporary accessible features, the renewal of the Corrimal Pool concourse, heating system replacement at Dapto Pool, and new infrastructure at Continental Pool. Accessibility has also been improved with mobile disability lifting devices provided at five community pools. At Helensburgh, a grant was secured to support the pool's redevelopment, with community engagement informing the design and construction now underway. Alongside facility upgrades, Council has expanded learn to swim opportunities, partnered with local artists to enhance pool environments, and undertaken asset planning to guide future upgrades. The development of a new Aquatic Facilities and Indoor Sports Strategy, currently underway, will build on these achievements and guide investment for the next 20 years, including planning for the future West Dapto Leisure Centre.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Community Facilities

Responsibility *Manager Libraries and Community Facilities*

About this Service

This service manages and operates 76 Council-owned community facilities across the Wollongong Local Government Area. This includes Neighbourhood Centres Senior Citizens Centres; Childcare Centres; Libraries; Community Centres; and Community Halls.

Quarterly Progress Update

Community participation and hire activity remained strong this quarter across Council's community facilities. District centres at Dapto Ribbonwood, Corrimal and Thirroul recorded steady bookings from a wide range of community groups, with seven new regular hirers welcomed and five fee waivers approved. Events held included the Camellias Illawarra Exhibition, Illawarra Reptile Society Expo, Women's Cultural Festival, Indian Cultural Festival and Wollongong Garba celebrations.

Progress continued on two major community infrastructure projects. Following the announcement of the site for the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library at 53–55 Walker Street, Helensburgh, a design consultant was appointed. Concept designs will be shared with the community during early 2026. Construction is now underway on the new Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library, with the first sod turned on 19 September 2025. A Reference Group has been established to support the project, comprising community representatives and Council staff.

Improvement and upgrade works progressed across several community facilities, including Corrimal, Dapto, Thirroul, Bellambi, Bulli, Balgownie, Port Kembla, Figtree, Otford, Wongawilli and Coledale. Sixteen site inspections were completed for licensed facilities, and 19 work applications approved to allow user-led improvements. The tender for Stanwell Park Children's Centre was finalised, and planning for the Darkes Sporting and Community Hub continued, including concept designs for a new 600-square-metre neighbourhood centre.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Plan and deliver a new Community Centre and Library at Warrawong to serve Wollongong's southern suburbs	On-Track	Work is progressing on the new Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library. Early site works have been completed, and the contractor for the main construction has been appointed, with work commencing in mid-September. A sod-turning ceremony was held on 19 September 2025 to mark the start of construction. Residents within 100 metres of the site have been notified, and the project website is being updated with the latest information. A Terms of Reference is also being developed for the proposed stakeholder group to support ongoing communication and collaboration.
Plan and deliver a new Community Centre and Library to meet the needs of the community in Helensburgh and surrounding suburbs	On-Track	Work is continuing on the new Helensburgh Community Centre and Library. The design tender has been awarded to a local architectural firm, with design work to commence next quarter. Concept designs will be shared with the community in early 2026.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Community Facilities Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver 'Places for People' Forward Directions Plan 2023-2036 (Implementation Plan)	On-Track	Implementation of the Places for the Future: Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2023–2036 is continuing, with most scheduled projects now underway or completed. The plan provides a strategic framework to guide the planning, maintenance and renewal of community facilities across the Wollongong Local Government Area.
Progress planning and renewal of community facilities across the portfolio	On-Track	District facility improvements progressed across several sites this quarter. At Corrimal District Community Centre and Library, design work for planned refurbishments, including air conditioning, has been completed, and planning for installation is underway. At Dapto Ribbonwood Community Centre and Library, design for refurbishment and air conditioning upgrades is nearing completion, and negotiations with tenders for the lift refurbishment are progressing. At Thirroul District Community Centre and Library, minor redesigns are being finalised ahead of construction to repurpose the former café space and expand the library area. Upgrade works were also advanced at neighbourhood and community facilities. These included the completion of civil works for a coffee cart at Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre, fire compliance upgrades at Bulli Community Centre, and concept and detailed design for roof and floor works at Balgownie Community Centre. The Helensburgh Community Rooms reopened earlier this year, with further design work underway for hall access improvements. Refurbishment planning continued at Figtree, Port Kembla, Otford, Wongawilli and Coledale community facilities, ensuring these valued spaces remain fit for purpose and well used by their local communities.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Community Programs

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Community programs deliver support to people living in the Wollongong Local Government Area. These services deliver community programs, building community capacity and wellbeing.

Quarterly Progress Update

An Australian Early Development Census planning day was held with local children and family service providers. Speakers discussed the data, children's emotional and social development since COVID-19, and strategies to improve future outcomes.

Council supported the 2025 Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards, hosted by Shellharbour City Council. The event celebrated the achievements and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven. A Lord Mayor's NAIDOC Elders Morning Tea was also held, and seven local organisations received NAIDOC grants.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design advice was provided for Dapto Square, Wollongong City Centre and other key sites. A graffiti audit at Fred Moore House, Dapto, informed new strategies to address vandalism, and safety audits were completed at several locations, including tourist parks and Crown Street West, Wollongong.

Council also partnered with the Wollongong Homeless Hub and Housing Services to deliver two events during Homelessness Week in August 2025 and participated in the Homelessness Services Expo.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and deliver the 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan	On-Track	An expression of interest to join Council's Aboriginal Reference Group was promoted this quarter, and staff were encouraged to participate in reconciliation events and activities. Council also supported the Illawarra Indigenous Business Expo through sponsorship and in-kind support. Strong partnerships continue with local Aboriginal organisations through ongoing projects in natural areas, arts and youth services. Collaboration with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council includes bush restoration, cultural assessments and vegetation management at sites such as Coomaditchie Lagoon. Council continues to work with external partners and Reconciliation Action Plan-aligned organisations to advance reconciliation. Programs such as the FEVER enrichment initiative and Creative Dialogues discussions promote truth-telling and cultural representation, while exhibitions and events celebrate and elevate First Nations voices. The Local Strategic Planning Statement has been updated to reflect and celebrate Aboriginal culture, heritage and connection to Country. This update embeds recognition of Aboriginal custodianship into Council's long-term planning framework, helping to guide future growth and development in ways that respect and incorporate Aboriginal perspectives, values and priorities.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver a range of community development activities and programs that focus on diversity, access, inclusion, and capacity building	On-Track	The Culture Mix Festival was held during the quarter, celebrating the city's diversity through inclusive and culturally responsive programs that reflect local identities and support emerging communities, including African, Karenni and Arabic-speaking groups. Through collaborative planning and partnerships, the program promoted access and inclusion with tailored outreach, transport assistance and curated activities. The Advisory Group also helped extend engagement with Persian, Burmese and school communities. The Reading Tent attended community events at Koonawarra and Warrawong NAIDOC celebrations, the Paint the Gong Read Annual Reading Day at Warrawong Plaza, and Family Fun Day events for Child Protection Week at Dapto Mall and Warrawong Plaza. Students from Warrawong High School participated in the Living Books program, fostering understanding and storytelling across cultures. Planning is also underway for the Afrikan Workers Forum, which will provide a platform to discuss community needs, challenges and partnership opportunities.
Implement strategies to embed Child Safe standards	On-Track	Family Fun Day events were held at Dapto Mall and Warrawong Plaza as part of National Child Protection Week. In partnership with local children's services, Council supported a child safety awareness seminar titled *What I Wish Every Parent Knew*, presented by Kristi McVee at the University of Wollongong. A new Child Safe training module was rolled out across the organisation, and a procedure for Visual and Audio Recordings of Children and Young People was developed to strengthen Council's child safety practices.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020 – 2025	On-Track	The community were invited to share their ideas for Council's next Disability Inclusion Action Plan through a series of targeted workshops. Sessions were held with families, carers and support workers, and with people representing a broad range of lived experiences, including autism or neurodivergence, cognitive, intellectual, non-visible, physical and sensory disabilities. Workshops were also delivered with Carer Gateway's Carers Group, Flagstaff employees, and students with disability from ASPECT and Fairy Meadow Demonstration School. A range of events promoted awareness and inclusion for people living with dementia and their support networks. Highlights included the Illawarra Dementia Public Forum hosted by Dementia Australia, Understanding Dementia at Corrimal Library, Dementia-Friendly Art Tours at Wollongong Art Gallery, an Aged Care Act Talk with Val Fell at Dapto Library, and the Seeds and Stories Morning Tea at Unanderra Library. Culture Mix featured inclusive programming that encouraged participation by people with disability. Auslan-interpreted sessions were delivered in partnership with community leaders, while an audio-described gallery tour and supported welcome ceremony were co-designed with blind and low-vision community members. Targeted outreach included online promotion, invitations to older people and Aboriginal Elders, and transport support. Feedback gathered from participants will inform future planning. Autism awareness and Easy Read training was also delivered for Council staff to strengthen accessibility across services.
Initiate opportunities and projects to support the community	On-Track	This quarter, Council administered the ClubGRANTS program, which supports services and projects that improve the wellbeing of people on low incomes and those experiencing disadvantage. Connecting Neighbours Grants were also offered to fund activities that bring people together, with this round focusing on verge gardening. Funding was provided for a range of activities across the Local Government Area. Planning is underway for the Afrikan Workers Forum, which will provide a platform to discuss community needs, challenges and partnership opportunities. Culture Mix delivered inclusive, community-led programming that reflected local cultural identities and supported emerging groups through collaboration and capacity building. The event included tailored activities for multicultural communities, people with disability, older people and Aboriginal Elders, supported by targeted outreach, curated experiences and accessibility measures. Advisory groups and community networks were actively involved to encourage participation and representation.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Community Programs Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Prepare and deliver a new Community Safety Action Plan 2026-2030	On-Track	Feedback from community engagement and crime data is currently being used to develop the new Community Safety Action Plan 2026-2030.
Deliver the Community Safety Action Plan 2021 2025	On-Track	Council facilitated two Graff Off graffiti removal sessions and continued to work with community volunteers to support ongoing graffiti removal efforts across the city. A Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design audit was completed at Fred Moore House, Dapto, to identify opportunities to reduce graffiti and improve site safety. Safety audits were also undertaken at five locations, including tourist parks and Crown Street West, Wollongong. resulting in recommendations to enhance public safety and amenity. Council engaged with the community and key stakeholders to address safety concerns in Dapto Square, with feedback gathered to inform future activation strategies for the precinct. Council continued its support of the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence through events such as Reclaim the Night and Domestic Violence Speed Networking. A communications plan was developed to raise awareness of domestic and family violence, including activities aligned with the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Council chaired the Community Safety Interagency and remained an active participant in key safety and prevention networks, including the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence, Community Drug Action Team, Local Government Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Network, and the Liquor Accord.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Corporate Strategy

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

Corporate Strategy responds to the community's needs from engagement, prepares, monitors, and reports on Council's progress to our community, coordinates research and performance measurement, and carries out strategic and business improvement projects.

Quarterly Progress Update

The June Quarterly Review Statement was adopted on 25 August 2025. Significant progress was made on drafting the 2024–2025 Annual Report, which will be considered by Council in November 2025.

A project plan has been developed for the review and preparation of the 2025–2029 Delivery Program and 2026–2027 Operational Plan, due for adoption by 30 June 2026. A comprehensive review of Council strategies and plans is underway to inform this work.

Council's biennial community satisfaction survey was conducted from 1 to 13 September 2025 by independent company Taverner Research. The survey invited feedback on community satisfaction with Council services and facilities, providing valuable insight to guide future planning and delivery.

Project Management training continued during the quarter to build organisational capability, with additional sessions scheduled throughout the remainder of the 2025–2026 financial year.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate Council's Service Optimisation Program	On-Track	Council's Service Optimisation Program continues to make strong progress in enhancing service delivery across key areas. Development Assessment and Certification: The first Service Optimisation initiative for Development Assessment and Certification has seen significant advancement, with the majority of the 30+ recommendations successfully implemented during the 2024–2025 financial year. A small number of recommendations remain in progress and are on track for completion in the 2025–2026 financial year. Customer Service is progressing well through a staged approach. The Customer Service - Rates review was completed. Recommendations will be implemented using a phased approach. The Customer Service - Pits and Drains review is nearing completion, with recommendations currently being finalised for endorsement. The end-to-end Road Signage Service Optimisation is underway, with stakeholder consultation actively taking place. The second stage of the Customer Service optimisation is scheduled to commence in the second quarter and will continue throughout the current financial year.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Corporate Strategy Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Coordinate the review and preparation of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan	On-Track	The review of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan commenced during the quarter with detailed project planning underway.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Integrated Customer Service

Responsibility *Manager Customer and Business Integrity*

About this Service

Provision of a professional and efficient customer service experience with Council through a variety of methods.

Quarterly Progress Update

Planning is underway to embed customer service as a core function across Council, with a focus on integrating service delivery and aligning it to broader customer experience outcomes. This work includes clarifying the distinction between Customer Service; the direct, transactional interactions with customers; and Customer Experience, which encompasses the full journey and emotional impact of those interactions. This shared understanding will underpin the Customer Experience Strategy and support a whole-of-Council approach to service excellence.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review Council's customer service and engagement channels with a focus on inclusion, participation and the overall customer experience	On-Track	The review of Council's customer service and engagement channels, with a focus on inclusion, participation, and overall customer experience, is planned as a key component of the upcoming Customer Experience Strategy. This future work will ensure that service design reflects diverse community needs and supports equitable access across all channels. Planning is underway to embed this focus within the broader strategic framework.
Review the customer service journey across targeted, high priority operations as part of the Service Optimisation Program and identify opportunities for improvement	On-Track	As part of the Service Optimisation Program, work has commenced to review the customer service journey across targeted, high-priority operations. This review will inform the development of Council's Customer Experience Strategy, with a focus on identifying both strategic and incremental opportunities for improvement. Collaboration continues across Council to clarify which initiatives align with long-term strategic delivery, and which can be actioned as part of ongoing service enhancements.
Prepare and implement customer experience strategy	On-Track	Foundational work has commenced to support the development and implementation of Council's Customer Experience Strategy. Updates to the Customer Service Policy and Charter are progressing through public exhibition, establishing a strong base for future initiatives. A multi-year project plan is being developed with clear maturity stages to guide long-term transformation. The internal project working group will convene in the coming months to begin stakeholder engagement and coordinated action. The overarching goal is to prepare and implement a comprehensive Customer Experience Strategy during 2025–2026.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Leisure Centres

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*

About this Service

This service involves the provision of commercially operated recreation centres at Beaton Park, Wollongong and Lakeside Leisure Centre, Kanahooka.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council's leisure centres continued to experience strong demand for seniors' group exercise programs, with all classes operating at full capacity. The Kerryn McCann Athletics Centre at Beaton Park, Wollongong, recorded high utilisation, with 9,423 competitors participating in events, demonstrating strong community engagement. The centre again hosted the NSW South Coast Schools Athletics Carnival, attracting around 1,000 athletes from Helensburgh to the NSW border. This year's event introduced a disability inclusion program, which significantly boosted participation and marked a positive step toward inclusive sport and community involvement. Planning is also progressing for the renewal of health and fitness equipment at Beaton Park to support the continued delivery of high-quality services to the community.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Undertake detailed design planning for the Beaton Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre	On-Track	Work is currently underway with a specialist consultant engaged to review the existing Beaton Park Master Plan. The review incorporates recent stakeholder feedback from NSW and local sporting bodies to ensure the design aligns with current and future community needs. This process will inform the development of updated concept plans and detailed design documentation and costings.
Review and implement industry leading technologies to provide cost effective and efficient and seamless experience for customers	On-Track	Council is developing the scope and preparing tender documentation for a new online booking system to streamline how community members book facilities and services, improving convenience and reducing administrative effort. The SmartyGrants platform was successfully implemented for the recent Sports Facilities Grants Program, improving access for clubs and community groups, simplifying the application process, and increasing efficiency in managing and assessing grant applications.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Libraries

Responsibility *Manager Libraries and Community Facilities*

About this Service

Wollongong City Libraries delivers information, learning outcomes, and access to resources for residents and visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area. The service is delivered from seven libraries and through the Home Library Service, and a range of online services.

Quarterly Progress Update

Implementation of the new Smart Returns Shelf at Wollongong Library has streamlined service delivery and enhanced the customer experience. Physical loans remain strong and are projected to reach 270,000, while reservations are expected to exceed 55,000 and online collections 95,000. Collection development continues to reflect community interests, with increased purchasing in inclusion and diversity areas, including LGBTQIA+ titles and dyslexic-friendly formats. Nineteen new book club kits were also added.

Local Studies digitised 18,595 pages from the Illawarra Mercury image index, attracting more than 3,000 visitors to the Illawarra Stories website and creating 13 new oral histories. The Boating in the Illawarra exhibition was launched during History Week.

The 'Read and Write for Life' adult literacy program continues to grow, with four participants meeting regularly with volunteer tutors to achieve their literacy goals. Outreach highlights included a new monthly session at the Homeless Hub, Storytime events at the Botanic Garden and Bulli Beach Reserve, and participation in NAIDOC festivals and school programs.

Book Week was celebrated across the library network, with special outreach performances and activities reaching 395 Helensburgh students. Positive community feedback reflected appreciation for the service, staff and inclusive programs, reinforcing the library's role as a welcoming and vibrant community space.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver tailored library programs to facilitate access and participation of people with disability	On-Track	Quiet Hour provides a calm, low-sensory environment supporting neurodivergent individuals and anyone seeking a peaceful space. Following strong engagement and positive feedback at Corrimal Library, the initiative has now expanded to Dapto, Thirroul, Warrawong and Wollongong Libraries. A recent Social Night for people with disability welcomed 20 participants, including visitors from Sydney. The event offered a relaxed, inclusive space for connection and will now be held quarterly, with potential for broader rollout. The team has refreshed the Social Stories on Council's website, helping people familiarise themselves with library spaces and feel confident participating in programs. The Vision Impaired Yarners continue to meet monthly at Wollongong Library, with eight regular attendees and two guide dogs. Support dog Ollie also visited to uplift Higher School Certificate students, while members of the Knit Stitch Yarn group were recognised by Women Illawarra for donating handmade blankets and hats.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Libraries Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver library programs that recognise, reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of our community	On-Track	During July 2025, the library celebrated First Nations communities through outreach at local NAIDOC festivals, engaging around 180 people at each event. The Winter Book Sale raised funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, and local Aboriginal artists led weaving workshops across library branches. In September, the Local History Team hosted a morning tea to mark the addition of new Aboriginal oral histories to the Illawarra Stories website, featuring stories connected to Hill 60. As part of Culture Mix, an installation by an Aboriginal artist titled From the Mother and weaving workshops continued to share local stories and culture. The Peace Movement Illawarra exhibition ran from June to August at Wollongong Library, inviting the community to fold 1,000 paper cranes for Hiroshima's Peace Memorial, 80 years after the bombing. Complementary workshops in origami, sewing and Kamishibai storytelling celebrated Japanese culture and attracted strong community and media interest. English Conversation Classes at Warrawong Library continued in partnership with the Salvation Army, attracting an average of 12 participants each week. Collaboration also continued with Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra through the Let's Chat program, which regularly engages more than 20 participants. Tech Savvy grant funding has been secured for the 2025–2026 financial year, supporting multilingual programs in Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic, Persian, Karenni, Hindi, Kirundi and English.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Parks and Sports Fields

Responsibility *Manager Sport and Recreation*

About this Service

This service operates more than 1,300 parks, reserves and open space areas including 220 playing fields, 7 outdoor fitness stations, 9 turf wickets, and 154 playgrounds across the Wollongong Local Government Area and includes Russell Vale Golf Course. Provision of passive access to community parks and playgrounds, and affordable and equitable access to sports fields and facilities. Service planning for diverse public amenity and recreational opportunities. These services are supported through facilitating casual hire and bookings of parks and sports fields. Twenty-two sports fields are licensed by volunteer or semi-professional sporting clubs.

Quarterly Progress Update

The peak winter sports season concluded this quarter, with a range of finals held in September 2025. Council staff are now processing summer seasonal allocations, with bookings to be finalised for the remainder of the summer season. In preparation for future seasons, Council is updating its wet weather procedure, which will be trialled over summer ahead of full implementation for winter 2026.

A grants workshop aligned with the Sports Grants Program was also delivered, providing local clubs with practical guidance on developing strong applications and improving their ability to secure funding for facility upgrades.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement Landscape Masterplan recommendations for Hill 60 Reserve, Port Kembla	On-Track	Council staff continue to progress implementation of the Hill 60 Reserve, Port Kembla Landscape Masterplan. During the quarter, draft documentation for the Hill 60 Tunnels project was presented to Councillors, with the final version expected to go to Council in the December 2025 quarter. Engagement with key stakeholders is underway to review the draft plan and ensure feedback aligns with current planning requirements and site conditions. Work is also continuing on detailed designs for other masterplan elements to ensure projects are shovel-ready for future grant opportunities.
Increase percentage of tree cover and vegetation in passive recreation areas aligned with Urban Greening Strategy and Climate Change Adaptation Plan	On-Track	The 2025 canopy survey recorded 27.5 per cent canopy cover across the city's urban area — an overall increase of 3.6 per cent since the Urban Greening Program began in 2018. Tree planting works continued during the quarter, maintaining a minimum replacement ratio of two to one.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Implement the Landscape Masterplan for Stuart and Galvin Parks, North Wollongong.	On-Track	Council is progressing the implementation of the Landscape Masterplan for Stuart and Galvin Parks, North Wollongong. During the quarter, work has focused on advancing planning approvals and detailed design for the northern amenities extension. Designs will continue to progress throughout the current financial year, with construction scheduled to commence in the 2026–2027 financial year.
Implement the adopted Masterplans including: Figtree Oval Recreational Masterplan; King George V Oval; Port Kembla; and Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan	Delayed	Council is continuing to implement the adopted Masterplans for Figtree Oval, King George V Oval, Port Kembla, and Cringila Hills Recreation Reserve. During the quarter, the new skate space at King George V Oval was completed and officially opened to the public, providing an exciting new facility for the community. Progress continues on the amenities upgrade at Figtree Oval, which will replace the existing facilities with modern changerooms designed for all users. These works are part of Council's commitment to delivering inclusive and high-quality recreational spaces across the city.
Progress the development of the Lang Park Masterplan	Delayed	Council is progressing the development of the Lang Park Masterplan. Council staff prepared the consultant brief, which is scheduled to go to market before the end of the calendar year. This procurement process will enable the engagement of a specialist consultant to advance master planning work, with the aim of finalising a draft Masterplan before the end of the financial year.
Progress the planning and development of a Wollongong City Centre Skate Park	Delayed	Council has continued to progress planning for the Wollongong City Centre Skate Park. Site investigations for the proposed facility have been completed, and a report will be presented to Council in October 2025 seeking endorsement to publicly exhibit the recommended site. This will give the community an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed location. A tender process will follow for the delivery of the new skate park.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver complementary infrastructure to support increased visitation and activation resulting from the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Network	On-Track	Council continues to deliver complementary infrastructure to support growing visitation and activation linked to the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Network. During the quarter, the Mount Kembla Trails were officially opened by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, with new car parking infrastructure completed nearby to accommodate increased visitor numbers. Council is also working closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on planning for the Balgownie Network, including identifying and progressing the supporting infrastructure needed for this and future trail developments.
Subject to Transport for NSW plans for the proposed Bulli Bypass, undertake detailed design planning for Bulli Showground and future use	Deferred	Council is continuing to monitor the proposed Bulli Bypass project led by Transport for NSW, as this will directly influence the detailed design planning for Bulli Showground and its future use. At this stage, Council has not received any further information or confirmed plans regarding the bypass. Once Transport for NSW provides clarity on the project scope and timelines, Council will be able to progress with detailed design work for the showground to ensure alignment with any proposed transport infrastructure changes.
Collaborate with Destination Wollongong and the Australian Baseball League to establish Wollongong as a home base location for a National Baseball League team	On-Track	Council has continued to explore opportunities to position Wollongong as a potential home base for a future Australian Baseball League team. During the quarter, discussions were held with Destination Wollongong and a representative from the League. While there are no immediate plans to expand beyond existing teams, the League has expressed interest in maintaining dialogue with Council regarding facility condition and potential improvements. This ongoing engagement will support a longer-term strategy to position Wollongong should an expansion opportunity arise.
Identify and collaborate with sporting clubs and associations on future planning priorities	On-Track	Council staff continue to work closely with sporting clubs and associations to identify and prioritise future planning needs across the city's sporting facilities. During the quarter, an audit of existing facilities was completed to inform future improvement opportunities, and staff met with a range of clubs to discuss priorities and potential upgrades. Council also participated in a Football South Coast meeting, where affiliated clubs collectively identified priorities for football facility improvements. In addition, Council presented to the Sports Reference Group to ensure strategic planning remains aligned with community needs and supports equitable investment across all sporting codes.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Deliver funded and sportsfield irrigation and drainage infrastructure projects	On-Track	Council has progressed the delivery of funded sportsfield irrigation and drainage infrastructure projects, with construction contracts now awarded for drainage upgrades at St James Park, Coledale, and JJ Kelly Park, Wollongong. Works are scheduled to commence in September and October 2025 respectively. Both projects are on track for completion before the end of the calendar year, which will allow the fields to be playable by early 2026. These upgrades are part of Council's commitment to improving the quality and resilience of local sports facilities, reducing weather-related closures, and supporting increased community access to safe and reliable playing surfaces. Council will continue to communicate with user groups to manage impacts during delivery and provide updates on reopening timelines.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Figtree Oval, Figtree	On-Track	Consultation was undertaken with existing sporting clubs on the draft design for the new amenities building. Following this engagement, further refinements to the design are being finalised, with procurement for the construction of the new facility planned to occur before the end of the calendar year.
Install funded sportsfield lighting at priority locations in accordance with the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027	On-Track	During the quarter, procurement documentation was prepared for delivery of lighting upgrades at Towradgi Sportsfield and the recently grant-funded project at Ocean Park, Woonona. Procurement is scheduled to occur in October 2025, with works planned for completion prior to the 2026 winter season.
Support the Illawarra Stingrays Football Club with establishing a home ground location at Lakelands Oval, Dapto by delivering funded drainage upgrades, finalising a long-term licence and supporting the Club with carrying out their grant funded works	On-Track	Council staff worked with the Lakelands Development team to progress the finalisation of a long-term licence agreement for the site. In addition, Council has supported the delivery of grant-funded works being undertaken by the Illawarra Stingrays, which include fencing, irrigation, new amenities, floodlighting, and other ancillary improvements to enhance the functionality and capacity of the facility.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Establish a suite of policies and licence agreements to guide the usage of sporting space and infrastructure by both unstructured recreation activities and structured sport	Not Scheduled to commence	Council is preparing to progress the development of a suite of policies and licence agreements to guide the use of sporting spaces and infrastructure of both unstructured recreation activities and structured sport. This work is scheduled to commence during the March 2026 quarter. In the interim, Council has updated building maintenance schedules for current licence agreements to ensure compliance and consistency while the broader policy framework is being developed.
Adopt a set of minimum standards for the design and construction of new sports amenity buildings	On-Track	During the quarter, Council staff presented the concept of minimum standards and design requirements to the Sports Reference Group. These standards will establish consistent guidelines for minimum sizes and functional design elements in new amenities buildings. Work is underway to develop a standardised approach for implementing storage solutions for clubs that currently lack adequate storage space within existing facilities.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Thomas Gibson Park, Thirroul	On-Track	During the quarter, demolition of the existing amenities building for the Rugby League field was completed, and construction is now underway on a new contemporary amenities facility to service the sporting field. Temporary amenities were provided throughout the Rugby League season to support the club during construction, with several of these temporary facilities removed at the end of the season. The new amenities building is scheduled for completion prior to the winter season of 2026.
Implement the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027	On-Track	Council has continued implementing the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023–2027 through the delivery of the Sports Grants Program. The program provides funding for sporting organisations to deliver infrastructure improvements on local sportsgrounds. Applications are currently being assessed by the Sports Reference Group, with recommendations to be presented to the November Council Meeting for consideration. This initiative supports the Strategy's objectives by fostering partnerships with sporting bodies and ensuring investment aligns with community needs and strategic priorities.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Parks and Sports Fields Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Prepare the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan	On-Track	Engagement with the NSW Government and adjoining stakeholders on the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct is ongoing. Homes NSW is progressing planning for the future renewal of the Bellambi estate, and Council is reviewing assets and service functions in the area to help inform this work. Feedback from adjoining landowners about access needs is being incorporated into the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct planning process.
Implement recommendations of the Public Toilet Strategy 2019-2029 to improve accessibility	Not Scheduled to commence	Council will commence a review of the Public Toilet Strategy in line with the recently adopted Asset Management Plan.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Public Health and Safety

Responsibility *Manager Regulation and Enforcement*

About this Service

This service conducts and manages the registration, inspections, and monitoring of regulated public and environmental health premises including public swimming pools and On-site Sewage Management systems with the aim of ensuring compliance.

The service provides environmental and public health related assessment and referrals as part of the development assessment process. It also involves the development of environmental and public health policies, community education programs, and customer information.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council staff delivered a wide range of programs this quarter, including swimming pool safety barrier inspections, onsite wastewater system assessments, parking patrols and public education initiatives.

Under the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program, 113 inspections of privately owned pools were completed, 79 customer requests were responded to, and 33 Certificates of Compliance were issued under the Swimming Pools Act. Staff also reviewed Council's Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy and procedure, and attended the Let's Talk community information session in late September 2025.

Inspections were completed for onsite wastewater systems, cooling towers and sex industry premises, with 39 wastewater system inspections, 20 development application referrals and 134 customer service requests processed.

School zone parking patrols continued across the Wollongong Local Government Area, with a focus on safe and legal parking practices. Ninety-one patrols were completed, 53 fines issued and several educational discussions held with drivers about vehicle and pedestrian safety.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Inspect all medium and high-risk retail food premises annually	On-Track	Council staff commenced the 2025–2026 annual inspection program for fixed, mobile and temporary food businesses to monitor compliance with the Food Act 2003 and Food Safety Standards. More than 375 inspections of medium and high-risk businesses were completed during the quarter, with seven Improvement Notices issued to address non-compliance. Further inspections are scheduled throughout 2025–2026 to ensure Council meets its obligations under the Food Regulation Partnership with the NSW Food Authority.
Maintain inspection programs for public swimming pools, places of shared accommodation and, mortuaries	On-Track	Seven public swimming pools and four shared accommodation premises were inspected, with further inspections scheduled in the coming months. Mortuary inspections are planned for later in the 2025–2026 year.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Youth Services

Responsibility *Manager Community Culture and Engagement*

About this Service

Youth Services provides a program of recreation, cultural and education activities to meet the needs of young people aged 12-24 at Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Wollongong Local Government Area.

Council funds the Neighbourhood Youth Work Program in Port Kembla and Berkeley to support the needs of young people in the community.

Quarterly Progress Update

A program of recreation, cultural and educational activities continued to be delivered for young people aged 12–24 at the Wollongong Youth Centre and across the Wollongong Local Government Area.

Youth Services staff visited local high schools to promote Wear It Purple Day and R U OK? Day, sharing information about available programs and supports.

Council continued to support the youth sector through coordination of the Wollongong Youth Network and funding for the Neighbourhood Youth Work Program.

Young people's views were also gathered through targeted engagement to help inform the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and the Wollongong Transport Strategy.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver a range of youth development opportunities with a focus on engagement, inclusion, skill development, sector development, and support.	On-Track	A variety of youth development programs were delivered during the quarter, including Bellambi Connect, Dapto Connect, Bundaleer Connect, Teenz Connect, study sessions, Dungeons and Dragons, Be Proud + Empowered, Youth in Fashion, Rainbow League, and workshops focused on work readiness and wellbeing. School holiday activities featured self-care sessions, creative workshops, cooking classes and Dungeons and Dragons. Council staff also supported the Illawarra Multicultural Youth Conference at Five Islands Secondary College, where more than 100 high school students from migrant and refugee backgrounds participated in a day of skill-building, creativity and connection.
Provide opportunities for young people to develop skills, experience, and exposure in creative industries	On-Track	A fully equipped music rehearsal space remained available throughout the quarter, supported by On Stage — a fortnightly program offering young people the chance to rehearse, perform and participate in live music, open mic and karaoke sessions. The Crafts + Chat program continued to provide creative skill-building opportunities with support from the Youth Services Artist in Residence. The Back to School Jam event was successfully delivered in collaboration with Team Ignite. The Legal Wall also remained well used, providing a dynamic and evolving public art space for the community.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – September 2024	Result – September 2025
Number of visitors to Council commercial heated pools (Beaton Park, Corrimal, Dapto)	At least 180,000 per annum	36,451[1]	79,655[2]
Residents' average satisfaction score with Council commercial heated pools (Beaton Park, Corrimal, Dapto)	Maintain	4.10*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with public swimming pools (free) (Continental, Port Kembla, Berkeley, Unanderra, Thirroul, Helensburgh)	Maintain	4.10*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with patrolled beaches	Maintain	4.50*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with tidal rock pools	Maintain	4.20*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with lifeguard services	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of hours Council managed district centres are used (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Increase	10,284	9,004
Number of visitors to Council managed district centres (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Increase	55,572	52,360
Residents' average satisfaction score with managed district centres (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Maintain	4.30*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with customer service centre	Maintain	3.90*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Percentage of customer enquiries resolved at the first point of contact	Increase	New measure	72%

* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023
[1] Data based on an estimate due to Dapto pool entry fees being unavailable.
[2] Data tracking higher due to absence of usual two week shutdown in July.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – September 2024	Result – September 2025
Percentage of customer requests actioned within 10 working days	80%	New measure	92%
Residents' average satisfaction score with leisure centres (Beaton Park, Lakeside)	Maintain	3.90*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of visitors to Council libraries	Increase	-[1]	133,519
Number of active library members	Increase	New measure	62,665
Number of physical and digital loans	4.36 per capita per annum	357,867 (1.61 per capita)	368,530 (1.66 per capita)
Number of participants in library learning programs	Increase	15,954	17,139
Number of library learning programs	Increase	816	852
Residents' average satisfaction score with libraries	Maintain	4.40*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with library services	Maintain	4.20*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with parks and open spaces	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with sports fields and facilities	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with children's playgrounds	Increase	3.90*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with Russell Vale Golf Course	Maintain	4.20*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Residents' average satisfaction score with condition/cleanliness of public toilets	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*

* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023
[1] Data unavailable due to a system outage.

GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – September 2024	Result – September 2025
Residents' average satisfaction score with the location/availability of public toilets	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	*(next survey late 2025)*
Number of participants in programs and activities delivered to young people through the youth centre	24,000 per annum	7,669	6,347

To learn more about how we're tracking, our Delivery Program Measures Dictionary outlines definitions, targets, trends, baseline and current data (where available), along with data sources and how often they're collected. The dictionary can be found on Council's website:

Home | Council| Council Documents| Our Wollongong Our Future| Delivery Program and Operational Plan

https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf

SUPPORT SERVICES

September Quarter Highlights

Council staff delivered a range of training and awareness, including resilience and wellbeing programs.

27 September 2025 marked the opening of the swim season. In July, Council carried out an extensive recruitment process to employ a passionate and skilled group of more than 50 new lifeguards for summer.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services

Responsibility *Senior Manager People and Culture*

About this Service

Council's Employee Services provides support, advice and information to staff, including: Staff Talent Identification and Talent Management; Preventative Health and Wellbeing initiatives; and ongoing Capability development. Employee Services provides tools and resources supporting Employee Relations, Change Management and Payroll Services. Our service fosters a safe and equitable work environment through the adoption of Diversity and Inclusion and Remuneration and Benefits programs with a focus on skill development enhancing the employee experience.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council continues to progress key workforce initiatives that support the delivery of strategic human resource functions and high-quality services to the community. These initiatives align with the Workforce Management Strategy 2025–2029 and focus on building organisational capability, ensuring compliance and strengthening workforce resilience.

Succession planning approaches were implemented to support divisional workforce planning and ensure continuity of critical roles. Investigation skills training was rolled out for leaders to promote consistency, fairness and compliance in managing workplace matters. Targeted education on Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) and workers compensation legislation continued for leaders and employees, reinforcing a culture of safety and accountability. In addition, training continued to be delivered in structured blocks to meet statutory and operational WHS requirements efficiently and consistently.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan	On-Track	Council continued its membership with the Diversity Council of Australia and the Australian Disability Network. Common workplace adjustment documents were introduced to assist leaders in implementing adjustments that support employee needs. Discussions also commenced with the Australian Human Rights Commission on a program to embed workplace adjustments through the development of a policy and passport approach. Council supported engagement activities for the next Disability Inclusion Action Plan and facilitated an Easy Read training course to strengthen organisational capability in developing accessible documents for both internal and external audiences.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Employee Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Implement the Workforce Management Strategy 2025-2029	On-Track	Leaders and employees have been educated on psychosocial hazards, with each division developing targeted action plans. Results from the 2025 Staff Survey were communicated, and the development of related action plans has commenced. The first iteration of the Extraordinary Leaders Program was completed, and a Rehabilitation Panel has been established to strengthen return-to-work processes. Employee and leadership performance objectives have been integrated into the performance appraisal system, with a focus on culture, safety and performance. Council has continued to deliver the Leaders Connect and Deep Dive series in alignment with the Leadership Framework, while the Talent Acquisition Strategy is being continually reviewed and refined.
Refresh Council's Talent Strategies	On-Track	Council continues to strengthen its approach to attracting, developing and retaining talented people who deliver services that meet community needs. During the quarter, recruitment activity has been broadened to reach a more diverse talent pool, while selection processes have been refined to improve efficiency, fairness and accessibility for all applicants. During the quarter, ocean and pool lifeguard recruitment was completed in preparation for the 2025–2026 swim season, internal Selection Techniques training was refreshed to better support recruitment panels, and system updates were introduced to enhance the candidate experience. A targeted First Nations recruitment initiative also commenced, reinforcing Council's commitment to cultural inclusion and workforce diversity. Early feedback has been positive and will inform future talent programs and pathways. Council remains engaged with sector peers to share learnings and adopt best practice, ensuring its strategies remain innovative and aligned with local government workforce trends. Looking ahead, the focus will be on embedding inclusive practices, monitoring attraction and retention outcomes, and positioning Council as an employer of choice in a competitive market.
Deliver Safety and Wellbeing Programs	On-Track	An Occupational Violence and Aggression training program is being developed to support a safe and respectful workplace. This program includes a Champion Model, where trained staff across the organisation act as key contacts and advocates to reinforce awareness, provide guidance and help embed safe work practices.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Financial Services

Responsibility *Chief Financial Officer*

About this Service

Wollongong City Council is a large and diverse organisation that provides services from the funding it receives from its community through rates, grants, fees, and charges. Financial Sustainability, conservation of Council's capital and operational efficiency are aims of this service. This is achieved through financial strategy, policy, budgets and controls; while ensuring Council meets its taxation obligations, investment return, and internal and external reporting that provides transparency about decision-making. A key focus of the service is to maintain a high level of customer service to its internal and external stakeholders.

Quarterly Progress Update

Financial Services continued to deliver core financial management functions for both internal and external stakeholders. The team prepared and presented the Annual Financial Statements to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, with the audit process now underway and progressing well. The application for Payment of Pensioner Concession has also been completed and is currently under review, with all reporting expected to be submitted to the Office of Local Government ahead of schedule.

Council's supplier payment function maintained regular weekly payment cycles and submitted the 2025 Taxable Payments Annual Report to the Australian Taxation Office. In line with the adopted Revenue Policy, Annual Rates were levied and issued, with first quarter receipts tracking in line with forecast projections.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review the rating structure to align to legislative changes	Deferred	Council has reviewed its rating structure and pricing as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting process and determined its Revenue Policy based on that review (adopted 30 June 2025). The rating structure remained unchanged as the anticipated legislative change, that is required to provide further relevant options for Council, has not been progressed.
Progress outcomes from the Service Optimisation review to enhance the rates customer experience	On-Track	The Customer Service - Rates review recommendations will be implemented using a phased approach. During the quarter an implementation working group was initiated and outcomes were allocated to responsible staff, and preliminary work on several of the recommendations commenced.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Governance and Administration

Responsibility *Manager Customer and Business Integrity*

About this Service

The Governance and Administration Service includes policy, internal audit, legal, insurance and claims management, procurement, risk management, Council meeting functions, and corporate governance. The service also captures the Office of the General Manager and Executive Group, support for Councillors and the Professional Conduct Coordinator.

Quarterly Progress Update

The Customer and Business Integrity continues to provide a range of essential corporate support services to the rest of Council, including front line customer contact centre, procurement, fleet management and stores services as well as governance and risk management services. Core activities are on track and within budget.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Internal Audit Program	On-Track	The last audit of the 2024-2025 Internal Audit Program is now complete. The 2025-2026 internal audit program has commenced and is currently on track to be completed by 30 June 2026.
Administer the Destination Wollongong 2021-2026 Funding Agreement	On-Track	Council staff are working with Destination Wollongong to ensure the funding agreement continues to be delivered in line with requirements. The June 2025 quarterly report was provided to the General Manager for information, including an update on 2024-2025 achievements and Key Performance Indicators from Destination Wollongong.
Deliver Council's advocacy program, including seeking funding support and legislative reform to achieve the best possible outcomes for our community	On-Track	Council continues to progress its advocacy program, with recent meetings held at the Parliament of New South Wales to discuss key priorities with Ministers. An updated advocacy priorities document is being prepared, and a further visit to Parliament is planned for mid-November 2025.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Management and Technology

Responsibility *Chief Digital and Information Officer*

About this Service

This service delivers digitally enabled, information driven and secure services that empower our customer community.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council's multi-year OneCouncil Enterprise Resource Planning project formally concluded in June 2025, marking one of the most significant technology transformations in Council's history. Building on this milestone, work this quarter focused on consolidating and embedding the new system into business operations, ensuring the full benefits of integration and efficiency are realised across the organisation.

The uplift of Council's computing infrastructure to the cloud was completed in August 2025, representing another major step in modernising Council's technology environment. The rollout of Windows 11 across Council's laptop fleet was also finalised, providing a secure and consistent platform for staff.

In addition, the Mobile Enforcement System trial has commenced, beginning with a comprehensive audit of all parking signage across the city.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Cyber Security Strategy	On-Track	Council continues to implement Phase One of its Cyber Security Strategy, which focuses on adopting the Australian Signals Directorate's Essential Eight mitigation strategies to strengthen protection against cyber threats. As of this quarter, approximately 96 per cent of the Essential Eight Maturity Level One requirements have been implemented. Work is continuing to complete Phase One and prepare for the next stages of the strategy's rollout.
Pilot and expand the use of robust SMART technologies across Council	On-Track	The Intelligent Defect Management trial has concluded and is now in a post-implementation support phase before transitioning to business as usual. Following the completion of the associated tender process, early results show a positive impact, with potholes no longer among the top ten customer service requests. Work also progressed on dam monitoring systems, with investigations underway to identify the most suitable power source for each site. Remote soil moisture sensors have been installed at six sports fields, with data collection now supporting the development of benchmarks to guide field closures and inform future stages of the sportsfield monitoring program. People-counting sensors have been installed at community pools to assist with monitoring safety ratios, and the Smart Parking project has commenced, with automated parking sign data currently being collected.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Management and Technology Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	**Status**	**Comment**
Implement the Operational Security Strategy	On-Track	Work is continuing on the upgrade of Council's Closed-Circuit Television network, with scoping works currently underway at the Central Depot. A review of building access at the Administration Building is also in progress.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Infrastructure Strategy and Support

Responsibility *Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning*

About this Service

This service includes the strategic management and technical planning of Council's infrastructure that supports all Council Services.

Quarterly Progress Update

Council continues to pursue external funding opportunities to support delivery of its Infrastructure Delivery Program. Council was awarded $100,000 in grant funding from the NSW Government for playground upgrades under the Community Building Partnership Program, and $84,000 from the Commonwealth Government for a Changing Place facility at Helensburgh Pool. In addition, the Commonwealth Government has advised that a formal application is required for the $10 million in funding committed prior to the election for the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library project.

Initial project planning has commenced on the review and preparation of the next Infrastructure Delivery Program 2026-2027 to 2029-2030, which will be informed by Council's adopted Asset Management Plan.

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Update Council's Asset Management Plan to maintain optimum investment in Council's asset portfolio	On-Track	Council's Asset Management Plan 2025–2035 was adopted on 30 June 2025, providing the framework for sustainable investment in Council's asset portfolio. The plan ensures resources are directed toward maintaining and renewing infrastructure to meet community needs and service standards. Implementation of the plan has commenced, with several actions underway. These include reviewing the useful lives of major asset classes within Council's asset register and progressing multiple initiatives through the Open Space and Pools Revaluation Project. Further prioritisation of actions will occur during 2025–2026 in consultation with the governance framework being established for ongoing administration of the Asset Management Plan. Budget allocations may be further refined to support identified priorities.
Implement the Asset Management Improvement Program	On-Track	The Asset Management Improvement Program, outlined in Council's Asset Management Plan adopted on 30 June 2025, sets the direction for strengthening asset management practices across the organisation. Several key actions are underway, primarily through the Open Space and Pool Infrastructure Revaluation Project. An Asset Management Steering Committee will be established in the December 2025 quarter to oversee governance of the Asset Management Plan and guide implementation of improvement initiatives. The committee will play a central role in prioritising and resourcing actions within the Improvement Program to support best practice in asset management and long-term sustainability.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	Comparative Data (where available) – September 2024	Result – September 2025
Average days to pay creditors	7 days	New measure	7.8
Residents' average satisfaction score with Wollongong City Council's overall performance	Increase	3.50*	*(next survey late 2025)*
Formal GIPA applications processed within 20 days	100%	100%	100%

* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

To learn more about how we're tracking, our Delivery Program Measures Dictionary outlines definitions, targets, trends, baseline and current data (where available), along with data sources and how often they're collected. The dictionary can be found on Council's website:

Home | Council| Council Documents| Our Wollongong Our Future| Delivery Program and Operational Plan

https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

July 2025 – September 2025

Introduction

This Quarterly Review is the first review of the Operational Plan 2025-2026.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement provides financial information and updates to the Council and the community on income and expenses in comparison with the approved annual budget. It outlines the Original Budget and year to date spend, as well as proposed variations to the budget and future year forecasts that have been identified in the quarter.

Changes to Council's income and expenses occur throughout the financial year due to both external and internal factors. This report provides the mechanism to communicate such changes to Councillors and the community in a transparent manner. The Quarterly Budget Review Statement is composed of the following budget review components:

1 Income and Expenses and Capital Budget Commentary

2 Combined Income and Expenses Statement

3 Summary of Variations – Operational and Capital

4 Budget Review Cash and Investments Position

5 Budget Review Key Performance Indicators

6 Contracts and Other Expenses, and

7 Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer

Appendix 1 – Supporting Documents Report

Appendix 2 – Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

Appendix 3 – Quarterly Budget Review Statement (legislative reporting format)

Income and Expense Statement

This Budget Review Statement includes proposed estimates of income and expenses for 2025-2026 financial year. The Income and Expenses Statement can be found in Table 1.

Commentary: Council commenced 2025-2026 with a budgeted deficit Operating Result [pre capital] of $13.3M and surplus Funds Result of $0.2M. Through the June Quarterly Review, the 2025-2026 budget was amended for projects still in progress at the end of the 2024-2025 financial year that would need to continue in the 2025-2026 financial year and a $7.9M transfer of the favourable end of year funds result to the Strategic Projects Restricted Asset. This resulted in a budgeted deficit Operating Result [pre capital] of $15.3M and a deficit Funds Result of $8.8M.

The proposed movements in this review will result in a budgeted surplus Operating Result [pre capital] of $10.6M (positive movement of $25.9M) and a further adjustment in the deficit Funds Result to $19.5M (negative movement of $10.7M). The additional Funds Result deficit is predominately driven by the timing of the payment of the Financial Assistance Grant.

In 2024-2025, Council received early payment of $11.9M of the 2025-2026 Financial Assistance Grant. While the timing of the payment had a positive impact on last year's result it has a negative impact on the 2025-2026 budget. The total value of the 2025-2026 Financial Assistance Grant is $0.5M higher than budgeted. This means Council's Available Funds and future year budgets reflect an improvement of $0.5M even though the current year budget has a reduction of $11.4M, which is the main contributor to the deficit Funds Result movement of $10.7M, that would otherwise have been a positive adjustment.

The $25.9M improvement in the Operating Result [pre-capital] is mainly associated with the reintroduction of revenue associated with a significant land sale at West Dapto ($28.5M) (to be transferred to the West Dapto Community Facilities Restricted Asset), a one-off improvement in Interest on Investment revenue ($4.9M), the rephasing of the Housing Affordability contribution to the Housing Trust to 2026-2027 ($2.9M), additional Operating Grants & Contribution income ($1.9M), a recurrent improvement in Rates revenue ($0.7M), and the adjustment from savings in budgeted Materials & Services budget to better reflect the current level of expected Payment of Employee Leave Entitlements ($2.1M). These improvements are partly offset by the impact from the early payment of the 2025-2026 Financial Assistance Grant ($11.4M), the introduction of funded projects ($2.5M), an increase of $0.8M in the Waste levy proposed to be funded from the Waste Disposal Facility Restricted Asset, and an increase in Stormwater Asset maintenance and Flood Studies ($0.2M) (to be offset with the Stormwater Management Restricted Asset) and other minor variations.

It is also proposed that the net improvement in Interest on Investments after the interest associated with restricted assets is transferred ($3.7M) be transferred to the Strategic Projects restricted asset in line with provisions in Council's Financial Sustainability Policy. This and the other transfers outlined above will not have an impact on the Funds Result.

A table of variations is included in the report below.

Supporting Documents

Council's Supporting Documents (strategy and plan development) are prioritised in the development of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. They, therefore, have an important role in planning for the community. Refer to Appendix 1 for the detailed report showing proposed variations to these projects.

Capital Budget Statement

The Capital Budget Statement provides the Original and proposed Capital Budgets. Additional Project Capital Budget Reports and variations by asset classes are provided in Appendix 2.

Commentary: During this Quarter, the Capital Budget expenditure projections are proposed to remain at $139.4M however additional funding of $3.6M has been introduced in place of Council funding. This creates an improvement of $3.6M which is proposed to be transferred to the Strategic Projects Restricted Asset.

Table 1

Wollongong City Council

September Quarter 2025

Income and Expense Statement

	2025/26 Original Budget $'000	2025/26 Adopted Budget $'000	Proposed v Current Variance $'000	2025/26 Proposed Budget $'000	2025/26 Actual YTD $'000
Income From Continuing Operations					
Rates and Annual Charges	258,973	258,973	693	259,666	63,005
User Charges and Fees	40,870	40,870	87	40,957	9,583
Interest and Investment Revenues	6,240	6,240	4,865	11,104	2,814
Other Revenues	6,334	6,334	(17)	6,317	1,313
Rental Income	7,553	7,553	133	7,685	1,593
Grants & Contributions - Operating	28,960	28,960	(9,506)	19,455	8,499
Grants & Contributions - Capital - New Assets	41,136	41,136	83	41,219	4,790
Grants & Contributions - Capital - Existing Assets	29,080	29,080	728	29,808	3,770
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets	0	0	28,516	28,516	11
Total Income from Continuing Operations	**419,147**	**419,147**	**25,581**	**444,728**	**95,379**
Expenses From Continuing Operations					
Employee Costs	169,238	169,973	2,614	172,588	41,355
Borrowing Costs	1,028	1,028	96	1,125	228
Materials & Services	103,104	104,258	(7,343)	96,915	20,793
Other Expenses	26,217	26,295	(1,802)	24,493	6,528
Depreciation, Amortisation + Impairment	88,185	88,185	(0)	88,185	21,041
Labour Internal Charges	(23,041)	(23,041)	5,346	(17,695)	(4,050)
Non-Labour Internal Charges	(2,497)	(2,497)	(33)	(2,530)	(484)
Total Expenses From Continuing Operations	**362,235**	**364,201**	**(1,121)**	**363,080**	**85,411**
Operating Result	**56,912**	**54,946**	**26,702**	**81,648**	**9,968**
Operating Result [pre capital]	**(13,304)**	**(15,270)**	**25,891**	**10,621**	**1,407**
Funding Statement					
Net Operating Result for the Year	56,912	54,946	26,702	81,648	9,968
Add back :					
- Non-cash Operating Transactions	108,577	108,584	(28,109)	80,475	25,829
- Restricted cash used for operations	11,963	12,837	337	13,175	2,170
- Income transferred to Restricted Assets - Operating	(6,445)	(6,445)	(9,928)	(16,373)	(3,243)
- Income transferred to Restricted Assets - New Assets	(50,087)	(57,987)	(29,571)	(87,558)	(8,084)
- Payment of Right of Use Leases	(514)	(514)	0	(514)	(135)
- Payment of Accrued Leave Entitlements	(16,354)	(16,354)	(2,050)	(18,404)	(4,822)
Borrowings repaid	0	0	0	0	0
Funds Available from Operations	**104,052**	**95,067**	**(42,619)**	**52,448**	**21,682**
Income transferred to Restricted Assets - Existing Assets	(9,080)	(9,080)	0	(9,080)	(2,270)
Restricted Assets use for Asset Replacement	5,610	5,610	0	5,610	1,753
Proceeds from sale of assets	1,399	1,399	29,000	30,399	11
Available Funds Applied to New, Upgraded & Expanded Assets	(35,770)	(26,785)	13,620	(13,166)	0
Funds Available for Asset Replacement	**66,211**	**66,211**	**0**	**66,211**	**21,176**
Capital Budget Statement					
Assets Acquired - Replacement	(66,437)	(66,437)	0	(66,437)	(10,307)
Assets Acquired - New, Upgraded & Expanded Assets	(72,728)	(72,728)	0	(72,728)	(12,234)
Payment from Tip Rehabilitation Provision	(250)	(250)	0	(250)	(34)
Contributed Assets	(5,871)	(5,871)	0	(5,871)	0
Funded From :-					
- Funds Available for Asset Replacement	66,211	66,211	0	66,211	21,176
- Available Funds Applied to New, Upgraded & Expanded Assets	35,770	26,785	(13,620)	13,166	0
- Internally Restricted Cash	8,898	8,898	3,245	12,142	189
- Borrowings	0	0	0	0	0
- Grants for New Assets	6,017	6,017	(490)	5,527	1,926
- Developer Contributions	22,345	22,345	(245)	22,100	2,475
- Other Externally Restricted Cash	400	400	364	764	769
- Other Capital Contributions	5,871	5,871	26	5,897	18
TOTAL FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	**225**	**(8,760)**	**(10,720)**	**(19,480)**	**3,978**

Summary of Variations

Budget variations being recommended include the following material items:

Variations	Net by Type $000's
Rates & Annual Charges The proposed adjustment relates to an increase in Rates revenue for the current year.	693
User Fees and Charges The increase in User Fees and Charges is mainly associated with non-recurrent increases in Memorial Gardens & Cemeteries ($183K), Work Zone Signage ($67K) and Wollongong Art Prize ($33K). In addition, there has been a recurrent increase to User Fees & Charges from Food Premises Inspections ($100K). This is partly offset by the reallocation of budget from User Fees and Charges to Other Revenue & Rental Income for Community Facilities ($75K), Leisure Centre ($110K), and Parks & Sportsfields ($111K).	87
Interest and Investment Revenues This increase is mainly based on the revised anticipated performance of the investment portfolio for the financial year.	4,865
Other Revenues & Rental Income The increase in Other Revenue & Rental Income relates to a non-recurrent increase in Parking Enforcement revenue ($135K) and the reallocation of budget from User Fees and Charges to Other Revenue & Rental Income for Community Facilities ($75K), Leisure Centre ($110K), and Parks & Sportsfields ($111K). This is partly offset by a one-off reduction to income associated with the rent free period for Kiosks at Tourist Parks ($73K), a three year reduction to income associated with Outdoor Restaurants ($40K), recurrent reductions in income associated with Animal Control Infringements ($100K) and lease income associated with Council vehicles ($32K) and other minor variations.	116
Grants & Contributions (Operating) The decrease in Operating Grants and Contributions mainly relates to the early payment of the Financial Assistance Grant ($11.4M). This has been partly offset by the introduction of funding associated with the Fresh Start Cadets, Apprentices & Trainees Program ($840K), Social Support ($699K), Natural Area Management projects ($267K), Open Streets event funding ($171K) and other minor variations.	(9,506)
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets The increase in Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets relates to the reintroduction of a significant land sale at West Dapto that was deferred from 2024-2025.	28,516
Employee Costs The increase in Employee Costs relates to the introduction of funded projects ($1.4M), movement of budget between Materials, Services & Other Expenses and Employee Costs to reflect the delivery of projects ($1.2M) and other minor variations.	2,614
Borrowing Costs The increase in Borrowing Costs relates to an increase in the interest on assets that Council leases.	96
Materials, Services & Other Expenses The decrease in Materials, Services & Other Expenses is associated with the reallocation of budget between Materials, Services & Other Expenses and Labour Internal Charges to reflect trends based on prior year actuals due to the changing nature of work completed by the workforce	(9,145)

Variations	Net by Type $000's
over time ($5.3M), the rephasing of the Affordable Housing contribution to Housing Trust to 2026-2027 ($2.9M), reallocation of budget savings to Payment of Employee Entitlements ($2.1M), movement of budget between Materials, Services & Other Expenses and Employee Costs to reflect the delivery of projects ($1.2M). This is partly offset by the introduction of funded projects ($1.1M), an increase in the Waste Levy proposed to be offset from the Waste Disposal Facility Restricted Asset ($0.8M), an increase in Stormwater Asset maintenance and Flood Studies proposed to be offset with the Stormwater Management Restricted Asset ($0.2M) and other minor adjustments.	
Internal Charges The adjustment to the Internal Charges budget is mainly associated with the reallocation of budget between Materials, Services & Other Expenses and Labour Internal Charges to reflect trends based on prior year actuals due to the changing nature of work completed by the workforce over time ($5.3M).	5,313
Operating Result [pre capital] Variation	**(25,891)**
Grants & Contributions (Capital) The increase in Capital Grants & Contributions mainly relates to the introduction of funding associated with Non-Commercial Buildings ($234K), Footpaths & Cycleways ($160K), Disaster Recovery ($154K), Pool Amenities ($84K), Road Safety ($83K) and Parks & Playgrounds ($95K).	811
Non-cash Operating Transactions Non-cash Operating Transactions is mainly related to the Profit/Loss on Disposal ($28.5M) partly offset by Borrowing Costs relating to Waste Remediation Provisions ($96K) and Employee Entitlements ($311K).	(28,109)
Restricted Cash used for Operations The increase in restricted cash used for operations mainly relates to an increase in the Waste levy expenditure proposed to be funded from the Waste Disposal Facility restricted asset ($755K), an increase in Stormwater Asset Maintenance expenditure and Flood Studies proposed to be funded from the Stormwater Management restricted asset ($225K), introduction of funding from the Housing Affordability restricted asset to fund implementation costs ($50K), an increase in funding from the City Parking Strategy restricted asset for SMART Parking investigation ($10K) and adjustments to funded projects. This is partly offset by a reduction in expenditure associated with funding from the Property Investment Fund ($193K) and Special Rates ($21K).	337
Income transferred to Restricted Assets – Operating This adjustment mainly relates to changes to the above budget variations for Operating Grants & Contributions ($2.0M), an increase in the transfer of investment interest to restricted assets ($1.2M) and the transfer of the net improvement in Interest on Investments income to the Strategic Projects restricted asset ($3.7M) as well as a realignment of budget between Operating & New Assets for Income transferred to Restricted Cash ($3M).	(9,928)
Income transferred to Restricted Assets – New Assets This adjustment mainly relates to the transfer of the revenue associated with the reintroduction of a significant land sale at West Dapto that was deferred from 2024-2025 to the West Dapto Community Facilities Restricted Asset ($29M) and the transfer of the $3.6M improvement in the Capital Program to the Strategic Projects Restricted Asset. This is partly offset by a realignment of budget between Operating & New Assets for Income transferred to Restricted Cash ($3M).	(29,571)

Variations	Net by Type $000's
Payment of Employee Entitlements The increase in Payment of Employee Entitlements relates to an adjustment to the long term expectations relating to the payment of Annual Leave and Long Service Leave based on trends from prior financial years.	(2,050)
Funds Available from Operations	**(42,619)**
Proceeds from Sale of Assets The increase in Sale of Assets relates to the reintroduction of a significant land sale at West Dapto that was deferred from 2024-2025.	29,000
Capital Program Further details on movements within the Capital Program are detailed in Appendix 2.	0
Capital Funding Further details on movements within the Capital Program including funding are detailed in Appendix 2. The improvement in Capital Funding ($2.9M) including Capital Grants & Contributions for Existing Assets ($0.7M) is proposed to be transferred to the Strategic Projects Restricted Asset as reflected in the Income transferred to Restricted Asset – New Assets section.	2,899
Funds Result	**(10,720)**

Cash and Investments Position

The Budget Review Cash and Investments Position (Table 2) shows the Original and proposed estimates for cash and investment positions, Available Cash and Available Funds.

Cash and Investment holdings forecasts have increased by $36.8M compared to the Current Budget mainly associated with the reintroduction of the Land Sale at West Dapto which will be transferred to restricted assets, Grants & Contributions anticipated to be held in restriction and interest on investment revenue, therefore, the Available Funds forecast increased from $16.7M to $16.8M.

The following table shows the movements in the projections of available funds for the 2025-2026 financial year as a result of the proposed changes through the September Quarterly Review.

Table 2

Wollongong City Council
26 September 2025
Cash, Investments and Available Funds

	Actual 2024/25 $M	Original Budget 2025/26 $M	Proposed Budget 2025/26 $M	Actuals YTD July 2025/26 $M
Total Cash and Investments	**214.5**	**206.3**	**243.1**	**244.9**
Less Restrictions:				
External	103.2	105.3	114.9	114.3
Internal	67.6	86.2	103.6	68.1
CivicRisk Investment	3.7			3.7
Total Restrictions	174.5	191.6	218.6	186.1
Available Cash	**40.0**	**14.7**	**24.6**	**58.8**
Adjusted for :				
Payables	(27.5)	(32.6)	(30.1)	(25.5)
Receivables	30.2	32.7	32.5	6.5
Other	3.8	1.9	(10.1)	11.2
Net Payables & Receivables	6.5	2.0	(7.7)	(7.9)
Available Funds	**46.5**	**16.7**	**16.8**	**50.9**

All investments held at 25 September 2025 were invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. Bank reconciliations have been completed as at 25 September 2025. Year to date cash and investments are reconciled with funds invested and cash at bank.

Table 3

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

Cash Flows and Investments

as at 26 September 2025

	YTD Actual 2025/26 $ '000	Actual 2024/25 $ '000
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Receipts		
Rates & Annual Charges	**85,416**	247,522
User Charges & Fees	**5,410**	39,909
Interest & Interest Received	**2,148**	9,061
Grants & Contributions	**28,957**	97,659
Bonds, deposits and retention amounts received	**-**	167
Other	**5,502**	31,727
Payments		
Employee Benefits & On-costs	**(37,624)**	(153,952)
Materials & Contracts	**(24,084)**	(126,741)
Borrowing Costs	**(30)**	(141)
Other	**(10,343)**	(22,192)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities	**55,352**	123,019
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Receipts		
Sale of Investments	**7,000**	50,649
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	**11**	2,068
Payments:		
Purchase of Investments	**(36,084)**	(79,128)
Purchase of Investment Property	**-**	(1,100)
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	**(25,276)**	(89,795)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities	**(54,349)**	(117,306)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Payments:		
Repayment of Borrowings & Advances	**-**	(657)
Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities	**(105)**	(370)
Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities	**(105)**	(1,027)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	**899**	4,686
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	**49,586**	44,900
plus: Investments on hand - end of year	**194,403**	164,301
Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date	**244,888**	213,887

Table 4

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

Cash Flows and Investments

as at 26 September 2025

	YTD Actual 2025/26 $ '000	Actual 2024/25 $ '000
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date	**244,888**	213,887
Attributable to:		
External Restrictions (refer below)	**114,258**	103,184
Internal Restrictions (refer below)	**68,066**	67,583
Unrestricted	**62,564**	43,121
	244,888	213,887
External Restrictions		
Developer Contributions	**76,312**	73,967
RMS Contributions	**899**	402
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	**20,574**	13,381
Special Rates Levy Wollongong Mall	**1,120**	1,062
Special Rates Levy Wollongong City Centre	**94**	94
Unexpended Loans	**987**	973
Domestic Waste Management	**7,440**	6,033
Private Subsidies	**2,947**	2,898
Housing Affordability	**3,165**	3,120
Stormwater Management Service Charge	**720**	1,254
Total External Restrictions	**114,258**	103,184
Internal Restrictions		
Property Investment Fund	**5,611**	5,532
Strategic Projects	**31,442**	31,700
Sports Priority Program	**922**	856
Car Parking Stategy	**1,496**	1,372
MacCabe Park Development	**2,228**	2,190
Darcy Wentworth Park	**18**	18
Garbage Disposal Facility	**5,875**	5,982
West Dapto Development	**19,799**	19,259
Natural Areas	**173**	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	**502**	501
Total Internal Restrictions	**68,066**	67,583

Key Performance Indicators

The long term forecasts presented below are indicative of our existing budgeted position. Council has a continuous budget process that revises the long term forecasts in line with quarterly changes and resets assumptions and indices annually or where new information leads to an immediate requirement to change the indices.

The projected long term indicators are primarily based on the revised assumptions and indices as at September 2025 applied to the existing Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Plan and Resource Strategy and the Long Term Financial Plan.

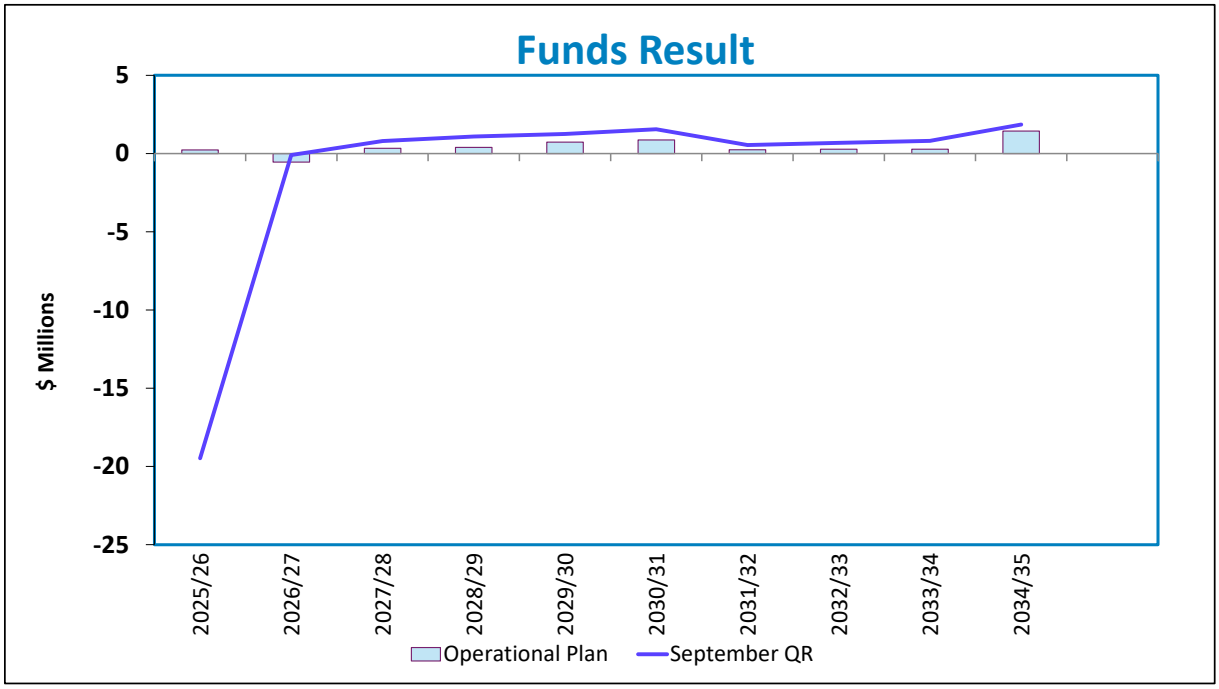
Indicator 1 – Total Funds Result

Definition: The Total Funds Result provides an indication that the forecast budgets for the 10 year period are affordable and that cash can be managed to ensure that payments can be made as required. By holding a level of Available Funds and planning for near breakeven or better funds results, Council can maintain this position into the future so long as it also maintains its assets to ensure they are fit for purpose. The total funds result is inclusive of financial cash flow and movements in Restricted Assets.

Commentary on Current Result: The forecast Funds Result has decreased in the current year due to the inclusion of the early payment of 50% of the 2025-2026 Financial Assistance Grant ($11.4M) and the $7.9M transfer of the favourable end of year funds result to the Strategic Projects Restricted Asset.

Across the Long Term Financial Model, the Funds Result has had a minor improvement mainly associated with the increase in Rates Revenue.

Graph 1

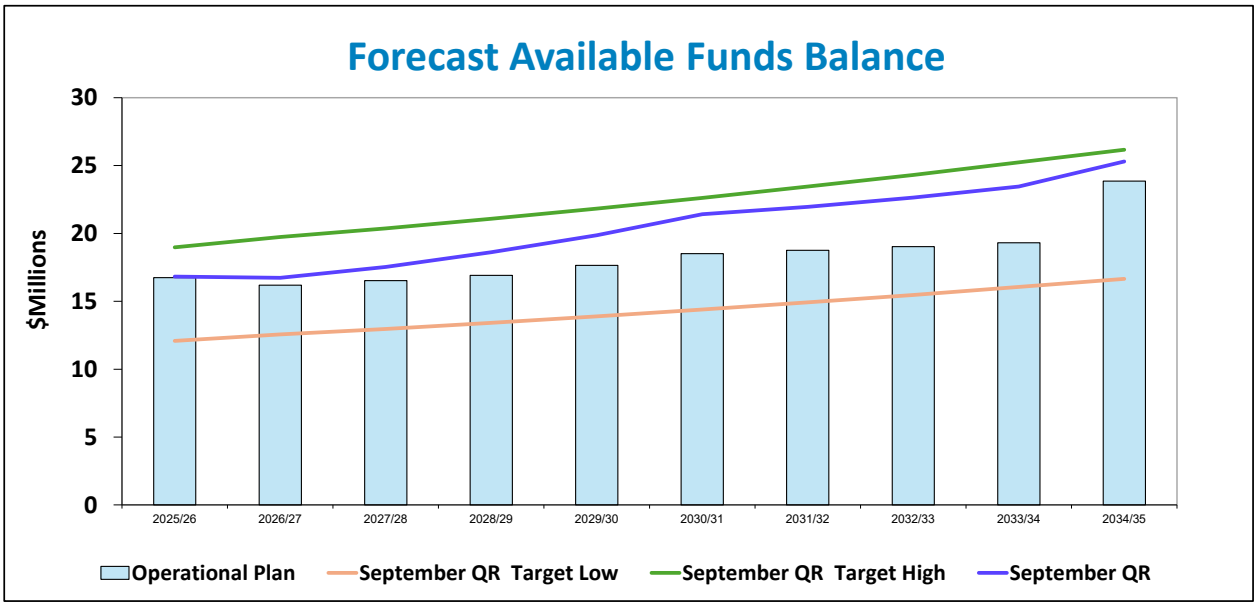


Indicator 2 - Available Funds

Definition: Available Funds are the uncommitted funds of an organisation that assist in meeting the short term cash requirements, provide contingency for unexpected costs or loss of revenue and provide flexibility to take advantage of opportunities that may arise from time to time.

Commentary on Current Result: Council's Financial Sustainability Policy has a target to achieve and maintain an Available Funds position between 3.5% and 5.5% of operational revenue [pre capital]. The target range for Available Funds at September 2025 is between $12.0M and $16.7M (lower range) and between $18.9M and $26.2M (upper range) over the life of the Long Term Financial Plan. The proposed forecast currently provides for Council to remain within the target range across the Long Term Financial Model.

Graph 2

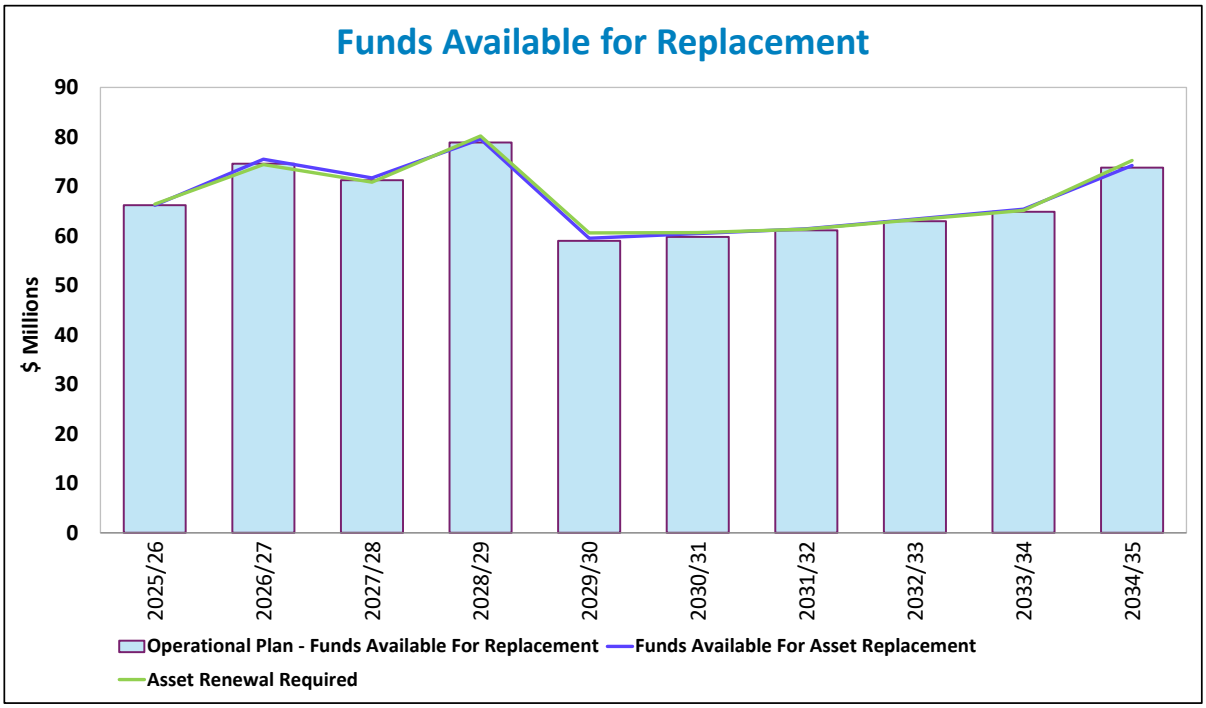


Indicator 3 – Aset Management Replacement Ratio

Definition: The Asset Management Replacement Ratio measures the estimated cost of required asset replacement over the period and indicates the level to which funds are available from operations to complete these works. Council's Financial Sustainability Policy prioritises the requirement to at least provide sufficient funds to replace assets as they fall due. The Asset Management Strategy and Plans are used to determine the amount required for Asset Replacement. So long as Council is producing sufficient revenue to cover its operating costs and have remaining funds available, that coupled with proceeds from asset sales and Restricted Assets can fund the required asset replacements, the ratio would be one to one. Should Council not meet this funding requirement it would not be able to replace assets as required which would not meet the sustainability requirements.

Commentary on Current Result: The following graph shows the forecast Funds Available for Replacement against the Asset Renewal Requirements. This indicator remains in line with the current target.

Graph 3



Contracts and Other Expenses

The following tenders were approved by the General Manager during the September Quarter of 2025-2026:

Tender Number	Description	Party	Date Awarded	Value (inc)	Cumulative value of all contracts - 12 Months
T1000211	Licence to Operate Corrimal Pool Kiosk and Frontline Cashier Services	Corrimal Swim Squad Pty Ltd	17-Sep-25	$ 442,362.25	0
T1000212	Licence to Operate Dapto Pool Kiosk and Frontline Cashier Services	Tecy Transport Pty Ltd	17-Sep-25	$ 448,254.25	0

Responsible Accounting Officer Statement

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Wollongong City Council for the Quarter ended 25 September 2025 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2026 will be *satisfactory* at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Brian Jenkins
Responsible Accounting Officer
Wollongong City Council

Appendix 1 – Supporting Documents Report

Supporting Documents - Planning Studies & Investigations

Service & Project	2025/2026 Adopted Budget	2025/2026 Proposed Budget	2025/2026 Variance	2026/2027 Current Budget	2026/2027 Proposed Budget	2026/2027 Variance	2027/2028 Current Budget	2027/2028 Proposed Budget	2027/2028 Variance
	$'000s	$'000s	$'000s	$'000s	$'000s	$'000s	$'000s	$'000s	$'000s
Corporate Strategy	**276**	**0**	**276**	**517**	**0**	**517**	**245**	**0**	**583**
Centralised Studies & Plans	276	0	276	517	0	517	245	0	583
Land Use Planning	**406**	**381**	**26**	**0**	**75**	**(75)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
West Dapto Review WaterCycle Masterplan	150	75	75	0	75	(75)	0	0	0
City Centre Planning Review	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City Wide Local Environment Plan Review	29	38	(8)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landscape development plan for West Dapto - for riparian corridor	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review Riparian Corridor Management Study & Policy	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City Centre Surrounds Planning	80	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Built Form Testing Development Control Plan Chapter B4 Development in Business Zones	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Dapto Vision Implementation - Infrastructure and Development	25	61	(36)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Engagement, Communications and Events	**60**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Major Events Strategy	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Floodplain Management and Stormwater Services	**442**	**442**	**0**	**350**	**350**	**0**	**350**	**350**	**0**
Floodplain Management Studies	120	120	0	350	350	0	350	350	0
Review of Hewitts Creek Flood Risk Management Study	89	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Allans Creek Flood Risk Management Study	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Collins Creek Flood Risk Management Study	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Wollongong City Flood Risk Management	101	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Brooks Creek Flood Risk Management Study	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Minnegang Creek Flood Risk Management	81	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Services	**293**	**294**	**(1)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Coastal Management Program for the Open Coast	215	215	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Develop design guidelines for green roofs, green walls and facades	30	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Values & Assets	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal Wetland and Littoral Rainforest Mapping	20	21	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Area Management	**74**	**56**	**17**	**26**	**44**	**(17)**	**27**	**27**	**0**
Vegetation Management Plans for High Priority Natural Areas	32	32	0	26	26	0	27	27	0
Aboriginal cultural values in the Lake Illawarra Catchment	42	24	17	0	17	(17)	0	0	0
Transport Services	**270**	**270**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**75**	**75**	**0**
Accessible Car Parking and Bus Stops audit	22	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City Centre Parking Surveys	73	73	0	0	0	0	75	75	0
Lake Illawarra Shared Path Masterplan	110	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Towradgi Creek Shared Path Feasibility Investigations	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Implement Keiraville Gwynneville Access & Movement Strategy	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Facilities	**0**	**0**	**0**	**50**	**50**	**0**	**60**	**60**	**0**
Social Infrastructure Planning Framework - Bong Bong									
Library and Community Centre Feasibility	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0
City Centre Community Centre Vision and Options	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	60	0
Arts and Culture	**52**	**0**	**52**	**0**	**52**	**(52)**	**150**	**150**	**0**
West Dapto Vision Implementation - Cultural Strategy & Plan	52	0	52	0	52	(52)	0	0	0
Regional Museum Vision and Options	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	150	0
Aquatic Services	**200**	**200**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Beach Services and Surf Sports Strategy	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aquatics and Indoor Sport Strategy	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botanic Garden and Annexes	**196**	**196**	**0**	**60**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Mt Keira Summit Park Interpretation Design Guide	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botanic Gardens Design Investigation for Asset Improvement	146	146	0	60	60	0	0	0	0
Leisure Services	**157**	**157**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Beaton Park Re-development Feasibility	157	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks and Sportsfields	**628**	**628**	**0**	**32**	**32**	**0**	**108**	**108**	**0**
Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan	143	143	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fred Finch Park - Landscape Masterplan	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hill 60 Tunnels Reopening- Detailed Concept Plans	92	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
[illegible] Area	87	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Draft Bulli Showground Masterplan - Feasibility Assessment and Community Consultation	124	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MacCabe Park Masterplan + Feasibility Investigations	0	0	0	32	32	0	108	108	0
Lang Park Masterplan	77	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Play Strategy	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services	**(695)**	**(325)**	**(370)**	**372**	**744**	**(373)**	**0**	**245**	**(583)**
Supporting Docs - Projects in Progress	(695)	(325)	(370)	372	227	144	0	0	0
Centralised Studies & Plans	0	0	0	0	517	(517)	0	245	(583)
Governance and Administration	**26**	**26**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Asset Management Planning	26	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure *	**2,386**	**2,386**	**0**	**1,407**	**1,407**	**(0)**	**1,015**	**1,015**	**0**

**Expenditure shown above is for full project cost. A number of projects are supported from external grant funds or internal restrictions*

Appendix 2 – Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT

as at the period ended 26 September 2025

	$'000		$'000			$'000	
	CURRENT BUDGET		WORKING BUDGET			VARIATION	
ASSET CLASS PROGRAMME	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING	YTD EXPENDITURE	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING
Roads And Related Assets							
Traffic Facilities	3,020	(2,535)	2,287	(1,802)	217	(733)	733
Public Transport Facilities	170	0	170	0	29	0	0
Roadworks	18,670	(8,063)	18,720	(8,113)	4,402	50	(50)
Bridges, Boardwalks and Jetties	3,435	0	3,795	(360)	574	360	(360)
TOTAL Roads And Related Assets	**25,295**	**(10,598)**	**24,972**	**(10,274)**	**5,222**	**(323)**	**323**
West Dapto							
West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion	22,850	(22,850)	23,126	(23,126)	4,034	276	(276)
TOTAL West Dapto	**22,850**	**(22,850)**	**23,126**	**(23,126)**	**4,034**	**276**	**(276)**
Footpaths And Cycleways							
Footpaths	7,842	(5,332)	7,668	(5,158)	2,165	(174)	174
Shared Paths	3,847	(1,407)	4,340	(1,900)	1,097	493	(493)
Commercial Centre Upgrades - Footpaths and Cycleways	30	0	30	0	45	(0)	0
TOTAL Footpaths And Cycleways	**11,719**	**(6,739)**	**12,038**	**(7,058)**	**3,306**	**319**	**(319)**
Carparks							
Carpark Construction/Formalising	240	(5)	835	(100)	497	595	(95)
Carpark Reconstruction or Upgrading	390	0	390	0	26	0	0
TOTAL Carparks	**630**	**(5)**	**1,225**	**(100)**	**523**	**595**	**(95)**
Stormwater And Floodplain Management							
Floodplain Management	2,226	(1,659)	2,527	(1,960)	664	301	(301)
Stormwater Management	6,165	(2,835)	6,330	(3,000)	1,233	165	(165)
Stormwater Treatment Devices	820	(400)	820	(400)	623	0	0
TOTAL Stormwater And Floodplain Mai	**9,211**	**(4,894)**	**9,677**	**(5,360)**	**2,519**	**466**	**(466)**
Buildings							
Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall)	4,660	0	1,160	0	64	(3,500)	0
Administration Buildings	1,560	0	1,560	0	19	(0)	0
Community Buildings	34,460	(16,309)	34,120	(16,469)	1,958	(340)	(160)
Public Facilities (Shelters, Toilets etc.)	10	0	10	0	1	0	0
TOTAL Buildings	**40,690**	**(16,309)**	**36,850**	**(16,469)**	**2,041**	**(3,840)**	**(160)**
Commercial Operations							
Tourist Park - Upgrades and Renewal	935	0	935	0	(1)	(0)	0
Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries - Upgrades and Renev	1,120	0	1,120	0	10	0	0
Leisure Centres & RVGC	400	0	400	0	12	0	0
TOTAL Commercial Operations	**2,455**	**0**	**2,455**	**0**	**21**	**(0)**	**0**
Parks Gardens And Sportfields							
Play Facilities	1,830	(600)	1,905	(675)	322	75	(75)
Recreation Facilities	350	(240)	350	(240)	46	(0)	0
Sporting Facilities	1,320	(1,254)	1,340	(1,274)	243	20	(20)
TOTAL Parks Gardens And Sportfields	**3,500**	**(2,094)**	**3,595**	**(2,189)**	**612**	**95**	**(95)**

CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT

as at the period ended 26 September 2025

	$'000		$'000			$'000	
	CURRENT BUDGET		WORKING BUDGET			VARIATION	
ASSET CLASS PROGRAMME	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING	YTD EXPENDITURE	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING
Beaches And Pools							
Treated Water Pools	5,500	(3,002)	5,584	(3,086)	481	84	(84)
TOTAL Beaches And Pools	**5,500**	**(3,002)**	**5,584**	**(3,086)**	**481**	**84**	**(84)**
Waste Facilities							
Whytes Gully New Cells	5,610	(5,610)	5,610	(5,610)	1,756	0	0
TOTAL Waste Facilities	**5,610**	**(5,610)**	**5,610**	**(5,610)**	**1,756**	**0**	**0**
Fleet							
Motor Vehicles	1,190	(617)	1,190	(617)	162	(0)	0
TOTAL Fleet	**1,190**	**(617)**	**1,190**	**(617)**	**162**	**(0)**	**0**
Plant And Equipment							
Mobile Plant (trucks, backhoes etc.)	200	0	200	0	21	(0)	0
Fixed Equipment	3,228	(782)	3,228	(782)	248	(0)	0
TOTAL Plant And Equipment	**3,428**	**(782)**	**3,428**	**(782)**	**269**	**(0)**	**0**
Information Technology							
Information Technology	1,400	0	1,400	0	396	0	0
TOTAL Information Technology	**1,400**	**0**	**1,400**	**0**	**396**	**0**	**0**
Library Books							
Library Books	1,404	0	1,404	0	610	(0)	0
TOTAL Library Books	**1,404**	**0**	**1,404**	**0**	**610**	**(0)**	**0**
Public Art							
Art Gallery Acquisitions	107	0	107	0	74	(0)	0
TOTAL Public Art	**107**	**0**	**107**	**0**	**74**	**(0)**	**0**
Land Acquisitions							
Land Acquisitions	250	(250)	2,704	(2,704)	545	2,454	(2,454)
TOTAL Land Acquisitions	**250**	**(250)**	**2,704**	**(2,704)**	**545**	**2,454**	**(2,454)**
Non-Project Allocations							
Capital Project Contingency	4,177	0	4,051	0	0	(126)	0
TOTAL Non-Project Allocations	**4,177**	**0**	**4,051**	**0**	**0**	**(126)**	**0**
GRAND TOTAL	**139,415**	**(73,749)**	**139,415**	**(77,375)**	**22,572**	**0**	**(3,626)**

Budget variations being recommended include the following capital items:

Variations - Capital	Net by Type $ 000's
Traffic Facilities • Rephasing of Wollongong Developer Contributions funding from FY25/26 & FY26/27 to FY28/29 & FY29/30 for the Traffic Light Upgrade project located at King Street & Greene Street Warrawong. The specific timing for the delivery of these projects is under review. • Introduction of Strategic Projects reserve funding for the Wollongong Foreshore Legacy project. • Reallocation of Transport Integrated Placemaking (TIP) funding from capital to operational budgets for the delivery of the Bulli Station Lighting and Stanwell Park Station Lighting projects. • Reduce Roads Safety Program funding for The Avenue Local Area Traffic management project to match phased budgets. • Remove Wollongong Developer Contributions for the Wollongong City Centre Wayfinding – Stage 3 as the project is completed.	(733)

Roadworks
• Introduce Regional Roads Block Grant funding for the Northcliffe Drive, Denise Street to Lake Heights Road project.
• Removal of budget for completed projects early including:
  ○ Homestead Drive, Horsley Drive to 3 Homestead Drive
  ○ Armagh Parade, Robbinsville Crescent to Robbinsville Crescent
	50

Bridges, Boardwalks and Jetties • Introduce Disaster Recovery Funding (AGRN1119) for the Koloona Avenue Culvert Repairs located in Mt Keira.	360

West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion
• Introduce West Dapto Developer Contributions funding for multiple projects comprising:
  ○ Marshall Mount Road and Connecting Roads Upgrade Concept Design
  ○ Northcliffe Drive Concept Design
  ○ West Dapto Bus Shelters Design
• Rephase West Dapto Developer Contributions & Housing Infrastructure Fund funding for the Cleveland Road Project.
	276

Footpaths
• Reduce Get Active NSW funding for the Market Street, Continuous Footpath Treatments project to match phased budgets.
• Remove unallocated Wollongong Developer Contributions funding from the Footpaths-New Bulk.
• Remove Transport Integrated Placemaking (TIP) funding from the cancelled project - Coniston Car Park to Station entrance
• Introduce GM-3 grant funding for the Path Link Avon Pde to Cordeaux Road project.
• Introduce Disaster Recovery Funding (AGRN1119) for multiple projects comprising:
  ○ Cabbage Tree Lane Scour repairs
  ○ 503 Lawrence Hagrave Drive, Retaining Wall renewal
	(174)

Shared Paths • Rephase Get Active NSW Funding and introduce Wollongong City Wide Developer contributions for the Throsby Drive, Foley Street to Flinders Street project. • Introduced additional Transport Integrated Placemaking (TIP) funding for the Murray Road, Duff Parade to Cawley Street project. • Rephase Transport for NSW funding for the Grand Pacific Walk, Headlands Avenue to Coledale Avenue project. • Rephase budget from FY24/25 for Virginia Street Shared Path.	493

Variations - Capital	Net by Type $ 000's
Carpark Construction/Formalising • Reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Carpark Construction/Formalising Program for the acceleration of the Warrawong Laneway Relocation & Carpark project, which is included in the construction package for the Southern Suburbs Library & Community Centre project. • Introduced additional Strategic Project Funding (SPRA) for the Kembla Heights Village Carpark project.	595
Floodplain Management • Introduce Stormwater Levy funding for the Memorial Drive Debris Control Structure project.	301
Stormwater Management • Introduce Disaster Recovery Funding (AGRN1119) for multiple projects in the stormwater management program, for which funding was confirmed during the September Quarter including but not limited to the following projects: o Wilsons Creek Road Scour Repair, Helensburgh o 6 Colgong Crescent, Towradgi o South Avondale Road Culverts, Avondale o 3 Rickard Rd Headwall Repairs, Unanderra	165
Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall) • Rephase the Art Gallery and Town Hall Air Conditioning and Roof project to match agreed construction commencement date i.e. reallocate budget from Art Gallery and Town Hall Air Conditioning and Roof project to Contingency in FY25/26 and reallocate budget from Capital Contingency to Art Gallery and Town Hall Air Conditioning and Roof project in FY26/27.	(3,500)
Community Buildings • Delayed construction commencement for Southern Suburbs Library & Community Centre due to latent site conditions and contract negotiations. Budget reallocated from Community Buildings to Capital Contingency in FY25/26 and budget from Capital Contingency reallocated to Community Buildings in FY2026/27 to maintain overall project budget. • Introduce RFS Grant funding for the Austinmer RFS – Station Relocation project. • Removal of budget for the Reed Park Public Amenities Refurbishment project which was completed in FY24/25. • Rephase budget from FY25/26 to FY26/27 for the Stuart Park Northern Amenities Extension due to delays in obtaining relevant approvals. The project is programmed for completion in FY26/27.	(340)
Play Facilities • Introduce Community Building Partnership grant funding for multiple projects – Sunray Crescent Playground and Otford Playground. Council was advised of successful funding applications for these projects in August 2025.	75
Sporting Facilities • Introduce Local Small Community Allocations grant funding for the Dapto Ruby Leagues Amenities Refurbishment project.	20
Treated Water Pools • Introduce Accessible Australia T2 (changing places) funding for the Helensburgh Pool Upgrade project. Council was advised of a successful funding application for this project in September 2025.	84
Land Acquisitions • Introduce Property Fund and MacCabe Park Development Restricted Asset funding for the land acquisition of 267 Keira Street. • Introduce Wollongong Developer Contribution funding for multiple land acquisitions comprising:	2,454

Variations - Capital	Net by Type $ 000's
○ Lot 6 Lloyd Place, Otford Acquisition ○ Lot 8 Lloyd Place, Otford Acquisition ○ Lot 2, 5 Joyce Lane Land Acquisition	
Contingency • Reallocate budget from Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall) to Capital Program Contingency. • Reallocate revenue from Capital Contingency to Operational Program.	(126)
Variation	**0**

Appendix 3 – Quarterly Budget Review Statements (legislative reporting format)

QBRS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 30/09/25

DESCRIPTION		Previous Year Actual 2024/25 $000's	Current Year Original Budget 2025/26 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 1 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 2 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 3 $000's	Revised Budget $000's	Recommended changes for council resolution $000's	Projected Year End (PYE) Result 2025/26 $000's	VARIANCE ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 $000's	ACTUAL YTD 2025/26 $000's
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	General Fund	-55,711	-13,304	0	0	0	-13,304	23,926	10,622	23,926	1,407
	Water Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sewer Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Consolidated	-55,711	-13,304	0	0	0	-13,304	23,926	10,622	23,926	1,407
Operating Result from continuing operations (with capital grants and contributions) excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	**Consolidated**	**87,858**	**145,097**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**145,097**	**24,737**	**169,834**	**24,737**	**31,009**
Borrowings	Total borrowings									0	
Liquidity	External restrictions	102,211	105,259	0	0	0	105,259	9,615	114,874	9,615	114,258
	Internal Allocations	100,256	107,811	0	0	0	107,811	17,364	125,175	17,364	99,508
	Unallocated	-202,467	-213,070	0	0	0	-213,070	-26,979	-240,049	-26,979	-213,766
	Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Inv	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Capital	Capital Funding	101,760	145,286	0	0	0	145,286	0	145,286	0	22,575
	Capital Expenditure	101,760	145,286	0	0	0	145,286	0	145,286	0	22,575
	Net Capital	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

		Opening Balance As at 1 July 2025 $000's	Total Cash Contributions Received As at this Q $000's	Total Interest Earned As at this Q $000's	Total Expended As at this Q $000's	Total Internal Borrowings (to)/from As at this Q $000's	Held as Restricted Asset As at this Q $000's	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from As at this Q $000's
Developer Contribution	Total Developer Contributions	73,967	3,899	1,041	2,595	0	76,312	0

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement

Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 30/09/2025

Consolidated Fund

Description	Previous Year Actual 2024/25 $000's	Current Year Original Budget 2025/26 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 1 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 2 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 3 $000's	Revised Budget $000's	Recommended changes for council resolution $000's	Projected Year End (PYE) Result 2025/26 $000's	VARIANCE ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 $000's	ACTUAL YTD 2025/26 $000's
INCOME										
Rates and Annual Charges	247,516	258,973				258,973	693	259,666	693	63,005
User Charges and Fees	40,074	40,870				40,870	87	40,957	87	9,583
Other Revenue	6,748	6,334				6,334	-17	6,317	-17	1,313
Grants and Contributions - Operating	31,646	28,960				28,960	-9,506	19,454	-9,506	8,499
Grants and Contributions - Capital	45,473	70,216				70,216	811	71,027	811	8,561
Interest and Investment Income	9,756	6,240				6,240	4,865	11,105	4,865	2,814
Other Income	9,430	7,553				7,553	133	7,686	133	1,593
Net gain from disposal of assets	0	0				0	28,516	28,516	28,516	11
Total Income from continuing operations	**390,643**	**419,146**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**419,146**	**25,582**	**444,728**	**25,582**	**95,379**
EXPENSES										
Employee benefits and on-costs	153,272	146,197				146,197	8,695	154,892	8,695	37,305
Materials & Services	110,545	100,607				100,607	-6,222	94,385	-6,222	20,309
Borrow ing Costs	1,144	1,028				1,028	96	1,124	96	228
Other Expenses	31,548	26,217				26,217	-1,724	24,493	-1,724	6,528
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets	6,276	0				0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	**302,785**	**274,049**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**274,049**	**845**	**274,894**	**845**	**64,370**
Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	**87,858**	**145,097**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**145,097**	**24,737**	**169,834**	**24,737**	**31,009**
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	98,096	88,185				88,185	0	88,185	0	21,041
Operating result from continuing Operations	**-10,238**	**56,912**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**56,912**	**24,737**	**81,649**	**24,737**	**9,968**
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	**-55,711**	**-13,304**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-13,304**	**23,926**	**10,622**	**23,926**	**1,407**

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement
Wollongong City Council
Budget review for the quarter ended 30/09/2025
General Fund

Description	Previous Year Actual 2024/25 $000's	Current Year Original Budget 2025/26 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 1 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 2 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 3 $000's	Revised Budget $000's	Recommended changes for council resolution $000's	Projected Year End (PYE) Result 2025/26 $000's	VARIANCE ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 $000's	ACTUAL YTD 2025/26 $000's
INCOME										
Rates and Annual Charges	247,516	258,973				258,973	693	259,666	693	63,005
User Charges and Fees	40,074	40,870				40,870	87	40,957	87	9,583
Other Revenue	6,748	6,334				6,334	-17	6,317	-17	1,313
Grants and Contributions - Operating	31,646	28,960				28,960	-9,506	19,454	-9,506	8,499
Grants and Contributions - Capital	45,473	70,216				70,216	811	71,027	811	8,561
Interest and Investment Income	9,756	6,240				6,240	4,865	11,105	4,865	2,814
Other Income	9,430	7,553				7,553	133	7,686	133	1,593
Net gain from disposal of assets	0	0				0	28,516	28,516	28,516	11
Total Income from continuing operations	**390,643**	**419,146**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**419,146**	**25,582**	**444,728**	**25,582**	**95,379**
EXPENSES										
Employee benefits and on-costs	153,272	146,197				146,197	8,695	154,892	8,695	37,305
Materials & Services	110,545	100,607				100,607	-6,222	94,385	-6,222	20,309
Borrowing Costs	1,144	1,028				1,028	96	1,124	96	228
Other Expenses	31,548	26,217				26,217	-1,724	24,493	-1,724	6,528
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets	6,276	0				0		0	0	
Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	**302,785**	**274,049**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**274,049**	**845**	**274,894**	**845**	**64,370**
Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	**87,858**	**145,097**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**145,097**	**24,737**	**169,834**	**24,737**	**31,009**
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	98,096	88,185				88,185		88,185	0	21,041
Operating result from continuing Operations	**-10,238**	**56,912**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**56,912**	**24,737**	**81,649**	**24,737**	**9,968**
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	**-55,711**	**-13,304**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-13,304**	**23,926**	**10,622**	**23,926**	**1,407**

Capital Budget Review Statement

Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 30/09/2025

Description	Previous Year Actual 2024/25 $000's	Current Year Original Budget 2025/26 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 1 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 2 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 3 $000's	Revised Budget $000's	Recommended changes for council resolution $000's	Projected Year End (PYE) Result 2025/26 $000's	VARIANCE ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 $000's	ACTUAL YTD 2025/26 $000's
CAPITAL FUNDING										
Rates & other untied funding	57,598	65,665				65,665	-3,625	62,040	-3,625	11,664
Capital Grants & Contributions	31,394	63,314				63,314	17	63,331	17	8,189
Reserves - External Restrictions	93	400				400	364	764	364	769
Reserves - Internally Allocated	10,608	14,508				14,508	3,244	17,752	3,244	1,942
New Loans						0		0	0	
Proceeds from sale of assets	2,067	1,399				1,399		1,399	0	11
Other						0		0	0	
Total Capital Funding	**101,760**	**145,286**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**145,286**	**0**	**145,286**	**0**	**22,575**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE										
WIP						0		0	0	
New Assets	36,440	78,599				78,599		78,599	0	12,234
Asset Renewal	65,320	66,437				66,437		66,437	0	10,307
Other		250				250		250	0	34
Total Capital Expenditure	**101,760**	**145,286**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**145,286**	**0**	**145,286**	**0**	**22,575**
Net Capital Funding - Surplus /(Deficit)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Cash and Investments Budget Review Statement

Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 30/09/2025

Description	Previous Year Actual 2024/25 $000's	Current Year Original Budget 2025/26 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 1 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 2 $000's	Approved Changes Review Q 3 $000's	Revised Budget $000's	Recommended changes for council resolution Q1 $000's	Projected Year End (PYE) Result 2025/26 $000's	VARIANCE ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 $000's	ACTUAL YTD 2025/26 $000's
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments						0		0	0	
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED										
Water Fund						0		0	0	
Sewer Fund						0		0	0	
Developer contributions - *General*	73,967	73,895				73,895	8,498	82,393	8,498	76,312
Developer contributions - *Water*						0		0	0	
Developer contributions - *Sewer*						0		0	0	
Transport for NSW Contributions	402					0		0	0	
Domestic waste management	6,033	8,596				8,596	-307	8,289	-307	7,440
Stormwater management	1,254	639				639	-272	367	-272	720
Other	20,555	22,129				22,129	1,696	23,825	1,696	29,786
Total Externally Restricted	**102,211**	**105,259**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**105,259**	**9,615**	**114,874**	**9,615**	**114,258**
Cash, cash equivalents & investments not subject to external restrictions	**-102,211**	**-105,259**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-105,259**	**-9,615**	**-114,874**	**-9,615**	**-114,258**
INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS										
Employee entitlements						0		0	0	
Strategic Projects	31,700	21,485				21,485	14,809	36,294	14,809	31,442
						0		0	0	
						0		0	0	
						0		0	0	
						0		0	0	
Other	68,556	86,326				86,326	2,555	88,881	2,555	68,066
Total Internally Allocated	**100,256**	**107,811**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**107,811**	**17,364**	**125,175**	**17,364**	**99,508**
Unallocated	**-202,467**	**-213,070**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-213,070**	**-26,979**	**-240,049**	**-26,979**	**-213,766**

Developer Contributions Summary

Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 30/09/2025

Purpose	Opening Balance	Developer Contributions Received									Interest Earned			Amounts Expended			Internal Borrowings (to)/from			Held as Restricted Asset	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Cash	Cash	Non-Cash Land	Non-Cash Land	Non-Cash Land	Non-Cash Other	Non-Cash Other	Non-Cash Other											
	As at 1 July 2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	As at this Q	As at this Q
	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
Drainage	18,188	89									259									18,535	
Roads	-5,292	544									-84			2,154						-6,986	
Traffic facilities																				0	
Parking																				0	
Open space	7,302	131									104									7,537	
Community facilities	1,604	2									23									1,629	
Other	-1,393	439									-18			68						-1,040	
Total S7.11 Under plans	**20,409**	**1,206**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**283**	**0**	**0**	**2,223**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**19,675**	**0**
S7.11 Not under plans	401										6									407	
S7.12 Levies	46,616	2,470									679			354						49,411	
S7.4 Planning agreements	6,541	223									73			18						6,819	
S64 Contributions																				0	
Other																				0	
Total Developer Contribut	**73,967**	**3,899**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,041**	**0**	**0**	**2,595**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**76,312**	**0**

Glossary and Naming Conventions

Term	Definition or Explanation
Current Budget	Current Budget, as revised and adopted by Council.
Original Budget	Adopted Budget as at the adoption of the Operational Plan in June (adoption of Attachment 1 - Budget).
Proposed Budget	Revised budget proposed before Council at the current quarterly budget review. Once adopted by Council, this will become 'Current Budget'

ITEM 4 DESTINATION WOLLONGONG - FUNDING AGREEMENT

The provision of tourism services is an element of Councils, Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program 2025-2029, Operational Plan 2025-26, and draft Economic Development Strategy.

Wollongong City Council has funded Wollongong City of Innovation (trading as Destination Wollongong) in its various forms since 1980. The current 2021 – 2026 agreement is due to expire on 30 June 2026.

This report proposes that Council continue to provide funding and support to Destination Wollongong and that Council enter into a new five-year agreement until 30 June 2031.

This report also seeks a resolution of Council regarding tendering provisions and to delegate the General Manager to proceed with negotiations and finalisation of the funding agreement with Destination Wollongong.

RECOMMENDATION

1 Council resolve under Section 55(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* to enter into a funding agreement with Wollongong City of Innovation Ltd (trading as Destination Wollongong) without inviting tenders due to extenuating circumstances and reasons detailed in this report.

2 Council proceeds with finalising the funding agreement (2026 – 2031) with Wollongong City of Innovation Ltd (trading as Destination Wollongong) to deliver destination marketing, major events, product development and activities related to Wollongong's visitor economy.

3 Council delegate finalisation of the 2026 – 2031 funding agreement with Destination Wollongong to the General Manager.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Authorised by: Greg Doyle, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DNSW	Destination NSW
DSSS	Destination Sydney Surrounds South

BACKGROUND

Wollongong City Council has entered into successive funding agreements with Wollongong City of Innovation trading as Destination Wollongong – in its various forms since 1980. During this time, Council has provided financial assistance for tourism services, both in the form of monetary assistance and in-kind assistance including IT, graphic design and subsidised leasing of Council's facilities.

Council previously worked with Destination Wollongong and made changes to The Wollongong City of Innovation Constitution, removing the previous membership categories and replacing it with a single member, being Council, with consequential revisions around the ability of the single member to vote, pass resolutions and appoint and remove directors. This effectively ensured that Wollongong City Council is the sole member and has acquired a controlling interest in Wollongong City of Innovation (trading as Destination Wollongong). The Minister for Local Government has provided consent.

The current five-year funding agreement is due to expire on 30 June 2026. It sets out the services to be provided as well as the budget parameters and key performance indicators, which are assessed quarterly.

Priority pillars under the current agreement are marketing, events, business events, investment and cycling. The Destination Wollongong Board consists of nine Board members, including up to two council appointed officer directors, three council appointed independent directors and four member directors with industry expertise.

Over the last 12 months, Council has worked closely with Destination Wollongong to further align strategic priorities and provided effective engagement with industry proponents working with both entities. The Destination Wollongong Board and Council have worked collaboratively, in development and delivery of Council's, Community Strategic Plan 2035, Delivery Program 2025-29, Operational Plan 2025-26, Tourism Accommodation Strategy and respond to market opportunities and align with State and Federal government strategy in the tourism sector.

Further strategic collaboration between Wollongong City Council and Destination Wollongong this calendar year is evidenced in contributions to the Cruise Terminal Taskforce, Economic Development Strategy the World Triathlon Championship Finals, along with co-commissioning of a Hotel Demand Study.

There are a range of further potential projects including, international event acquisition, dedicated work to help secure large-scale priority projects (film studio, cruise terminal), development and marketing of export-ready product to leverage Western Sydney Airport opportunities, and initiatives to grow Wollongong's hotel stock. All could benefit the City of Wollongong's growing reputation and performance in this space.

PROPOSAL

Funding Agreement

Council has worked collaboratively with Destination Wollongong over the past five years. Under Section 55(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, it is proposed that because of extenuating circumstances in relation to the current arrangements Council has in place with Destination Wollongong, a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders, including the following:

- As per the Wollongong City of Innovation Constitution, Council is the sole and controlling member of the Destination Wollongong.
- Agreed to changes to the Destination Wollongong Constitution confirm Council's controlling interest in Destination Wollongong and confirmation by the Minister for Local Government.
- Destination Wollongong is an existing not for profit Council funded organisation with a tourism and marketing objective and is the only substantial local tourism organisation with marketing capability.
- Destination Wollongong has aligned its planning, delivery and reporting to Council's Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan.
- Destination Wollongong has a sound operational approach supported by a governance framework
- Council has given consideration of other competitive processes, which might be appropriate in the circumstance and has satisfied itself that any probity concerns have been addressed and that the entry into the funding agreement with Destination Wollongong represents the best value output for Council.
- Destination Wollongong has a strong working relationship with Destination NSW (DNSW) and Destination Sydney Surrounds South (DSSS) and has closely aligned its strategy with DNSW's 2035 Visitor Economy Strategy to enhance Wollongong's relevance and leverage opportunities at State level.

To meet Council's obligations under Section 55(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* a public notice outlining Council's intent to enter into a funding agreement without inviting tenders will be featured in the Illawarra Mercury.

Destination Wollongong would continue to deliver several benefits to Council that are unable to be delivered by other competitors. These include in-kind services provided, alignment to the Economic Development Strategy, shared planning, delivery and reporting on projects and the knowledge and expertise of Destination Wollongong employees (including its Board Members).

The report proposes that Council delegate finalisation of the funding agreement to the General Manager, subject to funding arrangements not exceeding the adopted budget. It is also proposed that the Office of the General Manager manage the funding agreement and reporting of Destination Wollongong activities on behalf of the organisation. The funding agreement will specify the activities to be delivered by Destination Wollongong as well as clarifying funding, performance measures and reporting requirements. The General Manager will provide a copy of the finalised funding agreement to Councillors.

The strategic framework will revolve around four priority pillars:

Destination Marketing: The goal is to grow and enhance Wollongong's domestic and international profile. Priorities include delivering a destination marketing strategy, implementing an integrated visitor services and retail offering, partnering with industry and government on cooperative campaigns, and leading regional collaboration to market Grand Pacific Drive.

Major Events: The goal is to secure a major events and business events portfolio that delivers strong economic and reputational impact. Priorities include targeting priority event sectors and recurring events, securing Wollongong's next global event, and working with industry to mature regional product and leverage corporate engagement in the meetings/incentives/conferences market.

Product Development: The goal is to support industry to facilitate product development of significant scale in priority sectors. Priorities include developing new commissionable product, supporting new product to launch in market, building the region's nature-based, soft adventure and well-being offerings, and developing sector-specific markets (accessible, cultural, dog-friendly).

Visitor Economy: The goal is to lead and leverage drivers of Destination NSW's 2035 Visitor Economy Strategy to grow Wollongong's market share. Priorities include leveraging opportunities associated with both Sydney's new and existing airports, collaborating to develop a new shared Wollongong narrative, partnering with stakeholders to advance large-scale opportunities (film studio, cruise terminal, Venues NSW master plan), and working with government and industry to pursue the city's forecasted hotel needs.

Alignment with Destination NSW's 2035 Visitor Economy Strategy is seen as critical, given Wollongong is well paced to contribute to the state's ambitious targets, including an additional 10,000 regional hotel rooms, a further eight million airline seats annually, a focus on 'experiential' tourism, and additional regional tourism infrastructure. This collaboration is seen as important in supporting the City of Wollongong developing and delivering growth in this sector.

Project-specific funding provision:

Wollongong City Council acknowledges while there is strong and deliberate alignment with Destination NSW's identified growth drivers and Wollongong's assets and opportunities. A desire is to grow Wollongong and the regions market share. There are a range of potential projects noted earlier that may require further financial investment from Council. This may result in additional project-specific funding requests throughout the term of the agreement. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Further work to refine a funding agreement and key performance measures across the priority pillars will continue with Destination Wollongong, with a new agreement to be finalised and signed prior to 1 July 2026.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Councillors

Destination Wollongong Board and General Manager

Director Community Services

Manager Community Culture and Engagement

Economic Development Manager

General Counsel

Office of the General Manager

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 3 'We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture and creativity.' It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	**Service**
3.8 Promote the Wollongong Local Government Area as an event, conference and visitor destination.	Economic Development

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding of $1,868,000 be allocated for 2026/27. CPI to be applied for each of the forward years. The funding agreement will reflect this. Council may consider other opportunities to collaborate and provide additional investment if required.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends that Council provide funding and support to Destination Wollongong, and that Council enter into a new five-year funding agreement from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2031.

ITEM 5 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PLANNING PROPOSAL CENTRES AND INDUSTRIAL LANDS, AND REVIEW OF WOLLONGONG DCP CHAPTER B4 DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRES AND PERIPHERAL SALES PRECINCTS

This report outlines a Planning Proposal to amend the Wollongong Local Environment Plan 2009 which seeks to implement a range of actions from the Wollongong Retail and Business Centres Strategy (2023) and the Wollongong Industrial Lands Review (2023), and incorporates the proposed listing of 15 Heritage Items, and one Heritage Conservation Area.

The Planning Proposal is supported by a comprehensive review of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Precincts.

This report recommends that Council supports the progression of a Planning Proposal and endorse a combined public exhibition of the Planning Proposal and Draft Chapter B4 for a minimum period of 28 days.

RECOMMENDATION

1 The Centres and Industrial Lands Planning Proposal (outlined in Attachments 1 and 2) be endorsed for referral to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination,

2 If a Gateway Determination is issued, the Planning Proposal be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.

3 The draft amendments to Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009, Chapter B4: Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Centres (Attachment 7) and Appendix 4 Definitions (Attachment 8) be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days, concurrent with the exhibition of the Planning Proposal.

4 The NSW Department Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be advised that Council is not seeking to use its delegations to finalise the Planning Proposal as it includes Council owned land.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Luke Musgrave, Manager City Strategy
Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

1 Planning Proposal (covering document)
2 Planning Report
3 Combined Mapbook
4 Summary of Significance - Proposed Heritage Items and Heritage Conservation Area
5 Urban Design Findings Report
6 Summary of proposed changes - DCP Chapter B4
7 Draft DCP Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Precincts
8 Proposed inclusions - DCP Appendix 4 Definitions

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
CDC	Complying Development Certificate
DCP	Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009
Chapter B4	Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009, Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Precincts.
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
Findings Report	Built Form Controls for Centres, Urban Design Finding Report (Studio GL, 2025)
ILR	Wollongong Industrial Lands Review (2023)

Abbreviation	Meaning
LEP	Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009
LGA	Local Government Area
PK2505	Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan
RBCS	Wollongong Retail and Business Centres Strategy (2023)
LSPS	Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025-2045
Land Use Zones	
E1	E1 Local Centre
E2	E2 Commercial Centre
E3	E3 Productivity Support
E4	E4 Light Industrial
E5	E5 Heavy Industrial
MU1	MU1 Mixed Use
R2	R2 Low Density Residential
R3	R3 Medium Density Residential
RE1	RE1 Public Recreation
RU1	RU1 Primary Production
SP3	SP3 Tourist
LEP Terminology	
APU	Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Use
FSR	Floor Space Ratio
GFA	Gross Floor Area
HCA	Heritage Conservation Area
HOB	Height of Buildings (maximum)
MLS	Minimum lot size (for subdivision)

BACKGROUND

This report details proposed changes to planning controls which relate to Centres and Industrial Lands precincts, including some proposed heritage listings.

Centres

Between 2013 and 2024 Council adopted a number of town and village plans which proposed various amendments to planning controls, infrastructure upgrades and community projects:

- Corrimal Town Centre Plan 2015-2025 (2015).
  - Wilga Street Block Corrimal Planning Strategy (2024).
- Dapto Town Centre Plan (2017).
- Figtree Town Centre Plan (2013).
- Helensburgh Town Centre Plan (2020).
- Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan 2018-2045 (2018).
- Unanderra Town Centre Master Plan (2013).

- Warrawong Town Centre Master Plan (2013).
- West Dapto Town Centres Urban Design Report (2024) (relating to Fowlers and Marshall Mount Centres).

In 2023 Council adopted three LGA-wide Strategies for housing, town centres and industrial lands, which would guide the overall strategic direction of land use planning in the LGA. The Wollongong Housing Strategy (2023), Wollongong Retail and Business Centres Strategy (2023) (RBCS) and the Industrial Lands Review (2023) (ILR) have all been endorsed by the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure as strategies. These strategies included a range of planning actions for LEP and DCP amendments and incorporate the actions of the Town Centre plan as relevant.

In 2024 Studio GL Pty Ltd was engaged to bring together and test the recommendations relating to twelve town centres and summarise these in a Built Form Finding Report (Findings Report) (Attachment 5). The findings report considers the recommendations from various strategic documents holistically and takes into account changes to state planning policy. The report documents the urban design analysis, the outcomes of built form testing for select sites and recommended changes to planning controls. The testing conducted by the consultant resulted in the modification of some recommendations of the RBCS, which is documented in the Findings Report. The findings report has informed the proposed changes relating to centres within this planning proposal and the review of Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Precincts.

This report does not propose any amendments to land within the Wollongong City Centre (excepting those which apply to the land use tables).

Industrial Lands

The Industrial Lands Review (ILR) includes analysis of 42 industrial precincts across Wollongong, and recommended Council investigate a wide range of actions, some of which were initially flagged in the RBCS. The recommendations are both LGA wide and precinct based.

This planning proposed has not reviewed any of the significant enabling actions that seek to unlock capacity within certain precincts, however they will form part of a separate project in the future. No amendments to Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter B5 Industrial Development are proposed as part of this project.

Heritage

On 9 October 2023 Council adopted the Wollongong Heritage Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023-2027. The Strategy and actions relevant to this report are:

- Strategy 2, Maintain an up-to-date list of heritage items
- Implementation Plan Action 2.1 “Finalise Stage 2 of the Wollongong Heritage Schedule Review and update the State Heritage Inventory Database accordingly

The Heritage Schedule Review Project has been progressed in separated stages:

- Stage 1- Housekeeping Amendments to Schedule 5 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 and updates to existing items – Completed April 2021.
- Stage 2 - Listing of potential Heritage Items and one Heritage Conservation Area on the Wollongong LEP 2009. Now further broken down into the following projects:
    - City Centre Heritage Study and Planning Proposal (2022) – Completed.
    - City Centre Planning Proposal – (in progress – includes 1 remaining listing).
    - Centres and Industrial lands planning proposal – subject of this report.
    - Stage 2 Heritage Schedule Review City Wide Planning Proposal – Current and progressing (excludes Centres and Industrial lands items).

This report proposes the listing of 15 proposed heritage items and one Heritage Conservation Area (Port Kembla Commercial Area).

Heritage Items

A local heritage item is a building, structure, object, landscape or location, which has local significance. Heritage items which are deemed to have community significance are listed in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP) which is prepared and managed by Council. These are 'Local Heritage Listings'. The listing guides the design of alterations or additions along with Chapter E11: Heritage Conservation of the Wollongong Development Control Plan to ensure the work is sympathetic to the local heritage significance. It does not affect the owner's use, privacy, or ownership rights to a site and does not oblige private owners to undertake conservation works. Further detail on what a Heritage listing means for development is included with attachment 4 (Summary of Significance). Conservation incentives are available to Heritage listed properties under Wollongong LEP Clause 5.10 (10).

Wollongong City Council has over 490 local heritage sites across the LGA. Of these items, 24 are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as being items of significance to the state of New South Wales.

There are 15 proposed heritages items included in this planning proposal, they have arisen from a range of sources including community nominations, town centre plans, and heritage studies (Table 5).

Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)

A heritage conservation area (HCA) is an area recognised and valued for its special historical and aesthetic character and listed on Schedule 5 Part 2 of the Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Important elements that contribute to the heritage significance of a HCA include the architectural style of buildings, paint colours, facades, the subdivision pattern and landscaping. Heritage listings and HCAs do not prevent change from occurring to a site or require owners to restore their properties, rather they support the conservation of significance attached to a particular place.

Further detail on what a HCA means for development is included with attachment 4 (Summary of Significance).

There are currently 9 HCAs listed in Schedule 5 of the LEP being Austinmer, Brownsville, Old Bulli – Princes Highway, Bulli Commercial Centre and Railway, Kembla Heights, Garrawarra, North Beach and Belmore Basin State Heritage Precincts, Market Street, and the Illawarra Escarpment Landscape Area.

The proposed Wentworth Street Port Kembla HCA arose from community feedback from the Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan (PK2505) which was adopted by Council in 2018. This community feedback was tested via a heritage assessment in 2018 which determined that the streetscape of Port Kembla Town Centre has historical, aesthetic, social, and technical significance. This commercial area is important to the development of Port Kembla as the first commercial street established as part of the subdivision of the Five Islands Estate in 1909. The place is aesthetically preserved with building styles from Edwardian period onwards, including Victorian style hotels, Inter War and Post War, Art Deco and Functionalist style buildings. The topography of Wentworth Street is also well known for its views from the high points to north and south and along the street frontages.

More detail is provided within attachment 4 (Summary of Significance).

PK2505 identified the importance of protecting and celebrating the architectural character, heritage and history of Port Kembla and recommends implementing "a conservation area for Wentworth Street to retain and protect the streetscape".

Heritage Items and HCAs have a strong character and appeal, which can encourage investment. Often conservation incentives are available for heritage owners such as the Wollongong Local Heritage Grant Fund, reimbursement of Development Application and Pre-Lodgement Fees and flexibility in planning controls relating to zoning to allow conservation outcomes to be achieved.

For non-contributory buildings within a HCA, the focus for redevelopment would be on the future built form and how it integrates and reinforces the character of the streetscape.

DCP Chapter B4

The Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 came into force on 3 March 2010. Chapter B4 Development in Business Zones applied to retail, office, business and bulky goods premises, as well as shop top housing and mixed-use development on land that was zoned for Business purposes (i.e. B1, B2, B3, B4, B6, or B7 under the previous zones).

Chapter B4 was renamed Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Centres as part of a Stage 1 Review which was adopted by Council on 26 June 2023. The Stage 1 update focussed on updating the Centres Hierarchy in line with the RBCS and in response to the Employment Zones Reforms being led by the NSW Government. The need for a stage 2 review was identified at the time and was to occur after a Built Form Study had been completed. The Built Form Study has been completed, and this report outlines proposed changes to Chapter B4.

An amendment to Chapter B4 was adopted by Council 18 March 2024 to include location specific controls for the Wilga Street Block in Corrimal came into force on 18 December 2024 corresponding with the finalisation of a planning proposal relating to the same area. Those amendments have been incorporated into this review in order to update the relevant section of the DCP with the same proposed graphic style.

PROPOSAL

Planning Proposal

A Planning Proposal is required to implement a range of clause and map-based amendments as identified in Council's strategic documents or in response to changing policy context. An overview is provided below with more information provided in the attachments.

1 Proposed changes to Land Use Table

A number of changes are proposed to the land use table which will change what uses are permitted with consent and/or prohibited in a number of zones.

A summary of the proposed change is included in **Table 1** below, with a more detailed explanation of these changes in Attachment 2.

Table 1: Summary of proposed changes to the LEP Land Use Table

Land Use Term	Proposed Change	Rationale
creative industry	**Permit with consent** in Zone E1 Local Centre **Permit with consent** in Zone E2 Commercial Centre	The term 'creative industries' was introduced as part of the Employment Zones Reform which commenced in April 2023. 'Creative Industries' is a type of 'light industry' and is currently only permitted with consent in the LEP where 'light industry' is permitted being, E3 Productivity Support, E4 General Industry, and MU1 Mixed Use zones. Due to it being a newly created term, it was not considered in the finalisation of the RBCS or ILR. It is considered appropriate to permit with consent 'creative industries' in E1 Local Centre and E2 Commercial Centre zones.
restaurant or cafe	**Permit** with consent in R2 Low Density Residential	The inclusion of 'restaurant or café' as permitted use in the R2 zone arose from WLPP Advice – Item 2 – Planning Proposal – 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. The proposed introduction of this use in the R2 zone is to be supported by a **local provision** to ensure any impact is appropriately considered and managed. This is proposed to include a 100m^2 limit on GFA, not be located on a local road, and be within 400m of a bus stop.
goods repair and reuse premises	**Permit with consent** in zone E3 Productivity Support.	This land use is compatible with the objectives of the E3 zone. The use is also currently permissible in the E4 zone

Land Use Term	Proposed Change	Rationale
heavy industrial storage establishment	**Prohibit** in zone E3 Productivity Support.	This land use is already permitted in the E5 zone where it is considered most appropriate due to the potential need for separation from other land uses associated with hazardous/offensive storage. As such, these kinds of storage are inappropriate for the E3 zone which is often close to (or includes) residential and/or Town Centres and does not align with the zone objectives.
truck depot	**Prohibit** in zone E3 Productivity Support. **Permit with consent** in zone E4 General Industrial.	Truck depots are currently permissible in both the E3 and E5 zones but not E4. This Review recommends their inclusion in the E4 zone and removal from E3 as their current permissibility is inconsistent with the zone objectives. Similar land uses such as 'Freight transport depots' are already permissible in the E4 zone.
timber yard	**Permit with consent** in E4 General Industrial.	Timber yards are a type of retail premise currently permissible in zone E3 and E5. This Review recommends their inclusion in the E4 zone for consistency as it is noted that other similar retail uses such as 'Garden centres'. 'Hardware and building supplies' and 'Landscaping materials supplies' are already permitted and there is no conflict with the zone objectives.
storage premises	**Permit** with consent in E4 General Industrial.	'Storage premises' are a group level land use definition within the LEP and currently permissible in both E3 and E5. 'Self storage units' are a type of 'storage premises'. As a housing keeping amendment, it is recommended that 'Self-storage units' be replaced by 'Storage premises' in the E4 General Industrial zone for consistency.
self-storage units	**Remove reference** in E4 General Industrial	
waste or resource management facility	**Permit with consent** in E5 Heavy Industrial	This land use is already permissible in the E4 General Industrial zone. These land uses can involve heavy industrial like operations with emissions, particularly resource recovery facilities. As such, it is considered that the E5 zone is most suitable although permissibility in the E4 should also remain.
take away food and drink premises	**Prohibit** in E5 Heavy Industrial.	The permissibility of kiosks is considered to be sufficient within the zone for providing for the everyday food needs of workers. A consequential amendment to the size of kiosks is proposed below. 'Take away food and drink premises' allows for a wider range of premises, including drive through fast food premises, that may compromise the heavy industrial objective of the zone.

2 Amend clause 5.4 Controls relating to miscellaneous permissible uses to increase the allowable gross floor area of a 'kiosk'

This planning proposal seeks to increase the permitted GFA from 30m^2 to 50m^2. This will provide greater flexibility for the offerings of the kiosks, acknowledging that 'takeaway food and drink premises' is proposed to be prohibited in zone E5 Heavy Industrial.

3 Active Frontages

Amend the clause 7.19 Active frontages and associated maps to identify active frontages for all centres and enable clause 7.13 Certain land within employment or mixed use zones to be repealed.

Repeal clause 7.13 Certain land within employment or mixed use zones. Amend clause 7.19 Active Frontages to support a high level of pedestrian interest and interaction at street level and a direct connection between the ground floor of buildings and the street.

Amend the Active Frontage Map to identify the location of active frontages in E1, E2, and MU1 zones across the LGA. Active frontages within the Wollongong City Centre form part of a separate planning proposal, and will also apply to certain land zoned SP3 in addition to the aforementioned zones.

A detailed description of the proposed amendments to active frontages is included within the Planning Report, see attachment 2. As there is a relationship between land zoning and active frontages, the proposed active frontage locations and the proposed land zone changes have been combined onto one map – proposed active frontage locations can be viewed in the attached map books – see attachment 3.

4 Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses

a) Amend Schedule 1 Additional permitted uses and the associated map to permit with consent 'dwelling houses' in small village centres, identified as Area A on the Key Sites Map (note specific requirements regarding location and land use are detailed in the planning report).

b) Amend Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses (APU) 33 Use of certain land in Zone E1 to remove reference to 'self-storage units'. APU 33 currently permits with consent Residential Flat Buildings and self-storage units in certain E1 zones and was introduced as part of the Employment Zones Reforms to maintain permissibility in the former B2 Local Centre Zone. Self storage units are not considered to be consistent with the objectives of the E1 zone. Self-storage units will remain permissible in Zones E2 Commercial Centre, E3 Productivity Support, E4 General Industrial, E5 Heavy Industrial and MU1 Mixed Use.

c) Remove the application of APU 33 for Residential flat building and self storage units from certain sites in Port Kembla (this proposed change is included in table 4).

d) Amend Schedule 1 Additional permitted uses and the associated map to permit with consent 'light industry' for land in Port Kembla, 31-33 Military Road, Port Kembla (this proposed change is included within table 4). The proposed change has arisen from a Scoping Proposal submitted to Council. The proposed change is considered in alignment with the strategic framework for Port Kembla, and an active frontage will be maintained to Allan Street through the proposed Active Frontage maps.

5 Schedule 3 Complying Development

The planning proposal seeks to repeal *Schedule 3: Complying Development – Part 1 Types of development – Alterations and additions to industrial and warehouse buildings in industrial zones* as it is now superseded by SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development) 2008.

6 Rezone certain land to tighten centre boundaries and create resilient and active centres

Based on analysis as part of the RBCS, the physical extent and feasible capacity of some centres is in excess of what is required to meet demand. Town and Village Plans have also identified portions of centre zoned land which is considered excess to the functional extent of the centre. These excess areas often have vacancies or have been developed as strata residential and are unlikely to be redeveloped for business uses. Excessively large business zones can dilute retail activity, often leaving central areas less active than is optimal.

Table 2 outlines the land that is proposed to be rezoned from either E1 Local Centre or E2 Commercial Centre to an alternate zone. Detailed analysis can be found in attachment 2.

Table 2: Summary of Proposed Changes - tighten centre boundaries

Centre	Location	Summary of Proposed Change
Berkeley	9 Devon Street	• Rezone from E1 to R3 • Amend FSR from 1.5:1 to 1.3:1 • Amend HOB from 12m to 17m • Apply a MLS of 449sqm • Remove APU 33.
Helensburgh	69 and 71 Walker Street	• Rezone from E1 to R2 • Amend FSR from 1.5:1 to 0.5:1 • Amend HOB from 12m to 9m • Apply a 449sqm minimum lot size • Remove APU 33
	Block bound by Stuart St, Bush Pea Lane, Gibbons Lane and Lilyvale St, Helensburgh	• Rezone from E1 to R3 • Amend FSR from 1.5:1 to 1:1 • No change to HOB, remain 12m. • Apply a 449sqm minimum lot size • Remove APU 33
Port Kembla	Land bound by Fitzwilliam Street, Military Lane, Church Street and Wentworth Lane, Port Kembla	• Rezone from E1 to MU1 • Amend HOB from 12m to 11m. • Apply a MLS of 549sqm • Remove APU 33 • No change to FSR (1.5:1)
Warrawong	282 Cowper Street, Warrawong 21 to 35 Greene Street, Warrawong 7 to 17 Montgomery Ave,	• Rezone from E2 to R3 • Apply a MLS of 449sqm • Amend FSR from 2.5:1 to 2:1. • No change to HOB (24m).
Windang	Lot 22 DP 654437 and lot 23 DP 17906, Windang Road *Council owned asset*	• Rezone from E1 to RE1 • Remove the Floor Space Ratio and APU 33 • No change to HOB (9m) or classification (community land)

7 Rezone certain land to protect existing required supply

Many of our centres have components of active and productive business uses that are not on land zoned for business uses. This means the supply provided by the business, and the role it has in the structure and operation of the centre, is not assured, and could be lost to redevelopment for other uses. For centres where the employment zoning boundary does not reflect the functional extent of the commercial activity of the centre, we are able to consider expanding employment zoning to encompass adjacent properties with established business uses where appropriate.

Some businesses have established or maintained functional small neighbourhood centres on land that is currently zoned residential. Often maintaining or altering these premises can be difficult, requiring the need to establish existing use rights to continue operations. Given the active role some of these places have in our retail network, there is a need to consider whether a formal business zoning is required, or if there are other planning pathways available.

Table 3 below outlines the land that is proposed to be rezoned from a R2 Low Density Residential to E1 Local Centre. Detailed analysis can be found in attachment 2.

Table 3: Summary of proposed changes - protect existing required supply

Centre	Location	Summary of proposed change
Helensburgh.	112 Parkes Street	• Rezone from R3 to E1 • No change to FSR (0.75:1), HOB (11m) or MLS (449sqm). • Apply APU33 consistent with E1 centre
Bulli	236 to 240 Princes Highway	• Rezone from R2 to E1 • No change to HOB (9m) or FSR (0.5:1) • Remove MLS • Apply APU 33
	231-233 Princes Highway	
Austinmer	34-40 Moore Street	• Rezone from R2 to E1 • Amend FSR from 0.5:1 to 0.75:1 • No change to HOB (9m) • Remove MLS. • Apply Area A
Bulli	40 (A to E) Point Street	
Coledale	749 to 759 Lawrence Hargrave Drive	
Cordeaux Heights	26 Derribong Road	
Figtree	99 and 101 Bellevue Road	
	20 and 22 Walang Avenue	
West Wollongong	41 and 43 Yellagong Street	
	424 to 438, 493 to 497 and 503 to 507 Crown Street	

Explanatory Note: Area A – Clause 7.23 Drive-through food and drink premises of the LEP prohibits food and drink premise that include a drive-through service on land identified as “Area A” on the Key Sites Map. Area A generally applies to Small Village Centres, and most Village Centres as per the Centre’s Hierarchy.

8 Rezone certain land as identified in the Industrial Lands Review

Table 4 provides an outline of the proposed changes arising from the ILR. The proposed changes within Bulli, Russell Vale and Fairy Meadow remove split zones and reflect the use of the site. Changes in Port Kembla and Unanderra have been informed by RBCS, Town Centre Plans and built form testing. Further detail is provided in the Planning Report (attachment 2) and the Finding Report (attachment 5).

Table 4: Summary of proposed Changes - Industrial Lands Review

Centre/Precinct	Location	Summary of Proposed Change
Precinct M3: Bulli – Remnant Mining Lands	Lot 1 DP 711752, 177C Princes Highway, Bulli *Council owned land*	For the part of each lot zoned RU1 • Rezone to E4 • Apply a FSR of 0.5:1 • Amend MLS from 39.99sqm to 999sqm • No change to HOB (9m)
	Lot 53 DP 1201697, 179 Princes Highway	
	Part of road reserve containing pedestrian path. Located between 179 and 181 Princes Highway	• Rezone from RU1 to R2 • Apply a FSR of 0.5:1 • Amend MLS from 39.99sqm to 449sqm • No change to HOB (9m)
Precinct 10: Russell Vale – Princes Highway	601-607 Princes Highway	For the part of the lot zoned R2: • Rezone to E3 • Amend MLS from 449sqm to 999sqm • No change to HOB (9m) or FSR (0.5:1)
Precinct 17: Fairy Meadow – Princes Highway	135-143 Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow	For the part of the lot zoned R2: • Rezone to E3 • Amend height from 9m to 11m. • Amend MLS from 449sqm to 999sqm • Apply APU 34 • No change to FSR (0.5:1)
Precinct 31: Port Kembla – Military Road Precinct 32: Port Kembla – Wentworth Street	Military Road, Port Kembla Lots 1 and 2 DP 377931, Lots 3 and 4 DP 510484, Lots 3 to 6, Sec 1 DP 5668	• Rezone from E1 to E3 • Amend HOB from 12m to 11m. • Amend FSR from 1.5:1 to 0.5:1. • Remove APU 33
	Lots 7-11 Sec 1 DP 5868 (Former Port Kembla RSL)	• Apply an APU for “light industry”. The associated APU clause in Schedule 1 is to include parameters to support the activation of Allan Street in line with PK2505. For example: development for the purposes of ‘light industry’ is permitted with development consent, only if an active frontage is presented to Allan Street. • Remove APU 33 for RFBs
	Lot 5 Sec 2 DP 5868 *Council owned asset.*	• Rezone from E4 to E1 • Remove MLS • Amend FSR from 0.5:1 to 1.5:1 • Amend HOB from 11m to 12m • Remove APU33 consistent with land adjacent (Former Port Kembla RSL)
	Carpark at northern end of Wentworth Street, Port Kembla, bound by Five Islands Road, Wentworth Street and unnamed lane. *Council owned asset.*	• Rationalise the E3 zone boundary in a logical format • Amend the corresponding FSR, HOB, and MLS maps • Remove/do not apply APU 34

Centre/Precinct	Location	Summary of Proposed Change
Precinct 26:Unanderra – Princess Highway	113 to 159 Princes Highway	• Rezone from E3 to E1 • Amend HOB from 11m to 9m • Remove APU 34
	135 to 157 Princes Highway	• Amend the FSR from 0.5:1 0.8:1 • Remove APU 34
	105 and 107 Princes Highway	• Rezone from E3 to E1 • Amend HOB from 11m to 9m • No change to FSR
	163 to 179 Princes Highway	
	Part of Lot 1000 DP 1141456. This is a large lot that includes the Unanderra Train Station, access road, carpark and part of the rail corridor.	• Rezone the E3 part of the lot to E1 • Amend HOB from 11m to 9m • Remove APU 34 • No change to FSR (0.5:1)

Explanatory Note*: APU 34 – APU 34 Use of certain land in Zone E3* permits with consent shop top housing on land identified as '34' on the Additional Permitted Uses Map. Areas subject to APU 34 generally align with the former zone B6 Enterprise Corridor, prior to implementation of the Employment Zones Reforms in 2023.

9 Amend the Height map for land zoned MU1 Mixed Use in Dapto

Dapto is within a Transport Orientated Development Area (Dapto Train Station) and a Low- and Mid-Rise Housing Area (Dapto Town Centre) as identified via SEPP (Housing) 2021. The LMRH provisions do not apply where the TOD applies. The application and overlap of these policies has resulted in the MU1 zoned land within Dapto having lower development potential than much of the surrounding area despite being well-located.

The increase of HOB from 11m to 24m within the MU1 zone in Dapto responds to changes in NSW Government Policy and applies to land bound by Werowi Street, Moombara Street, Mall Lane and Princes Highway Dapto.

This enables a more flexible six-storey outcome, to increase housing supply and to be consistent with the Low- and Mid-Rise Housing and Transport Oriented Development policies which apply to the surrounding land (zoned R3 and E2).

10 Amend certain maps to enable the outcomes of the West Dapto Centres Masterplan

Centre Master Plans for Marshall Mount Town Centre and Fowlers Village centres were endorsed by Council on 24 June 2024 and included within WDCP ChapterD16 – West Dapto Release Area on 25 November 2024. On 24 June 2024 Council resolved the following:

1 The West Dapto Centres Urban Design Report be Adopted.

2 The draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 200 – Chapter D16 – West Dapto Release Area be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days.

3 Council Staff commence further detailed review of the Wollongong Development Controls Plan 2009 and Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to ensure relevant environmental planning instrument provisions are consistent with the intended outcomes of the Centres Master Plans.

To facilitate improved alignment between the LEP and the Master Plans the following changes are proposed:

For Cleveland (Fowlers Village Centre and Council owned land):

- Rezone part of the lot from E1 to MU1 and apply a MLS of 249m^2.
- Amend the HOB from 9m to 12m for the E1 zone.

- Apply Area A.
- Map active frontages.

Proposed amendment for Marshall Mount Town Centre:

- Amend the Active frontage map.
- Amend the HOB map from 15m to 12m on the northwestern side of Marshall Mount Road.

11 Heritage

This planning proposal proposes the listing of 15 local heritage items and one heritage conservation area. Details are provided in table 5 below. The proposed items and Heritage Conservation Area have come from a range of sources including community nominations, town centre plans, heritage studies and publications. An Assessment of Significance as per the Heritage NSW Guidelines has been prepared for each proposed listing by an independent heritage consultant to ensure it meets the criteria for a local heritage listing. This information is captured within the Inventory Sheets. Landowners of the proposed items and within the proposed heritage conservation area have been notified. The majority of the proposed items are within centres, one item adjoins a centre (#9), four items (#11-15) occur within Industrial Lands precincts. A summary of significance for the proposed items and HCA is contained in attachment 4.

Table 5: Summary of proposed heritage listings

Suburb	Item Name	Address	Property Description	Nomination	Map
Proposed Heritage Conservation Area					
Port Kembla	Wentworth Street Heritage Conservation Area	Wentworth Street from Church Street to Darcy Road	Various	Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan	HCA 1
Proposed Heritage Items					
Coledale	Coledale RSL Club	731-735 Lawrence Hargrave Drive	Lot 2 DP 77041	Community Nomination	Item 1
Fairy Meadow	St John Vianney's Cathedral	7 Cabbage Tree Lane	Lot 1 DP 1237970	Migration Heritage Study 2007	Item 3
Helensburgh	Sandstone Kerb and Guttering*	Sawan Lane, Walker Street, Parkes Street and Tunnel Road	Road Reserve *Council owned asset*	Helensburgh Town Centre Plan	Item 4
Port Kembla	Central Chambers	57-61 Wentworth Street	Lot 1 DP 324146, Lot 9 Sec 6 DP 5868	Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan	Item 5
Port Kembla	Commercial Building	117-119 Wentworth Street	Lot 11 Sec 5 DP 5868	Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan	Item 6
Port Kembla	Former Bank	73-75 Wentworth Street	Lot 130 DP 806762	Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan	Item 7
Port Kembla	Kembla Court	96-106 Wentworth Street	Part of Lot 19, Lots 20-21 Sec 2 DP 5868	Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan	Item 8
Port Kembla	Commercial Building	64-66 Wentworth Street	Lot 29 Sec 2 DP 5868	Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan	Item 9

Suburb	Item Name	Address	Property Description	Nomination	Map
Proposed Heritage Items					
Port Kembla	Former Migrant Boarding House	19 Wentworth Street	Lot 9 DP 18546	Migration Heritage Study 2007	Item 10
Wollongong	House with Verandah Details	63 Auburn Street	Lot 22 Sec C DP 4203	20th Century Architecture in Wollongong (publication)	Item 11
Wollongong	Federation / Interwar House	69 Auburn Street	Lot 25 Sec C DP 4203	South Wollongong Study 2017	Item 12
Wollongong	Former Crystal Clothing Factory	29 Ellen Street	Lot 20 DP 864689	Migration Heritage Study 2007	Item 13
Wollongong	English Cottage Revival House	137 Kembla Street	Lot 3 DP 19969	South Wollongong Study 2017	Item 14
Wollongong	Californian Bungalow	96 Church Street	Lot 11 DP 1114586	South Wollongong Study 2017	Item 15
Woonona	Bulli Fire Station	325-327 Princes Highway	Lots 2 & 3 DP 6454	Stedinger Heritage Study 2004	Item 16

"*" Indicates an archaeological site or a heritage site with an archaeological component.

Draft Amendments to DCP Chapter B4

This planning proposal is supported by a comprehensive review of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 – Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Precincts. A copy of the revised Chapter B4 is contained in attachment 7, with a summary of changes contained in attachment 6. Key changes have been summarised below.

1 Introduction

The introductory sections of the DCP have been reviewed and reformatted in line with the new DCP template. Definitions have been removed as they are included within Appendix 4 Definitions.

2 Centres Hierarchy (figure and table)

Has been updated to ensure all existing and proposed centres are captured.

3 Economic Impact Assessment

This section has been removed. The requirements of this section are now accounted for within the Centres hierarchy controls, the RBCS and/or are not considered appropriate to require at development application stage. The economic impact assessment requirements have not been amended since Chapter 4 came into force in 2009.

4 Location specification controls

Chapter B4 includes location specific controls for a range of centres, commensurate with where the centre sits in the hierarchy. Part D of the DCP includes locality based chapters for a range of centres (D12 Thirroul Village Centre, D13 Wollongong City Centre, D16 West Dapto, D19 Former Corrimal Coke Works Site and D21 Tallawarra Lands), no changes have been proposed to the application or interaction between Chapter B4 and Part D.

The location specific controls for 12 centres were reviewed in detail by a consultant, and the findings were documented in the Findings Report (attachment 5).

Each tier of the hierarchy now includes an overarching set of objectives followed by location specific objectives and controls.

The location specific controls for Major Regional Centres, Major Towns and Towns were updated to reflect existing Centre-specific studies and masterplans. Each section uses the following structure -

- Objectives: general objectives applicable to the whole section.
- General for each Centre: where the sub-section applies, existing context, desired future character, core and transitions areas, and street role and function.
- Key public views (where applicable).
- Access and Movement.
- Built form and Setbacks.
- Public Open Space (where applicable).

Movement and Place designations for key streets has been included for 11 centres; this helps to guide the vision for the role and function of streets and links these with the design guidance in TfNSW Design of Roads and Streets Manual.

The Village and Small Village Centres objectives and controls were consolidated and applied to all centres of this scale. The controls follow a similar structure to the higher order centres:

- Objectives: general objectives applicable to the whole section.
- Built Form and Setbacks.
- Access and movement.

Where Village and Small Village centres required bespoke location specific controls which were different to the default controls, these have been retained and grouped under the relevant subheading.

5 General Controls for development in all centres

This section now combines what was the general requirements for retail and business premises, retail shopping centres and fast food restaurants. The controls were combined to reduce duplication, clarify which planning controls apply to all Centres, and strengthen the relationship between objectives and controls.

The section has been structured to focus on development features rather than land use. New clauses were added to reflect the complexity of Centres and to support improved design outcomes.

6 Controls for Peripheral Sales Precincts

Peripheral Sales Precincts are often on the edge of centres and typically include hardware stores, household goods stores, furniture stores and car dealerships that require large sites.

This section has been restructured and reviewed to apply to all Peripheral Sales Precincts. A new introductory paragraph has been included to provide context and clarity. Location specific controls have been removed where they no longer add value or are duplicated. This creates a consistent approach and improves readability.

Reference to bulky goods has been replaced with specialised retail premises to reflect the most current land use terms.

7 Controls for Environmental Performance

In line with Council's commitment in the Net Zero Wollongong Climate Mitigation Plan planning policy is being reviewed to increase sustainability principles, measured in relation to stationary energy consumption. On the adoption of DCP Chapter A2 Ecologically Sustainable Development Council noted the staged review of a number of chapters of the DCP, including Chapter B4.

A new section of Chapter B4 has been included to set limits on the use of fossil fuel gas in new development. Other controls to reduce urban heat, increase tree canopy cover, deep soil, and active transport have been reviewed and improved to improve overall environmental performance.

8 Appendix 4 Definitions

To support the interpretation of Chapter B4, additional terms are proposed to be included in Appendix 4 Definitions. The additional terms are provided in attachment 8.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation has occurred with relevant teams across Council including Development Assessment, Development Engineering, Transport, Heritage, Environment, Property, Landscape, and Community Safety.

The proposed amendments arise from adopted strategies and plans that have previously undergone extensive consultation. During the exhibition of the RBCS and ILR letters were sent to land owners advising them of the changes being proposed in the actions of those documents. Given this established consultation with the community over time, further preliminary consultation relevant to this Planning Proposal and DCP update has not occurred, with the exception of the proposed heritage listings (see below).

Should Council resolve to progress a Planning Proposal, it will be sent to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure seeking Gateway determination and the proposal be placed on exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days, in line with the requirements of the Gateway Determination and Council's Community Participation Plan.

The exhibition of the draft amendments to DCP Chapter B4 will be exhibited concurrently with the planning proposal.

The exhibition will be advertised on Council's engagement website. Hard copies of the exhibition material will be available at Council's Administration Building and libraries, and an electronic copy will be placed on Council's website. Relevant landowners will be notified of the exhibition in accordance with the Community Participation Plan.

Following the exhibition, submissions will be reported to Council for consideration.

Wollongong Local Planning Panel

The Planning Proposal was reported to the Wollongong Local Planning Panel on 28 August 2025. The Panel provided the following advice:

1 *The Panel advises that it supports the Planning Proposal proceeding as recommended as it has strategic merit.*

2 *The Panel notes the comprehensive research and review undertaken to inform the recommendations made.*

3 *The Panel encourages Council to prepare supporting DCP provisions on supporting contributory, neutral and detracting buildings within the proposed Port Kembla HCA (for example see the Woollahra DCP).*

Recommendation 3 from the WLEPP is not progressing as part of this project. DCP Chapter E11 includes general controls for development in Heritage Conservation Areas. Contributory, neutral and detracting buildings within existing Heritage Conservation Areas are not mapped with the Chapter E11. The draft location specific controls proposed within Chapter B4 have been drafted with heritage in mind.

Wollongong Heritage Reference Group

The Heritage Reference Group considered a report on the staged progression of the Wollongong Heritage Schedule Review on the 11 September 2025. The draft resolution is provided below, pending confirmation of the minutes at the next reference group meeting scheduled for 27 November 2025: -

The Wollongong Heritage Reference Group recommend that Stage 2 of the Wollongong Heritage Schedule Review be progressed, by:

1 *Progressing the 15 potential heritage items and the Wentworth Street Heritage Conservation Area as part of the Centres and Industrial Lands Review reporting process;*

2 *A further report to Council be prepared recommending that a draft Planning Proposal be prepared and exhibited to progress 67 potential heritage items as part of the broader Wollongong Heritage Schedule.*

Landowner notification (Heritage)

Landowners of the proposed heritage items, and/or within the proposed HCA have been notified of this report being considered by Council and will be notified of the public exhibition period should Council resolve to progress a draft Planning Proposal.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

Community Strategic Plan - Our Wollongong Our Future 2035

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 2 – "We have well planned, connected and liveable places". It specifically delivers on -

Community Strategic Plan 2035		Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy		Service
2.1	Urban areas are planned and well maintained to provide a healthy and safe environment for our community to live, work and play.	Land Use Planning

Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

In June 2021, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 was released by the State Government. The updated Regional Plan guides strategic planning and land use decisions in the region for the next 20 years. The Plan contains 30 objectives, supported by a mix of actions. Strategies and collaboration activities.

The proposal is generally consistent with:

- Objective 7: Respond to the changing nature of retail.
- Objective 21: respond to the changing needs of local neighbourhoods.
- Objective 23: celebrate, conserve and reuse cultural heritage.
- Objective 24: support major events, public art and cultural services.

Ministerial Directions under s9.1 of the EP&A Act

The proposal is generally consistent with the directions, where an inconsistency has arisen it is considered minor or is justified by an endorsed strategic plan such as the RBCS or ILR.

A comprehensive assessment against the relevant ministerial direction is contained within the Planning Report (Attachment 2).

Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025-2045

On 28 July 2025, Council resolved to endorse the Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2025-2045. The LSPS sets out Council's 20-year land use planning vision for the LGA and strategic planning priorities with reference to a range of adopted supporting documents.

The LSPS contains 12 planning priorities which align with and expand upon the matters for consideration under the Wollongong Planning Proposal Policy.

A comprehensive assessment against the relevant planning priorities is contained within the Planning Report (Attachment 2).

Wollongong Retail and Business Centres Strategy (2023)

The RBCS was adopted by Council and endorsed by Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in 2023. The Strategy demonstrates that Wollongong's Centres have sufficient retail supply to meet current demand. Our Centres also have a generous amount of feasible supply within the existing planning framework to allow retail businesses to grow in response to increased demand to 2041 and beyond. This room to grow will also need to accommodate complimentary uses appropriate to the type of Centre.

This planning proposal, supported by the review of DCP Chapter B4, seeks to implement actions under the following recommendation themes:

- Recommendation 3: tighten centre boundaries to create resilient and active centres.
- Recommendation 5: protect existing required supply.
- Recommendation 12: update active frontage planning controls to improve street presentation.

Wollongong Industrial Lands Review (2023)

The ILR was adopted by Council in 2023, and endorsed by Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The Strategy acknowledges the important economic role that Wollongong's industrial lands play at a local, regional and national level. The Strategy finds that Wollongong's industrial lands are adequately providing for 'urban services' which enable local residents to access everyday goods and services and support efficient supply chains. The ILR includes a range of recommendations to inform future land use planning for industrial lands across the LGA. This planning proposal seeks to implement a number of recommendations from the ILR including changes to land use tables and some zoning amendments relating to following precincts:

- Precinct M3: Bulli – Remnant Mining Lands.
- Precinct 10: Russell Vale – Princes Highway.
- Precinct 17: Fairy Meadow – Princes Highway.
- Precinct 31: Port Kembla – Military Road.
- Precinct 32: Port Kembla – Wentworth Street.

Town & Village Plans

This planning proposal has also been informed by the following town and village plans -

- Corrimal Town Centre Plan 2015-2025.
- Dapto Town Centre Plan.
- Figtree Town Centre Plan.
- Helensburgh Town Centre Plan.
- Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan 2018-2045.
- Unanderra Town Centre Master Plan.
- Warrawong Town Centre Master Plan.
- West Dapto Town Centres Urban Design Report (2024).

The planning proposal seeks to enable a wide range of actions from the above documents. Details are provided in attachment 2.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

In line with Council's commitment in the Net Zero Wollongong Climate Mitigation Plan planning policy is being reviewed to increase sustainability principles, measured in relation to stationary energy consumption.

A new section of Chapter B4 has been included to set limits on the use of fossil fuel gas in new development. The proposed objectives for all scales of Centres include objectives relating to urban greening to support urban greening and a comfortable microclimate. Other controls to reduce urban heat, increase tree canopy cover, deep soil, and active transport have been reviewed and improved to improve overall environmental performance.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The exhibition process will allow community, landowners, industry and other stakeholder to provide further input into the Planning Proposal and proposed amendments to Chapter B4.

Heritage

State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 enables a Complying Development Certificate (CDC) for the demolition of buildings to be obtained without Council approval.

It is noted that if a CDC is obtained for demolition, Council has delegation under *the NSW Heritage Act 1977* to place an Interim Heritage Order on a property to prevent demolition for a period of six months.

Once a draft Planning Proposal is progressed, draft heritage items cannot be approved for demolition through a Complying Development Certificate. A Development Application can be lodged seeking approval to demolish.

The progression of a range of proposed new heritage listings is anticipated to attract a wide range of community views and submissions. It is important that these views are understood and considered in the progression of any proposal.

To ensure the management of these risks, a range of community consultation is proposed, including direct discussion with affected owners of identified potential items as part of the public exhibition process. The exhibition of the Planning Proposal will ensure that broad community input can be considered in finalising the proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This project has been undertaken using project budgets and internal resources.

CONCLUSION

The Centres Planning Proposal seeks to implement a range of recommendations from Council's adopted strategic documents including the Wollongong Retail and Business Centres Strategy, Wollongong Industrial Lands Review and town centre plans. Actions of the LGA wide Stage 2 Heritage Schedule Review and Net Zero Wollongong have also been captured in the draft documents. The planning proposal also includes other amendments in response to changing NSW Government Policy and other arising matters. The planning proposal is supported by a comprehensive review of DCP Chapter B4.

This report recommends that the Planning Proposal be endorsed to be sent to the Department of Planning, Housing, & Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination and pending the receipt of a favourable Gateway Determination, the Planning Proposal and draft Chapter B4 be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

For access to the attachments in this report, please use the below link:

Item 5 - Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal Centres and Industrial Lands, and Review of Wollongong DCP Chapter B4 Development in Centres and Peripheral Sales Precincts

ITEM 6 POST EXHIBITION - PLANNING PROPOSAL 190 MILITARY ROAD, PORT KEMBLA

On 16 June 2025, Council resolved to exhibit a Planning Proposal to amend the planning controls for land at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. The Planning Proposal seeks to amend Schedule 1 Additional permitted uses of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP 2009) to include Restaurant or café as a permitted use with consent on the site. A maximum floor area of 150m^2 is proposed to limit the impact of any restaurant or café operating on the site.

This report considers the exhibition feedback and recommends that Council progress the Planning Proposal to finalisation.

RECOMMENDATION

1 The Planning Proposal for 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, which proposes the additional use of "restaurant or café" with a maximum floor area of 150m^2, be finalised for the preparation of an amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009.

2 The General Manger proceed to exercise delegation as issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure under Section 2.26 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW), in relation to the final proposal.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Luke Musgrave, Manager City Strategy
Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

1 Location Plan
2 Summary of Submissions
3 Wollongong LSPS assessment of planning priorities

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
DCCEEW	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DCP	Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
ISRP	Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2021-2041
LEP	Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025 – 2045
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
WLPP	Wollongong Local Planning Panel

BACKGROUND

The subject site at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla (Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082) is located on the corner of Military Road and Gloucester Boulevard. The site has an area of approximately 752m^2 and is zoned R2 Low Density Residential.

The site is located approximately 840m from the E1 Local Centre zoned land of Port Kembla town centre.

The site adjoins residential zoned land to the north and south. Five Islands Secondary College on the eastern side of the site is also zoned R2 Low Density Residential. The site is opposite the King George V Oval. The oval and much of the foreshore that wraps around the residential precinct is zoned RE1 Public Recreation. Military Road provides access to Port Kembla Town Centre and Hill 60. Gloucester Boulevard provides access to Fishermans Beach and Cowper Street provides access to Port Kembla Pool, beach and Surf Club.

The site contains a dwelling and café. The café use is approximately 140m^2 in floor area with an attached deck which is 62m^2 in area. There is one car parking space for the café, although at times it is occupied by tables and chairs.

The current business commenced operations in late 2022. At the time Council received concerns from the community that the business use was unlawful in the residential zone and Council communicated this to the business operator and landowner prior to the café use commencing. The enforcement of compliance action commenced by Council has been held in abeyance and the proponent given an opportunity to explore planning approval pathways.

Table 1: Historical Business Operations and Land Use Approvals related to the site

Timeline	Comments
1965 - 2005	Development Consent DA-1965/116 was granted for a General Store with a floor area of 31.5m^2
1977	Development Consent DA-1977/154 was granted to enable the enlargement of the store to 140m^2
2005	Development Consent DA-2005/1442 was granted for a timber desk in front of the existing store bringing the total site footprint to 202.7m^2 (the deck does not form part of a floor space calculation)
2008 – 2019	The site operated as a Spanish Restaurant
2022 – 2025	The site operates as a café (Cakes by Rach)
2024	Development Application DA-2024/330 seeking approval for food and drink premises (café) was refused. Review of Determination also refused. Council Officers determined that the site is not able to rely upon existing use rights provisions to change the use to a food and drink premises. The General Store use was lawfully approved and remains permissible through the Neighbourhood Shop land Use.

On 12 February a Planning Proposal request was lodged to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009 and add "restaurant or café" as a permissible land use on the subject site.

Council officers sought early community input into the Planning Proposal through the preliminary notification process between 11 March 2025 and 31 March 2025. 385 submissions and comments were received which were included in the Council report of 16 June 2025.

On 16 June 2025, Council considered a report on 190 Military Road, Port Kembla and a proposal to enable a café to operate on the site through an amendment to Schedule 1 – Additional permitted uses of the Wollongong LEP 2009. Council resolved that –

1 *A Planning Proposal be prepared for Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082, 190 Military Road, Port Kembla to permit the additional land use of "restaurant of café" on the site, with a maximum gross floor area of 150 m^2, and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination.*

2 *If a Gateway Determination is issued, the Planning Proposal be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.*

3 *The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure be advised that Council wished to use its delegations to finalise the Planning Proposal.*

The Planning Proposal was exhibited in accordance with the conditions of the 20 August 2025 Gateway determination issued by the DPHI. The Planning Proposal was exhibited between 27 August and 26 September 2025.

PROPOSAL

This report details the results of the exhibition process and discusses the issues raised in submissions. At the close of the exhibition process, Council received 471 submissions, which are summarised under the Consultation and communication section of this report.

Based on the feedback received, it is recommended the Planning Proposal progress to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009. There are no amendments proposed to be made to the draft provisions, resulting from the comments received.

The final wording of the provision will be drafted by NSW Parliamentary Counsel Office and approved by the NSW DPHI.

The Planning Proposal request seeks to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009, Schedule 1 – Additional permitted uses to permit "Restaurant or Café" on the site. The following clause is proposed to be included in Schedule 1 – Additional permitted uses of the LEP.

XX Use of certain land at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla

(1) This clause applies to the following land at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, being Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082

(2) Development for the purpose of a restaurant or café of less than 150m^2 in gross floor area is permitted with development consent.

Restaurant or café is a land use defined in the Wollongong LEP 2009 as –

Restaurant or café *means a building or place the principal purpose of which is the preparation and serving, on retail basis, of food and drink to people for consumption on the premises, whether or not liquor, take away meals and drinks or entertainment are also provided, but does not include the preparation and serving of food and drink to people that occurs as part of –*

(a) an artisan food and drink industry, or

(b) farm gate premises.

The intended outcome of the Wollongong LEP 2009 amendment is to facilitate the on-going use of the current café. It is noted that an external deck would not be included as part of the gross floor areas limitation of 150m^2. If the Planning Proposal is supported and the Wollongong LEP 2009 amendment is finalised, a Development Application is required to be lodged, assessed and determined for the café use.

It is noted there are no changes to the built form controls (height of buildings, floorspace ratio etc) proposed.

The proposed 150m^2 limitation is similar to other size restrictions in residential zones designed to maintain residential character, such home business (30m^2) and neighbourhood shops (100m^2).

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Planning Proposal was exhibited, as per the requirements of the Gateway determination, issued by the DPHI on 20 August 2025 and the EP&A Act.

The Planning Proposal was exhibited between 27 August and 26 September 2025.

The Planning Proposal and the supporting documents were exhibited via –

- Council's engagement webpage.
- At Council's Wollongong and Warrawong Libraries.
- At Council's Customer Service Centre in the Administration Building.
- Letter / emails advising of the exhibition were sent to –
    - Neighbourhood Forum 7.

- Persons who made a written submission at the non-statutory preliminary consultation stage.
- 69 nearby property owners.

As a result of the exhibition the webpage received 1,839 views, and 617 participants downloaded a document.

A total of 471 individual submissions were received, consisting of –

- One submission from the owner/applicant which objected to the proposed 150m^2 floor space limitation.

  Comment: The current café floor area is 140m^2 (excluding the 62m^2 deck). As noted, the property consists of a dwelling and the café (roughly 50:50). The additional use is proposed to enable the existing operation, and not apply to the whole property, therefore a size limitation that reflects the current intensity of retail use is appropriate.
- 335 submissions through Council's engagement webpage.
- Three submissions through the NSW Planning Portal.
- Six community submissions through email / letter.
- One letter from the Member for Wollongong supporting the proposal.
- 125 signed template letters (identical content).
- Transport for NSW and the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Conservation programs, Heritage and Regulation advised that they had no comments to make on the proposal.

No submissions were received from State Agencies / Authorities on the Planning Proposal.

Table 2 provides a high-level summary of all feedback received. Generally, submissions received were supportive of the proposal. Council also received a number of submissions opposing the Planning Proposal or providing comments only. It is noted that many submissions were received via Council's Online Engagement Page that provided no comment.

Table 3 provides a summary of where submissions originated

Table 2: Exhibition feedback received

	Support	Object	Comment	No Comment provided*	Total
WCC Engagement webpage	248	10	4	74	335
Applicant submission	0	1	0	0	1
Emails / letter, including a submission from the Local member	6	1	0	0	7
Form letter (Template letter)	125	0	0	0	125
NSW Planning Portal	3	0	0	0	3
Total	**382**	**11**	**4**	**74**	**471**

*Council received a total of 97 individual submissions via the Community Engagement webpage, which did not provide a comment. The matter was discussed with Council's Engagement Team who had also noted the volume of submissions received with no comments. The Engagement Team advised they would contact people who provided a submission with no comments notifying them that their submission would be reported as "no comment provided". As a result of the Engagement Teams contact, Council received 20 submissions through the Engagement Page and three submissions via Council's Records Section, from people who originally made a submission providing no comments. As a result, the original 97 submissions providing no comments was reduced to 74 submissions.

Table 3: Summary of origin of community submissions

	Resident / Land Owner of Port Kembla	Resident / Land Owner Surrounding Suburbs (Cringila, Lake Height, Primbee, Warrawong)	Residents / Land Owner Other W'gong	Out Of Area	Not Stated	Total
WCC Engagement webpage	97	40	154	33	12	336
Email/letter	3	0	3	0	1	7
Form letter (Template letter)	24	18	49	22	12	125
NSW Planning Portal	0	1	2	0	0	3
TOTAL	**124**	**59**	**208**	**55**	**25**	**471**

As a result of the public exhibition –

- A total 382 community submissions indicated support for the Planning proposal
  - 47 submissions were in support of the Planning Proposal to amend Wollongong LEP 2009, Schedule 1: Additional Permitted Uses to include Restaurant or Café as a permitted use upon the site.
  - 335 submissions supported the Planning Proposal to amend the Wollongong LEP 2009 to enable the existing café (Cakes by Rach) to continue operating on the site.
- 11 Community submissions objected to the proposal raising one or more concern.
- Four community submissions provided comments, without indicated support or opposition to the proposal.
- 74 submissions were received where no comments were provided and therefore did not indicate support or opposition for the proposal.

Table 4 provides a summary of community sentiment by location.

Table 4: Summary of overall community sentiment by location

	Port Kembla	Surrounding Suburbs	Other W'gong	Out of Area	Not Stated	TOTAL
Support the Planning Proposal to enable the use of Restaurant / Café on site	17	5	19	4	2	47
Support the Planning Proposal – to enable Cakes by Rach to remain operating on the site	53	27	101	22	7	210
Template letter: Support the Planning Proposal to enable Cakes by Rach to remain operating of the site	24	18	49	22	12	125
Opposed the Planning Proposal, expressing one or more concern	7	0	2	0	2	11

	Port Kembla	Surrounding Suburbs	Other W'gong	Out of Area	Not Stated	TOTAL
Comments only	2	0	2	0	0	4
No Comment provided	21	9	35	7	2	74
Total	**124**	**59**	**208**	**55**	**25**	**471**

Table 5 provides a summary of the key issues raised in community submissions received as part of the public exhibition. The table also provides a Council office response addressing the concerns raised. Note, some concerns have been grouped together due to similarities.

Table 5: Summary of key issues and staff responses

Submission Issue	Response
The business provides a social / community benefit (81 Submissions) and (125 Template letters)	Noted.
The site has a historical use as a restaurant / café / milk bar / take away / general store (51 submissions) and (125 Template letters)	The site has been used for commercial uses since construction of the General Store in 1965. It is noted that some uses may have operated on the site without approval. It is considered that the additional permitted use of a Restaurant or Café on the site has merit. However, due to the location it is also reasonable to limit the floor space to reduce potential impacts on neighbouring properties and residents.
Attracts tourist and visitors to and from within Port Kembla. (41 Submissions)	Noted. The Café services visitors to the area.
The site of the café is in proximity to beaches / sporting fields / Hill 60 and Five Islands Secondary College (35 Submissions)	Noted. A Restaurant or Café on the site services the use of the listed spaces.
Business provides employment opportunities (27 submissions)	Noted. The proposal provides modest local employment opportunities.
Concerns / comments regarding traffic and parking (20 Submissions) Concerns regarding pedestrian and vehicle interactions with the adjacent intersection (Two Submissions)	The site currently includes a small driveway which offers limited onsite parking / space for deliveries. However, it appears this space is intermittently used for further dining / seating. Currently customers that travel by vehicle to the café utilise nearby on street parking and would be comparable to other similar small scale commercial developments throughout the LGA. Parking has been raised in both submissions in support and in opposition to the proposal. Should Council resolve to progress the Planning Proposal parking, traffic and pedestrian movements will be considered and managed as part of any future Development Application. As a café already operates on the site, it is not expected that the proposal will result in a further increase in traffic or pedestrian movements within the location.

Submission Issue	Response
Good location where it is not expected to result in negative impacts (20 Submissions) Impacts on neighbouring residents and the neighbourhood. (17 Submissions)	The site has historically been used for small scale commercial purposes and is located within an existing residential neighbourhood, which adjoins a number of residential properties. Should Council resolve to progress the Planning Proposal. A Development Application will be required to operate a restaurant or café on the site. This will require the assessment of any impacts that may result from the use. Conditions can be imposed on any approved Development to mitigate potential impacts.
Promotes small business / economic benefit (18 Submissions) Contributes to the attractiveness of Port Kembla (18 Submissions)	Noted.
Other similar venues in proximity to the site (17 Submissions)	Noted.
Approval pathways not correctly followed (11 Submissions)	The landowner and business operator have pursued the Planning Proposal process to enable a Development Application to be submitted to Council to formalise the use of a Restaurant or Café on the site.
Hours of operation (10 Submissions)	Should the Planning Proposal progress to finalisation, this will enable a Development Application to be lodged seeking to formalise use of a Restaurant or Café on the site. The assessment of any Development Application on the site for a Restaurant or Café will need to consider proposed trading hours and any likely impacts. Hours of operation may be conditioned for as part of an approved Development Consent.
Noise (10 Submissions)	Should the Planning Proposal progress to finalisation and be adopted, this will enable a Development Application to be lodged seeking to formalise use of a Restaurant or Café on the site. The assessment of any Development Application on the site for a Restaurant or Café will consider noise generation and any likely impacts. Appropriate conditions may be included should a Development Consent be issued.
Sets a precedent for future Planning Proposals (Six Submissions)	As previous approved commercial uses occurred on the site since 1965, it is considered there is strategic merit to progress a planning proposal. The proposed additional use provision is specific to the site and unlikely to create a precedent. Council is also considering a review of the permissibility of Cafés more broadly within the R2 Low Density Residential use zone, which is occurring as part of the Centres Planning Proposal.
Support for non-CBD Location / will not detract from the CBD (Five Submissions)	It is noted the site has previously been used for commercial uses. It is not expected that formalising the permissibility of a single small scale local café on the site will have an unacceptable impact on the nearby business centre.

Submission Issue	Response
Support for the WLPP recommendations to progress the proposal and the DPHI Gateway Determination to progress the proposal to Public Exhibition. (Five Submissions) + (125 Template letters)	Noted.
Previous applications for similar development on the site not approved (Four Submissions)	The Development Applications could not be approved as the land use was not permissible. The Planning Proposal seeks to permit the additional permitted use of a Restaurant or Café on the site which, if approved, would allow a new development application to be lodged and assessed.
Concerns for future businesses that may operate on the site if the Planning Proposal is approved (Three Submissions) Concerns with other types of food and drink uses that may occur on the site if approved. (One Submission)	The Planning Proposal will permit the use of a Restaurant or Café on site, if Council resolve to adopt the amendments to Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Use of the Wollongong LEP 2009. Should the Wollongong LEP 2009 be amended to permit the additional permitted use on the site, a Development Application will be required to operate a Restaurant or Café. The Development Application will need to address site constraints and any potential impacts. Uses not permitted in the R2 Low Density Residential zone, will not be permissible on the site. Other forms of food and drink premises, such as a pub, small bar or take away food and drink premises will not be permissible on the site.
Retention of the building on the site (Two Submissions)	Noted. The retention of the current building on the site is not a consideration of the Planning Proposal. The proposal only affects the use of the site. .
Concerns regarding the proposed 150 m^2 maximum floor space. (Two Submissions)	Council recommended the floor space of any Restaurant or Café be limited to 150 m^2 should the planning proposal be adopted and finalised. The 150 m^2 was recommended based on the location, proximity to neighbouring properties and residents and the existing establishment. Council's recommendation is also consistent with the advice of the Wollongong LPP. It is noted the outside deck area is not included in the total floor space calculations as it does not fulfil the requirements of an enclosed structure.
Out of centre development / detracts from the CBD (Two Submissions)	The site has previously been used for approved commercial uses and has an approved use for a General Store. It is not expected that formalising the permissibility of a single small scale local café on the site will have an unacceptable impact on the nearby business centre.
Development controls required if the Planning Proposal is finalised (Two Submissions)	Should Council resolve to adopt the proposed amendments, a Development Application will be required to operate a Restaurant or Café on the site. The Development Application will need to provide an assessment against the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 and Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009.

Submission Issue	Response
Accounts for the loss of registered pubs and clubs in Port Kembla (One Submission)	Noted.
Waste / cooking exhaust extraction and associated smells (One Submission)	The assessment of any Development Application on the site for a Restaurant or Café will consider waste arrangements and any approval may include relevant conditions. Council officers undertake food premise inspections to ensure compliance with food safety standards.
Café should operate on existing Commercial zoned land (One Submission) Restaurant or Café is inconsistent with the R2 Zoning (One Submission)	Historically, general stores / corner shops were located outside town centres to provide small goods and groceries to the local community at a small scale. The scale of the Café is considered to be consistent with the R2 Low Density Residential zoning, having regard to the context of the site and its history of use. The proposed 150m^2 size limitation will maintain an appropriate scale.
Site not appropriate (One Submission)	The site has a long history of being used for small scale commercial uses and is appropriately located to other uses in the area, servicing visitors and locals.

The community submissions generally showed support for the planning proposal. However, this support largely focused on progressing the Planning Proposal to enable the existing café on site, to continue operating. As recorded, a smaller portion of the submissions received supported the Planning Proposal to permit Restaurant or Café as an additional permitted use without referencing the existing café on site.

The community submissions, which objected to the planning proposal generally identified traffic management / deliveries / parking, noise, disturbance to neighbouring residents, operating hours, out of centre development / incompatible land use and waste management as the primary areas of concern. Waste management concerns included cooking exhaust extraction / smells and rubbish disposal.

The issues raised in objection to the Planning Proposal are relevant to the operating of a restaurant or café on the site and have the potential to impact nearby residents if not appropriately managed. In this instance, it is considered that the Planning Proposal has strategic merit and the use of the site as a small scale Restaurant or Café is appropriate on the site. Should the Planning Proposal progress, it is considered the impacts can be to be appropriately addressed and managed through the Development Application process.

As the site is within an existing residential neighbourhood, it is expected any future Development Application will be able to sufficiently address the site constraints, which includes, but not limited to, mapped flooding, acid sulfate soils and the Coastal Use Area.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 2 – “We have well planned, connected, and liveable places”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	**Service**
2.1 Urban areas are planned and well maintained to provide a healthy and safe environment for our community to live, work and play.	Land Use Planning

At the time the Planning Proposal request was received Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2032 was in force. The proposal was generally consistent with the Plan and Goal 1. Specifically, the proposal delivered on Strategy 1.5 “Maintain the unique character of the Wollongong Local Government Area, whilst balancing development, population growth and housing needs.”

The rezoning of the site is not specifically mentioned in any State, regional or local planning strategy.

The Retail and Business Centres Strategy (2023) – The Strategy identifies several sites where the approved retail use and current zoning are misaligned and recommends that a Planning Proposal be prepared to consider the planning setting for these sites. The subject property is not one of the identified sites.

The Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with –

- The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (2021)
- NSW Governments' Coastal Design Guidelines – Appendix 1: Assessment checklist for Planning Proposals
- Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 – Wollongong Community Strategic Plan (2025).
- Economic Development Strategy 2019 – 2029 (2019).
- Port Kembla 2505 Revitalisation Plan 2018 – 2043 (2018).
- The Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement (2025) - Attachment 3 provides an assessment against the 12 planning priorities.
- Council's Planning Proposal Policy (2022) – Council preference is to review the planning controls for precincts, rather than site-by-site requests.
- The Ministerial Directions under Section 9.1 of the EP&A Act.

The Planning Proposal request has a site-specific merit as the site has been used for retail purposes since 1965 and was approved as a General Store. The nature of retail uses on-site and more broadly has changed over the years. Local shops have been replaced by larger centralised supermarkets (e.g., Warrawong Plaza). Coffee shops and cafes have established in town centres and out of centre locations.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Proposal request does not have any sustainability implications. If approved, it will enable a development application to be lodged for a café use to continue in an existing building.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Planning Proposal request relates to the land use of a particular site. It is not expected to raise any significant risk management issues for Council.

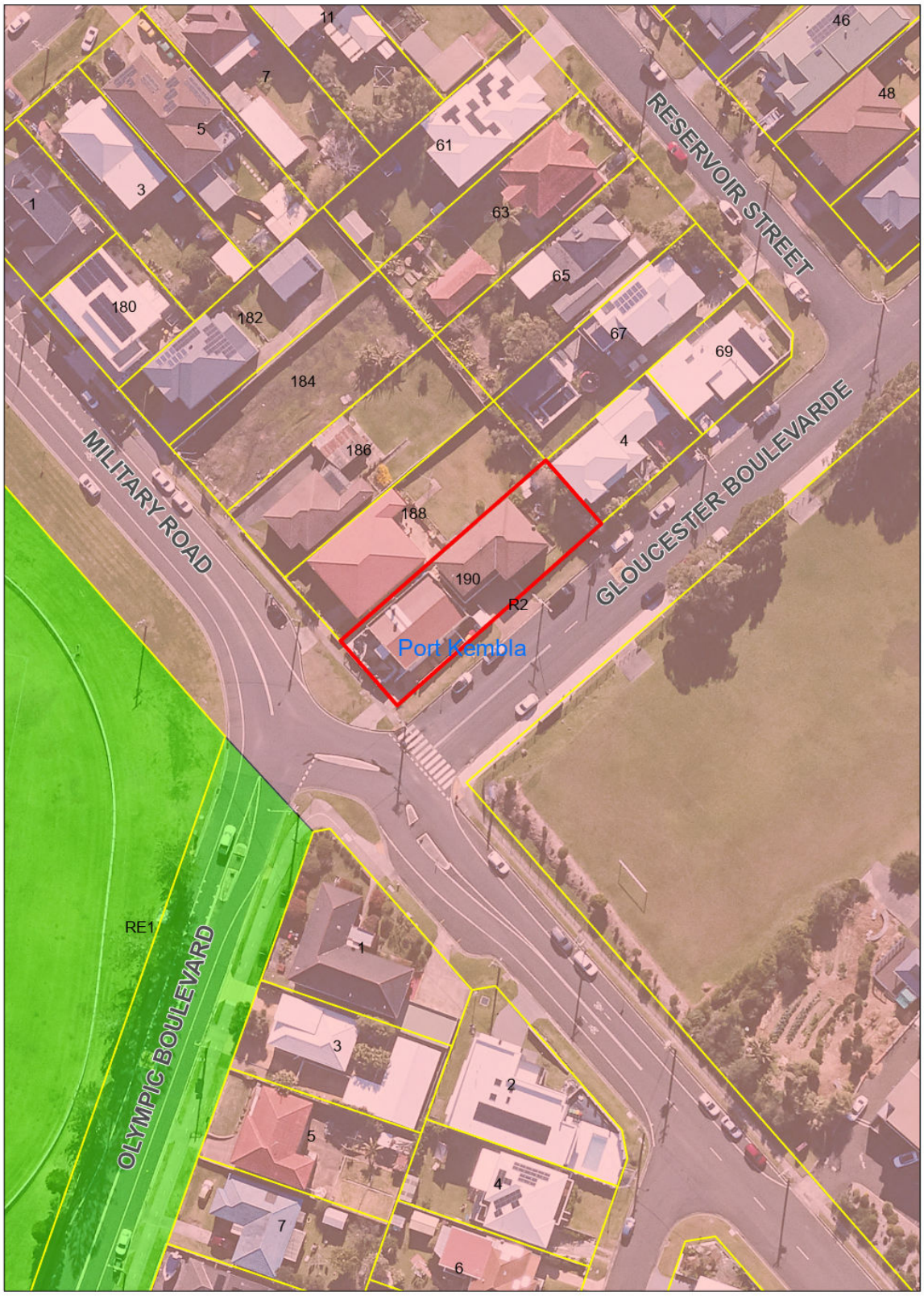
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Proposal request has been lodged with the required assessment fee in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges. The request has been assessed predominately by the Land Use Planning Team utilising Council's current resourcing budget.

CONCLUSION

The Planning Proposal seeks to amend Wollongong LEP 2009, Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses to include "Restaurant or café" as a permissible use on the site. The proposal will enable a Development Application to be submitted to formalise the use of a café, which occurs on the site.

This report recommends that Council resolve to finalise the Planning Proposal as an amendment to the Wollongong LEP 2009.



190 Military Rd
Port Kembla

Subjetc Site

N W E S

0 10 20 40
Meters

Public Exhibition Feedback

190 Military Road, Port Kembla

Table 1: Our Wollongong Engagement Page Comments 1
Table 2: NSW Planning Portal Submissions 34
Table 3: Email and Letter Submissions 35

Table 1: Our Wollongong Engagement Page Comments

(submissions with no comment removed)

No.	Comment	Suburb
1.	I strongly support the proposed amendments, and believe that the existing business should be able to continue trading on this site. Cakes by Rach actively contributes to the sense of community in this area, and provides a service not otherwise available in this locality.	Unanderra
2.	I support amending existing planning controls to permit the operation of a café/ restaurant at the site.	Thirroul
3.	Cakes by Rach has already proven to be a successful business. The owner and her staff have created a vibrant meeting place for locals and others from further afield. They provide excellent service and food, support the local community and welcome cyclists, walkers and other groups. The cafe is well located close to the Hill 60 Lookout, local beaches and a popular shared walking and cycling path. For cyclists riding the well known north-south cycling route, it is a welcome refreshment stop, there is not much else on this route either north or south of this location. It is the only cafe in the area which is open 7 days a week. Over the years a wonderful vibe, many friendships and a strong sense of community has been built. It would be an enormous shame to shut it down. I urge the Council to give all the support they can to the owner of the business and the landlords to ensure a positive outcome for everyone.	Unknown
4.	A cafe is needed there because of all the cyclists, walkers and mothers with prams in the area	Barrack Heights
5.	I am part of a group of retired cyclist who do regular rides around Wollongong to keep fit and socialise. The “socialise” part is very important, particularly for people in our group who live on their own. One of our popular rides goes from Berkeley to the inner harbour and return. As part of this ride we stop at the Rach Café on the return trip. There are not many suitable café’s which can accept a reasonable size group and have space to park our bikes. We would very much like to have the café continue to be able to operate, so that we can continue to have this meet up place which is so important to us. Please do NOT force it to close.	Coledale
6.	Great idea. Cakes by Rach deserves to stay open!	Figtree
7.	They should stay it’s the best cafe I’ve ever been too	Warrawong

No.	Comment	Suburb
8.	I support the change to allow the cafe to continue to trade. It is very much needed in the area.	Haywards Bay
9.	Fully support Cakes by Rach to continue trading at this location. Such a great asset to the community.	Shellharbour
10.	In favour of the proposal Great for the community	Port Kembla
11.	Council needs to approve this, it is a social hub for all age groups of the community	Primbee
12.	Changes should be made to support the continued use of this property in it's current format which has been successfully supporting the community for a long time	Albion Park
13.	I think the current Cakes by Rach is a great venue and serves visitors and the community well. It should be allowed to continue in that space.	Wollongong
14.	The cafe should remain where it is. I support the cafe.	Port Kembla
15.	I believe it should remain as it is, the building has been around for so long if anything was done to the building it would lose it charm to the area.	Port Kembla
16.	I think it's a suitable solution. The Cafe services the whole community and overall is of benefit to locals and tourists alike.	Horsley
17.	I agree with the proposal for this address to be used for the purpose of a restaurant or cafe. It is in a popular spot, provides access to food outside of the CBD, has the support of locals and the wider community.	Horsley
18.	Important to port kembla community. Amend zoning to include a cafe to operate there.	Port Kembla
19.	For years this proposed site was a Spanish restaurant which operated for years. Cakes By Rach opening in this location has had a significant impact on our local community. This is not due to excellent food or excellent coffee. But due to its location. It is in the heart of port Kembla directly between the two beaches on offer - MM & Port Kembla. Most people like to part taking in walking and cycling activities along the beach and this cafe is right in the centre. It is a now a meeting place for or locals and lovers of port Kembla. It is brining people together in the heart of port Kembla. The location is everything. Port Kembla has already lost its bowling club, the RSL and most of its pubs. Please do not take away one of the last good things we have left.	Lake Heights
20.	I fully support the business in its proposal. The area needs small business and this one is very community minded and an	Coniston

No.	Comment	Suburb
	active place for people to interact. They provide a place for people to relax and it brings tourists to the area. No other business around is impacted by them and the quiet nature of this business is unassuming to the neighbours I am sure. Central Wollongong has had to endure development for the sake of progression and I am sure PK can contribute to the Illawarra's attraction by providing this hospitality service. We frequent this business on our walks around the area and when we visit the beach. Bringing a positive vibe to PK is essential in it moving forward...away from its old stereotype. I know it has been hard to revitalise the main street, so every little success can contribute to bringing more people to this area. It has to be nurtured or this area will be forever resigned to fail.	
21.	The shop is situated in a great spot with a great deal of people coming and going	Port Kembla
22.	Yes it should be allowed Great food Friendly staff Employment	Haywards Bay
23.	The shop to stay open and more traffic control needed in and around the surrounding area.	Shell Cove
24.	There has traditionally always been some kind of milkbar or something there. Let the cafe open I suppose.	Oak Flats
25.	Cakes by Rach is a great place and needs to be granted approval to remain and trade.	Port Kembla
26.	Let them continue	Mount Kembla
27.	I support that the business remain as it attracts many locals and visitors to the area.	Port Kembla
28.	Please allow them to stay open in their current format. They are an asset to the community.	Port Kembla
29.	We love this cafe. Its the only one close to the beach in the area. It has been a great place to take our kids after a morning walk. Its positioned perfectly between the two beaches so you can go to it whether you are walking on MM beach or port kembla beach. There needs to be more cafes in this area but also the park at Port kembla beach needs to be fixed up. This would make the area a lot more family friendly and more like the areas around north/south beach in Wollongong.	Farmborough Heights
30.	This is a well known establishment in a great location. I think it should be allowed to trade as a cafe.	Figtree
31.	This venue has been used as a restaurant for years before Cakes by Rach and its a great venue to increase the quality of life in port Kembla it’s also a great spot for a cafe as it’s on the bike track you install in port Kembla	Wollongong
32.	The planning proposal is needed to ensure the cafe can continue to provide the great food and service it already	North Wollongong

No.	Comment	Suburb
	provides. The cafe is a meeting place for locals and visitors and a much needed permanent addition to the local area.	
33.	It's great to have the propriety zoned for a cafe/restaurant. This is a great location and benefits the entire community.	Port Kembla
34.	I support this location to continue as a cafe and a restaurant. I have been a customer at Cakes By Rach for years. It is good to have a cafe so close to the pool, and it serves different food and vibe than is available at the pool kiosk, which is the other closest place to grab a bite. I look forward to patronising Cakes By Rach this summer after swimming at the pool or beach.	Oak Flats
35.	This Cafe should be allowed my child went to 5 Islands & made it great to park have a coffee & feed as my child only stayed for couple of hrs we need to support small businesses & the people that run it are lovely	Dapto
36.	Keep it OPEN. We love it	Haywards Bay
37.	The Cafe has become a valuable asset for the local community and others like cycle and walk in the area.	Kanahooka
38.	I feel this venue is an uplifting and very positive addition to the Port Kembla community and should be allowed to go ahead	Warrawong
39.	Definitely great little business	Lake Heights
40.	Please allow the café at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla to remain. It's perfectly positioned along the coastal walking routes by the beaches and pool, serving locals, families, and visitors. The pool kiosk isn't open year-round, so a dedicated, year-round café/restaurant fills a clear gap-just as in other successful beach towns. Keeping this venue supports local jobs, activates the foreshore outside peak swimming months, improves amenity and passive surveillance, and encourages walking by giving people a place to rest and refresh. It would be an absolute shame to see it go. With sensible operating hours and good waste/noise management, the benefits clearly outweigh any impacts. I strongly support approval.	Wongawilli
41.	Any progress on keeping the cafe open is positive	North Wollongong
42.	I have visited this business a number of times. We like to drop in and have a coffee as there is no other coffee shops available. Staff are always wonderful the premises is clean with a great atmosphere that compliments the location. This business adds value and life to an area that could do a lot better. As a small businesses owner I understand the challenges faced. The owner operator gives the area something of quality that has been missing for a long time. Its now a meeting point, a rest stop while going for walks and a destination for people who wish to meet up for a coffee and to enjoy what Port Kembla has to offer.	Dapto

No.	Comment	Suburb
43.	Yes I agree think it's a great idea to operate as a restaurant / Cafe I love the food and coffee	Warrawong
44.	If WCC allows this cafe to operate in a residential zone it is setting a precedent for anyone to set up and operate a cafe or food truck anywhere in the Illawarra regardless of zoning. All the people that support Cakes by Rach may feel differently if a cafe started operating next to their home. I'm sure they would not enjoy the noise and traffic congestion Cakes by Rach should operate in a commercial zone NOT. Residential zone. I believe that ratepayers who buy in residential areas should be entitled to the lifestyle that entails. What is the point of zoning land if it is not enforced. I do not support allowing a commercial business (cakes by Rach) to operate in a residential zone.	Port Kembla
45.	Support.	Mount Warrigal
46.	Council should help keep the very popular business in operation in an area that attracts tourists and visitors to the area. Plus I enjoy a coffee and walk along MM beach when ever I am in the neighbourhood. I was born and raised in the Port Kembla area.	Dapto
47.	Typical council wasting ratepayers money. This cafe is a huge asset to the community on any given day. Make it happen and stop the crap & stress you are causing to the owner	Wongawilli
48.	It should be allowed to stay as a cafe, its Bern a cafe or restaurant for as long as I can remember and should stay that way. The zoning needs to accommodate restaurant/cafe	Horsley
49.	Just let the owners have the Cafe, its a great place to meet and the area needs it , please let the 3business flourish council stop with the negatively.	Koonawarra
50.	Cakes by Rach has been operating with no issues for many years at this location. I see no reason why this would need to change. Closing it would be a great loss to the community	Wollongong
51.	This is a great asset to the area. It's well run and provides much needed employment and amenities.	Windang
52.	Agree this proposal should be accepted and approved - a cafe or restaurant in this area is great for the community	Albion Park
53.	That cakes by Rach keep trading and make everything easy for them to have that business there. We are in need of businesses like this to bring in the pain in public keep others employed and give us somewhere nice to go for a change. Keep this business alive and kicking. Beautiful cakes, food, coffee tea, lovely location leave them as they are.	Albion Park
54.	This is a great initiative. Port Kembla needs more facilities like Cakes by Rach	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
55.	100% support, it's a great small business in a great location - we frequent the cafe weekly - easy to access and plenty of parking	Lake Heights
56.	Cakes by Rach is already trading and had been for some time. It's a reputable business that promotes community and helps young people by employing them and teaching then valuable skills. It's become a staple part of the community and is a gathering place for locals and serves the community in an exemplary manner. I support the planning proposal to be amended so as to enable submission by cakes by rach for approval to continue to trade and I give support for the approval of their submission. I believe it would be a grave failure of the system to not comply with the wants and needs of the local community. This planning proposal should be carried out in a way that supports this outstanding local business and enables it's future to be secured unreservedly. Please for what is necessary for this business to stay at ours current location and continue to serve the community.	Dapto
57.	Always been a cafe/takeaway for as long as I can remember, please keep it that way	Kanahooka
58.	While I support local business, I am concerned about someone who blatantly operated without approval for so long being enabled to get away with it. I disagree with the "It's better to seek forgiveness than permission" approach to operating a business.	Mangerton
59.	I think the business should be allowed to continue trading.	Woonona
60.	Cakes by Rach is a fantastic cafe much needed in the area.	Figtree
61.	It should not be used as a commercial site, because once this is done other places will want to have commercial sites in the vicinity	Balgownie
62.	I love that Council is finally on board and amending the site for approval of a cafe or restaurant. Though to not have the same issue in the future, perhaps the amendment could add other uses like an art gallery or activity space i.e. painting classes, yoga studio etc	Farmborough Heights
63.	Would like to see this proposal to go ahead. As long as I can remember there has been some sort of business there that you could get food. It is a place you can get food and drink and go for a picnic as there are at least 3 beaches close to the Cafe. It is the only cafe I know around there you can get something to eat and drink and the food is good. Wollongong council let the proposal go through.	Towradgi
64.	The Cafe has been an amazing addition to the community. It has become a meeting point for locals and tourists and offers a great variety of foods and drinks. It's the perfect spot to sit outside and enjoy a coffee or meal on the weekends where a lot of other cafes in port Kembla are closed (on Sundays). Parking is easy (compared to Wentworth st) and it's also in walking	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	distance from many homes. It provides a great employment opportunity for local youths as well. We need to support local entrepreneurs that want to open or invest in local businesses instead of big international franchises. I previously lived in proximity to the site [personal information removed] and I never had any issues with noise or unruly patrons. The cafe must stay in place!	
65.	Beautiful spot	Horsley
66.	Totally agree with the proposed planning, there are not enough cafes in Port Kembla and that's such a lovely cafe. It had been the Spanish restaurant before for many years so it is good seeing still as a place to catch up at.	Russell Vale
67.	What's the issue with a business there in the first place	Dapto
68.	I am in full agreement of the proposal. Cakes by Rach is an important part of Port Kembla and adds value to the area. It is the only decent cafe in the vicinity and it would be a great shame to force it to close.	Berkley
69.	I have eaten at Cakes by Rach on several occasions. I believe it is an asset to both local residents and visitors alike. Never a problem with parking. The noise level is low. Based on this, I believe there is no impact on immediate neighbours.	Dapto
70.	I believe Cakes by Rach should be able to continue as it is as a cafe restaurant. It is a valuable resource for area to build community networks and friendships that meet there regularly. I don't understand why WCC has it made it so hard fir the small business owner. Very frustrating.	Figtree
71.	Cakes by Rach should be allowed to stay. We used to go to the restaurant there before they arrived. No one made a fuss until there was a successful restaurant there. Cakes by Rach brings the community together as well as attracts people to Port Kembla.	Port Kembla
72.	This is an amazing community hub Such a buzz here due the community Bring life in port Kembla. Has amazing food and the staff are so friendly. Rachel the owner has done an amazing job to bring the community together. Need this place to stay and support a small business.	Warrawong
73.	Change the zoning and let her stay	Farmborough Heights
74.	As a local resident of Port Kembla, I strongly support the planning proposal which will allow the cafe to continue to operate. The cafe provides jobs to local residents, supports other local businesses and wholesalers as well as brings in non-residents to the area.	Port Kembla
75.	Great business for the area Posses no problem Travel down from Woonona for great experience	Woonona East

No.	Comment	Suburb
76.	I would like to see the proposal go through we need more cafes and restaurants in Port Kembla	Port Kembla
77.	I feel the cafe is a great asset to the community in the positive position to support locals to gather near the beach areas and without disturbing the community	Unknown
78.	I support the use as a cafe / restaurant as this is a positive addition to the tourist attraction of port Kembla.	Berkley
79.	We have been going to cakes by Rach since it opened. It's in such a beautiful spot, we take our dog for a walk and grab a coffee and breakfast on the way. It has gotten us out of the house more and has made the vibe of port Kembla so much better. To get rid of this business would be an injustice to port Kembla, especially in the summer time. The cafe isn't hurting anyone it's actually bringing more people into port Kembla then it would before. I would be terribly devastated if it were to close.	Warrawong
80.	The cafe is amazing and much needed in the area. In the summertime, there is nowhere near the beach to get food/drinks other than the kiosk at port Kembla beach which does not have good offerings. The next food/drink establishment is all the way on the other side of MM beach - Lo Stretto. There is so much demand for a cafe in that area near Port Kembla beach and I personally love going there, and have been going all throughout winter.	Warrawong
81.	It is not clear why this issue has bumbled along for many years, causing stress to the owners of the establishment. I have visited there many times, whilst I am not a Port Kembla resident, it is a well run place, with sufficient nearby parking WCC has done a great job revitalising Port Kembla's main street, which is now festive, alternative, friendly and safe. Let the neighbours decide, as they are logically most impacted, if at all. Create sustainable jobs, and nice places to walk, the location is great. You guys appear to be dinosaurs on this matter. Ok, it needs rezoning, we get it. It isn't a sex shop, a brothel or a dank hole in the wall, that is proposed, those unsavoury places are just up the road in Wentworth Street!	Horsley
82.	It's what the community wants & needs in the area. I understand that there are rules the council is required to follow for planning & are required to make decisions that the public don't like, but in this case common sense is also required in decision making.	Figtree
83.	It's necessary to allow for this business to continue to provide the community with what they need	Port Kembla
84.	Ok - I just want it to stay and do whatever you need to make it compliant.	Port Kembla
85.	They should be able to open the Cafe there.	Unanderra
86.	I very much support this Application. Cakes by Rach Cafe is one of a kind and is truly one of the best cafes in Port. The distance to the pool and the beach for summer is so convenient	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	and there is nothing of its kind around this area. The food, coffee and the atmosphere at Cakes by Rach is amazing and we love to meet with friends there and we often grab a coffee and walk to MM Beach. It'll be a very sad loss for the community if council was to remove this cafe.	
87.	Please go ahead. Cakes by Rach is a lovely asset to the community	Warrawong
88.	Parking needs to be restricted to avoid the bend on main road and on stop near crossing, extremely congested constantly. Becoming dangerous at the intersection.	Port Kembla
89.	Keep the café open. It is a great place to eat and have coffee in Port Kembla. It is not doing any harm to the community	Port Kembla
90.	I support the continued use of the premise as a cafe	Keiraville
91.	It should be allowed and I welcome the decision for the cafe to operate and continue as normal.	Wollongong
92.	I would like to support the proposal to allow the site to continue operating as a cafe.	Keiraville
93.	Allow the cafe to trade please	Port Kembla
94.	I am pleased with council's conduct in seeking to amend existing planning controls to rezone the land to allow Cakes by Rach to continue to operate. I am in full support of the proposal to allow the cafe to continue to trade and support the local community.	Towradgi
95.	I have enjoyed meals and coffee at Cakes by Rach at 190 Military Road on a number of occasions and I have appreciated the comfortable ambience of the cafe, the quietness of the area, and the quality of the food and the customer service. I have taken visitors from other cities to view Wollongong from Hill 60, a great way to understand the Illawarra as you can see through to Lake Illawarra and Shellharbour. After exploring Hill 60, we enjoy a coffee at Cakes by Rach. This cafe is a great asset to the Port Kembla Beach - Hill 60 precinct, providing quality food and service to both local residents and visitors to the precinct and adding to the quality of the experience of this very special but under- valued area. The food and coffee available at Port Kembla pool is very limited and only take away standard. I strongly support the re-zoning proposal that will allow this Cafe to continue and to thrive.	West Wollongong
96.	Let the business trade, it is a great addition to the area	Lake Heights
97.	This food Premises has become the heart of Port Kembla and is enjoyed by the community all year round. This cafe brings a positive space for the community to gather, with a short distance to the beaches and parks for children. This Premises should be approved as its impact to surrounding properties appears minimal with regards to traffic management. The Premises can be easily conditioned in such a way to assist the residential properties directly next door to manage noise and	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	other environmental impacts. As a resident of Port Kembla I'd like to see this proposal approved.	
98.	Stop wasting rate payers hard earned money by this feedback/review. The amount of money costing to do this meaningless, wasteful review is ludicrous. I cannot believe to approvals of housing eg) Corrimal Works that only benefits developers without any thought of road infrastructure. Do better Wollongong Council. Leave small businesses alone.	Corrimal East
99.	Exactly what the area needs. A meeting place for groups in the community providing many social and economic benefits to locals and visitors to the area. Without this open there are very limited options in the area for meetings and gatherings of groups and support networks	Port Kembla
100	Best thing that has happened near Port Beach in a long time. We had a shop there when I went to High School that sold food so I cant personally see the problem with this cafe	Lake Heights
101	I agree that Cakes by Rach should by approved by the planning department as per the proposal.	Albion Park
102	Any allowances for more hospitality venues nearby seaside areas is a good thing. It baffles me the amount of red tape - a beautiful place like Wollongong with 360 degree views from the escarpment to the sea and so few hospitality venues which allow views of this scenery. Let's make Wollongong a tourism destination!	Wollongong
103	Should be allowed to trade	Warilla
104	It protects local character while supporting community needs, tourism, and the local economy. The 150m² cap is a good compromise	Warrawong
105	I can't think of a better place to have a cafe! It provides a meeting place for community from schools, sporting events, the beach, children's park and the new skate park. It has a wonderful outlook and it is always full of people and life! Rach hires young locals and the personal touch that they all add to service is simply beautiful.	Port Kembla
106	It is a great community Cafe in an area lacking for like shops. It is regularly frequented at all times of the year. I don't see it as an impost to any residents in the area. Parking maybe, but come summer parking is poor from the beach	Farmborough Heights
107	love the cafe where it. Why is still being harassed. Give them a life already. Disgraceful it is taking so long.	Unknown
108	Great position for a Cafe or food premises. Seems like it should have been zoned to allow this already especially with how close to the beach it is	Berkey
109	I think it would be advantageous to the local community to amend the planning/zoning to include the use of the site for a cafe/restaurant. The local cafe brings business into the area & provides a reason for people to stay longer than they may have	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	otherwise. In the winter months, it encourages activity to continue along the local paths and beaches. Other high traffic beaches in the area have options all year round for food/drink, removing this option means even more people crowding into already congested areas (such as north Wollongong) to enjoy a meal/coffee close to the natural beauties of the local coastline.	
110	The location is not appropriate for the business. The property has no parking and situated on a busy junction. During Summer months there is severe congestion in the area for visitors using the 3 local beaches. The traffic congestion is exacerbated by customers driving up and down trying to obtain parking close to the cafe. There are ample cafes on Wentworth St and this is a more suitable location which can manage flow of traffic better. There are also numerous vacant shop fronts which would benefit from the presence of a cafe which is in keeping with the Port Kembla revitalisation plan. The premises is surrounded by residential properties. The noise pollution from this business commences from 6.30am and is open 7 days a week. The previous business at this location was only open periodically. This did not cause a persistent noise and traffic problem to neighbouring residents on such a scale as the current business does. The current business escalates noise pollution by offering outdoor music on the front deck where the artist is seated with a speaker on the front deck directly next door to the neighbouring residential property. The location is not suitable for a high traffic business.	Port Kembla
111	It should be allowed since its been similar type of business for over 60 years I see no reason why it needs to change now	Primbee
112	The cafe is a natural fit for the area. Just a wonderful feature of PK area. Please let it stay!	North Wollongong
113	The cafe should be permitted to continue trading as per usual. It brings a lot of business to the area and a local favourite.	Figtree
114	It brings a lot people into the community and is always busy which is what Port Kembla needs.	Port Kembla
115	Cakes by Rach Cafe is a brilliant local business that provides a fabulous service and employs local people, and should absolutely be able to continue its operations	Port Kembla
116	I write to provide my feedback on the Planning Proposal for 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. As a long term resident of Port Kembla [personal details removed], I have a deep appreciation for our community and its history. Throughout the years, I have visited establishments at this location many times, operating as a restaurant and now a cafe, and I have never encountered any issues or heard of any complaints regarding its operations. Additionally, I have fond memories of the property when it functioned as a corner store in the 80s and 90s. It has consistently served as a community	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	amenity, contributing positively to the neighbourhood without significant problems. It is both odd and disappointing to me that I feel the need to submit a letter of support for this proposal, given its longstanding role in our community. I have not heard any negative feedback from my active involvement in local discussions, which further reinforces my belief that this establishment has always been a valued asset. I strongly urge the council to approve the rezoning without delay, as it aligns with the community's needs and desires.	
117	I think that a cafe or restaurant, (the current one) provides locals and tourists a great spot to eat and drink or catch up with family and friends. it also brings tourism.	Wollongong
118	I am not very happy regarding the planning proposal of 190 Military Road Port Kembla . I find this issue so sad as the last owner spent over 20 thousand fitting g out new kitchen and restaurant only to get knocked back by council. New tenant comes in (cakes by Rach) knowing there was no approval to have a shop but still went ahead Does council know that Port Kembla swimming pool kiosk has a radius. Where 190.military road encroaches in that radius. I was thinking of opening up.shop only getting told by council only domestic use. this was prior tenant now moved in. Just letting Wollongong city council know I will be taking Wollongong City Council to court. if this goes ahead. Basically it's good for one but not the other. I will proceed with my legal team	Unknown
119	I feel that cakes by Rach is the only decent cafe that brings community views of the local people to life. I look forward to grabbing a coffee and a friend smile from the locals in the morning down there. If cakes by Rach was to unfortunately close I would seek coffee in other suburbs as the other cafes just don’t have the same vibe. Unfortunately I think this is a common belief of the locals and by closing cakes my Rach would unfortunately hurt other local business’s with less foot traffic to the local port Kembla shops etc from others not coming from outside port Kembla community and staying in Wollongong etc instead of coming to port Kembla for the day or morning. Please keep the cafe open the community want it to stay this way.	Warrawong
120	Has been there for some time and having had coffee there a number of times believe Council should accept this variation and agree	Woonona East
121	It’s a great cafe that serves the community, fabulous place to catch up with family and friends. Also Providing job opportunities for locals. It would be sad to see this cafe close. LOVE CAKES BY RACH.	Port Kembla
122	Allow it to go ahead and support this business. Have some common sense.	Woonona

No.	Comment	Suburb
123	Please keep the cafe! If anything we need more cafes and restaurants around port Kembla	Cringila
124	Allowing cakes by Rach to stay and going ahead with the planning proposal would be the best thing for port kembla. This is a thriving cafe that is not only heavily used by locals it also draws outsiders into port kembla something that the main street doesn't do. Since the cafe has opened there has been a buzz around this area that was previously lacking. The street feel safer as they are now filled with people visiting the cafe all year round not just in the typical summer months.	Port Kembla
125	I support the proposal. Tho Cafe positively contributes to the liveability of the local community, encourages people to walk and ride instead of getting in the car for everything, and creates and maintains jobs within the community. Ultimately it is a drawcard for the suburb that encourages people to enjoy Port Kembla both as residents and visitors alike.	Port Kembla
126	I fully support ongoing use of this address as a cafe We have attended when it was a Spanish restaurant	Mount Keira
127	Excellent place to socialise and have a great meal in a great location	Port Kembla
128	I believe the cafe should be given the right to operate given that it's proven itself in the recent years proceeding this application & the difficulty small businesses face surviving their initial years. The operating hours should be limited to normal business hours so that there is minimal inconvenience caused to residents in the immediate vicinity. Furthermore I believe council should be investigating it's own procedures, a non-permitted use of the land was allowed for however long it was before council realised?	Dapto
129	I fully support the planning proposal allowing Cakes By Rach to continue operations.	Windang
130	Should go ahead	Windang
131	Please keep cafe open Perfect cafe for our area and very much needed	Port Kembla
132	I think it's a great boost to the community having the Cafe there	Bulli
133	So glad this zoning is being considered. The cafe should stay! I am for the cafe!	Lake Illawarra
134	This is such a meeting place not just to locals but to those further afield. It is a wonderful cafe and the location suits the ambience provided by the owner. Please change your regulations to allow business continue operating.	Albion Park
135	I'm supportive of the operation of a cafe and similar commercial operations at 190 Military Road. Given its convenient location proximal to park and beach amenities and the minimal disruption caused by these ventures I think it's a great addition to the local community in an area I frequent.	Mount Saint Thomas

No.	Comment	Suburb
136	Allow the restaurant	Port Kembla
137	I am very fond of the cafe and in favour of the proposed changes.	Windang
138	[personal details remove] born and bred in Port, all my life this premises has served some form of food and drink through various businesses. I don't understand what the hold up is, let the business operate and I fully support the amendment. Should have never come down to this or taken this long!	Port Kembla
139	I fully support the continuation of operations at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. Cakes by Rach provides a great service to the community and contributes positively to the local area. It is well-managed, has a welcoming atmosphere, and adds value to Port Kembla both socially and economically. I believe the business should be allowed to continue operating as it stands, as it enhances the character of the neighbourhood and provides benefits to residents and visitors alike.	Port Kembla
140	Cakes by Rach Cafe is a fantastic asset to the area. Walking distance to the beach so you don't have to drive to get a great meal and lose your parking space! Driving past it is a beautiful space with the outdoor seating and adds amenity to the area. The food and stay are amazing. It can only be a good thing for the locals and tourists	Windang
141	I am baffled how this has not been approved yet. This is a clear example of how incompetent WCC is and out of touch they are with what this community wants and needs. Please approve so this simple cafe can operate and earn a simple living without all the ridiculous red tape!	Port Kembla
142	I believe the current business should continue operating within the block.	Figtree
143	I am writing to express my strong support for the Planning Proposal to amend the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to permit the additional use of "Restaurant or Café" at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. Café By Rach is a much-loved local business that contributes to the vibrancy, connection, and liveability of our community. Allowing the café to continue operating will not only support a small local business but also encourage active transport such as walking and cycling, and provide an inclusive meeting place for residents and visitors. I fully support this proposal and urge Council to approve it so Café By Rach can continue to thrive and serve our community.	Shellharbour
144	I am in favour of Cakes by Rach being able to continue trading as normal. I understand the reasons behind these issues, but based on the historical site use this entire process has been ridiculous.	Primbee

No.	Comment	Suburb
145	I support Council's proposal for Lot 1 Section 5 DP 978082, 190 Military Road, Port Kembla to permit the additional land use of “restaurant or café” on the site, with a maximum gross floor area of 150m2, and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination.	Coalcliff
146	Meeting place for my friends and I for coffee or lunch. We go there than walk to beaches to enjoy fresh air and beautiful scenery. Also convenient for being with my grandchildren [personal details removed]. I go to Cakes by Rach at least once a month and meet up with different friends at different times. I moved [personal details removed] to Stream Hill but consider this cafe a convenient and pleasant place close to home.	Stream Hill
147	We frequent the Cafe, it's a great spot with great pricing. Anything that helps keep it alive as its much loved by a large community	Oak Flats
148	The coffee establishment is in a great spot. For tourism and providing work for the community	Albion Park
149	I am in support of the business operating as a cafe. There is not a lot of options around the two beaches for food or coffee, it should stay.	Unanderra
150	I oppose the application. This is a residential area, and the business is not suitable for this location. The current owners always knew that the business wasn’t permitted but they just didn’t care and hoped to get away with it. By approving them now all you are doing is validating their contempt for Council rules and procedures. Traffic is heavily impacted by the continued operation of this business.	Port Kembla
151	I believe the site should stay there. There are very few cafes in the area and it has notary in the Wollongong community	Wollongong West
152	[personal details removed] For many years it was a neighbourhood store. As an Illawarra-based NDIS Service Provider and take many of my clients there as Rachel's has a good & diverse menu, excellent coffee, friendly inclusive community space, respectful, wheel chair access and easy parking. There are no other cafes nearby since the one at the pool closed (quality there was poor anyway). Whilst the tenant and owner may have not gone about this the right way, the community is wondering why council staff did not pick up the breach of DA and followed up after SEVERAL years. I fully support this new DA change and hope that council will work with the tenant of Cakes by Rachel and owner to continue this successful and community orientated cafe	Mangerton

No.	Comment	Suburb
153	Wonderful facility at that end of Port Kembla.	Kemblawarra
154	Great business! What the area needs	Wollongbar
155	I don’t see how this saga has dragged out. It’s so wrong on so many levels, it’s a joke and there are so many people that are so against this proposal and not speaking out. Rachel knows too well that from the very beginning that when she moved into the premises it was not fix for being a cafe. Furthermore there people that have wanted to go in as a food premises that got knocked back. Why is that Rachel is so special. I believe that this will blow up and you will have more upheaval coming your way. Not happy at all, there are so many locals that don’t want this and believe it’s a sham.	Port Kembla
156	This is a wonderful cafe and a much needed community meeting point. They employ local youth giving opportunities that would be harder to obtain in the area given the limited businesses of this nature in the IMMEDIATE area, it also brings competition to the Kiosk at the beach which should be welcomed. the staff are wonderful, the food and coffee are quality. I utilise the cafe for MANY business meetings over coffee and cake and can't think of anywhere I'd rather be.	Coniston
157	This is an asset to the community, please let this lovely business continue.	North Wollongong
158	I support allowing Cakes by Rach to continue trading as it is located in a location that supports local tourism, local employment and active transport. As a cyclist I have stopped there numerous times as it is on a well used cycling route, and there are no other suitable cafes nearby. We used to often stop at what is now the Lo Stretto Cafe Restaurant at the Port, however some years ago the previous owners banned us bringing our bikes onto the site (we understood due to NSW Ports insurance issues). They are now more restaurant than casual cafe, and because we get concerned about our bike being stolen, we now stop at Cakes by Rach as there are no other suitable cafes near the bike route through Port Kembla. In addition, where they are located caters for visitors to Port Beach, to King George V oval and playground, parents/grandparents dropping off kids at Port Kembla Primary school, and to the nearby Five Island Secondary School. That doesn't take business away from the Port Kembla commercial centre as no one at those locations is going to walk or drive there just to find a cafe, whereas Cakes by Rach is within easy walking distance from those areas. As such it has become a popular community hub and meeting place and so performs an extremely valuable public amenity. Of	Wollongong

No.	Comment	Suburb
	course it also provides employment to many. As it has been a commercial premises for 60 or so years, it has a long standing moral right to continue to trade which should recognised by rezoning as necessary to allow it to continue to operate as a business providing valuable support to the community.	
159	I am writing to express my STRING SUPPORT for planning proposal P P– 2025/1–190 Military Road, Port Kembla, which is currently under preliminary exhibition notification. This proposal is an important step in preserving the long standing cafe at the site. The cafe has served the community for decades as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community. By allowing additional permitted use as a cafe, this proposal will reinforce this vibrant local hub, and ensure that generations can continue to enjoy its value as a necessary food service and focal point. By allowing for appropriate additional use as a cafe, this proposal will reinforce this vibrant local hub and ensure that future generation continue to enjoy its value as a community essential food service and focal point. I encourage Wollongong City Council to approve this amendment to the Wollongong LEP2009 and recognise the continued benefits it will bring in fostering a strong sense of community and respecting the historical importance of this location delivering food options for the community. I look forward to a positive outcome that supports Port Kembla Port Kembla and Wollongong more broadly. This cafe (Cakes by Rach) is an integral part of the local community. Not only do they provide delicious food, drinks, amazing coffee and fabulous customer service BUT they also SPONSOR the 'Port Kembla Junior Football Club Under 12 Girls Division 2' team. This Cafe (CAKES BY RACH) supports the community. It provides quality food in an area that is geographically lacking in places to eat. It is an ASSET and a POSITIVE FORCE in the community.	Primbee
160	I support the permit for to operate for Cakes by Rach. I go there regularly with friends from Wollongong. I have not seen the streets parked out or preventing residents to park. It it is quite, does not have loud music and the staff are friendly and food and coffee are great.	Unknown
161	I support the proposal.	Port Kembla
162	I think the relevant history and issues are well outlined and I support making the necessary zoning changes to allow use of	Koonawarra

No.	Comment	Suburb
	the site as a cafe/restaurant. I am a regular visitor to the cafe and use the area frequently for active recreation (surfing, walking, running and using the outdoor exercise equipment at MM beach). Cakes by Rach is fabulous.	
163	I support making whatever zoning changes are needed to ensure that Cakes by Rach can continue to operate. Its a great little cafe. It's totally within the character of the are, has the overwhelming support of the community and after reading the proposal I for one cannot see why there was ever any question that it fitted completely with the future plan for the area. Just fix this mess and stop messing these people around and let us all get on with enjoying this wonderful cafe in this lovely coastal area.	Koonawarra
164	Yes I agree with the planning proposal 190 Military Road Port Kembla To allow the Cafe to stay	Warrawong
165	There has been a commercial entity operating from this address for years. The current cafe has no negative impact on either the site or its surroundings and therefore should be allowed to remain. The zoning definitely needs to be amended to allow cafes as a permitted use for the R2 - Low Density Residential zoning. These hoops Wollongong Council has made the cafe proprietor jump through are absolutely ridiculous and the usual waste of time and resources that residents have come to expect from our Council.	Unknown
166	Please keep this absolute gem open. There should be no reason to close it.	Calderwood
167	This has been a business site for many many years and no issues have come from this. This is bureaucracy at it's finest. A business should not have their livelihood impacted because of Councils (continued) oversight. There is no sound reason that Cakes by Rach cannot safely n soundly continue to operate at this site as they have been for many years, and into the future. If Council is concerned with the site then put a caveat that IF Cakes by Rach (current owner) chooses to cease trading then site can return to Councils preferred zoning.	Shellharbour
168	This cafe is an important part of the local community and I fully support the proposal to allow it to stay. I frequent the cafe regularly and always see young families, couples, friends and the location of the cafe is the major factor to why people want to visit.	Fairy Meadow
169	I believe the proposal should be supported given the historical circumstances and the fact the cafe has been in operation for some time without issue.	Balgownie
170	I support the planning proposal, to allow the use of this location as a cafe, or to serve food and drink. This site has been used for this purpose for a long time and contributes to Port Kembla's attractiveness to visitors and	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	residents, particularly those spending time at the beach or in and around the Hill 60 and King George precincts. With the beach, Hill 60 and King George all being key (planned) elements of Council's broader planning approach to Port Kembla, having an available food and beverage business located here make sense. I support it staying that way.	
171	Cakes by Rach is such a good space and should stay. Having been going there for years as I ride my bike around the Lake. Great shop, great service, great food.	Dapto
172	I do not think it should be approved, my reasons are: If this cafe owner sells and a restaurant moves in her place what protection is there for neighbours of this. Increased traffic for surrounding neighbours. If you approve this you approve all cafes in residential zones. You have not listed opening and closing hours? You are starting a dangerous precedent in residential zones. Why have this zone if someone can force you to change it? What protection do I have as a resident in another suburb you won't approve a cafe next to me. If you were to approve Please be sure you put in the times that you allow building works to be carried out for the sake of the neighbours. My general advice is separate the feedback of those who support the business from what could be there in 10 years. This is what a council should be thinking about.	Figtree
173	I think the planning proposal should be approved - I 100% support Cakes by Rach operating at that premises and think the way Wollongong City Council have managed this entire process is ridiculous. The site has been operating as a commercial space since 1965 and watching the council put a local business through this kind of process has been very disappointing.	Berkeley
174	I strongly support the proposal by the 'Cakes by Rach' to continue operating their cafe at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. I regularly ride my bicycle through that area with friends & solo (following the Illawarra Cycleway route) and enjoy stopping for coffee or lunch at the cafe. My wife and I regularly also drive to the cafe specifically to have lunch. It would detract greatly from the area if the cafe was to close. This is particularly so since the SeaScape Cafe at the outer harbour closed in 2020. The replacement business (Lo Stretto Restaurant) is not all accommodating for cyclists wishing to stop for coffee or lunch when passing nearby on the Illawarra Cycleway. 'Cakes by Rach' is a wonderful business and should be allowed to continue operating where it is now.	Shell Cove
175	Please approve this - great vibe and location . Go there once a week because of the vibe and the staff are so welcoming and	Shell Cove

No.	Comment	Suburb
	friendly so is all the people we have met there enjoying their day	
176	Cakes by Rach has provided an engaging cafe and community meeting place that adds to the vibrancy of the port Kembla beach vicinity as well as sorely needed options for enjoying the area. If anything more cafes and alfresco eateries would benefit the area.	Port Kembla
177	The Cakes by Rach business should be allowed to continue operating at the current premises on 190 Military rd port kembla.	Shell Cove
178	I do not think the cafe should operate in a residential area. The cafe should move to Wentworth St. There is no parking available and it's located at a busy and tricky intersection. I struggle as a resident to approach the intersection without fear of possibly hitting a pedestrian as there is too much activity and traffic. And the neighbouring homes would cope excessive noise from patrons at the cafe from 6:30am on the weekends. MOVE THE CAFE TO WENTWORTH STREET	Port Kembla
179	I agree that it should be able to operate as a cafe. There are no other cafes between there and along mm beach	Penrose
180	Planning changes need to be implemented to officially allow Cakes By Rach to continue operating at the site and to rezone the use of the property officially. This site has had restaurants on the site for many years and the locals and visitors have appreciated the ability to dine and have takeaway in the great location.	Cordeaux Heights
181	It's a great cafe and should be kept open	Avondale
182	This site has always been running as a food establishment for well over 40 years in the form as a fish and chips shop, restaurant and now a Cafe. There should be absolutely no reason whatsoever why the current Cafe business stop operating on this site. Its a gathering place for many locations and tourists to the area. It also provides local employment to young people. Council should definitely allow this great business to continue on this site without hesitation.	Horsley
183	Permission for Cakes by Rach to continue operation should be granted, its a great little cafe & brings only positives to the area.	Dapto
184	I support the planning for cakes by each to be operated as a food and beverage site.	Warilla
185	I support the proposal, it’ll be great for the area.	Mangerton
186	I believe the Cafe should be able to operate and the proposal granted.	Primbee
187	This property has always been a focal point for residents. It is similar to many suburbs that still enjoy an old neighbourhood corner shop many are now popular cafes.. This café is situated	North Wollongong

No.	Comment	Suburb
	along a popular shared path, the cycleway an important route in Wollongong Bike City tourist promotion. The area has schools, sport and recreation close to it. There is no other facility in the area for coffee and food. It would be a great disappointment for Wollongong to loose this well supported facility in Port Kembla.	
188	I Believe we should engage family owned businesses in Australia and promote cafes, restaurants and bars in our communities. Being a local this Cafe brings families and friends together. Why would we want take this away.	Lake Heights
189	This seems like a good proposal .there are very few decent cafes in Port Kembla that draw people from further away.it's also loved by locals. Why would the council not want to support?	Thirroul
190	I think that they should be allowed to continue to serve the community	Primbee
191	I agree with the cafe being open and fun 7 days a week: it provides a great service, awesome location and exactly what port Kembla needs. It's a great spot to stop at when I travel to port Kembla from shellharbour	Flinders
192	I agree that the planning proposal should be approved. This brings tourism and vibrancy to the community as well as providing employment opportunities.	Helensburgh
193	I agree with the proposal to re zone in order to allow the cafe to stay. It is unobtrusive and provides a great meeting place for locals and visitors. It also provides employment opportunities	Shellharbour
194	I think the proposal is the best way to allow local business to continue and thrive in the area. Based on this proposal and hopefully other amendments, local businesses can continue to operate and drive the local economy.	Berkeley
195	Great location, use it frequently. I have a part of the Port Kembla Cricket Club and it is one of our go to locations.	Berkeley
196	Having enjoyed the existing business I fully support the proposal to facilitate the ongoing use of the current café operating on the site. It can only be of benefit of the local area and tourism	Unknown
197	Cakes by Rach is an integral part of the Port Kembla community. It is perfectly located to service patrons visiting Port Kembla Beach, MM Beach, Fisherman's Beach, the ovals, the lookout etc etc. It made no sense to me that they were ordered to close when similar businesses had been operating from the premises for many decades without issue. I support the re-zoning decision.	Port Kembla
198	You let the place operate as a restaurant for the last 2 or 3 decades. If there was an issue with noise or traffic why wasn't something down then. So why shut down a cafe out of the	Berkeley

No.	Comment	Suburb
	same building. It's Ridiculous. Just rezone it. It attracts people to the area of port Kembla.	
199	Would greatly approve of the planning proposal. Cakes by Rach is a valued business within the community.	Port Kembla
200	100% in support. Why is it even a question whether this small business should be allowed to continue there. A no brainer in support of it continuing. Local in Keiraville, visiting all parts of Wollongong and Illawarra regularly and am a customer. Not connected any other way.	Keiraville
201	I'm in favour of this enterprise and feel that it has positively contributed to the Port Kembla community since being established . It's very popular and it's the only Cafe in full time operation in close proximity to the playground, sports ovals, Port Kembla and MM beaches. If the business were to close it would have a negative impact on the community, employment opportunities for young people and the Port Kembla foreshore.	Port Kembla
202	I use the cafe frequently although living 10 kms away. It is such an asset to the local community as well as employing local youngsters & supporting financially so many sporting teams. It would be a travesty if this business was forced to close	Unknown
203	Allow them to operate a cafe on this site	Windang
204	this DA/Planning update should not go through. it will set a terrible example for the business community and for WCC. the owner of the business was told prior to opening the venue that the DA was not current for a cafe/restaurant setting and that it was permitted for only a milk bar or retail store. further to this, the owner was given multiple dates to close which did not happen. the owner did not have a grease trap and necessary waste management planning and quickly had them installed when given a infringement notice. If this DA goes through this gives locals the idea that you can open anything in the area and use almost any excuse or put pressure on local government to get your way. there is a clear negative attitude about the business undertakings which first hand has affected the local port kembla community. the smell of the range hood has affected the local neighbours, the sound of trucks stopping in front of the shop is irritating and the playing the victim card is not what our community is about. if this goes through i do not see a reason why i cannot renovate my warehouse into a nightlife style business without any DA requirements. the DA approval will also effect the local housing prices due to change of zoning and/or change of DA for the property.	Port Kembla
205	The cafe has been a positive addition to the area, bringing together locals and other groups visiting the area. It provides a positive and calm environment and it is an asset to the area. Rach and her team are supportive of local businesses, services	Lake Heights

No.	Comment	Suburb
	and communities. It would be in Port Kembla's best interest to make the changes.	
206	Support	Lake Heights
207	This is a great place for the community to gather, catchup after a swim at the pool or after a walk around the beautiful surrounds. There is no other place to gather in this particular area so we need to keep it.	Kanahooka
208	Approve great business for many customers and no issues	Shellharbour
209	This location has been a place for community to safely gather, and enjoy great hospitality for many many years. The Cafe adds a vibrant atmosphere to the area.	Port Kembla
210	Keep cakes by Rach operational in port Kembla!!! It's the best thing for the community. The site has always been a hospitality business. The owner is so dedicated and devoted to their business, staff and community. And has fought tooth and nail for this. She deserves to keep this cafe alive!	Cringila
211	Watching the local community meet at the cafe and the support is wonderful. Approving the proposal will only strengthen our community	Port Kembla
212	Love this cafe. Close to dog beach and pet friendly. Please allow them to continue operation.	Mount Keira
213	Cakes by Rach is mine and my best friends favourite Cafe. It's in a beautiful spot in Port Kembla and should be kept as it is good for the community	Oak Flats
214	I sincerely hope this proposal goes ahead! This cafe is an absolute drawcard to the area and enjoyed by many	Port Kembla
215	I grew up in Port Kembla and this property has always been some sort of cafe/milkbar/restaurant. Cakes by Rach has become a cornerstone of the Port Kembla community and it would be detrimental to the community if it were to be forced to close. I have family who still reside in the area and regularly catch up with them at the cafe. It has also been extremely convenient when watching kids play sport at the fields across the road (some of who are sponsored by the cafe).	Port Kembla
216	I am in support of the planning proposal to allow for the Cakes by Rach site to be a cafe. Having previously lived in Port Kembla prior to the opening of this Cafe, there was definitely a gap in the market - no where to meet after a walk or run along the coastal path. I still frequent this area and it is obvious, by the high volume patronage, that this Cafe is filling that gap.	Keiraville
217	Submission 1 Cakes by Rach is a great little coffee shop which is used by many in the community I travel from Primbee to port for coffee with friends as this is a beautiful quiet spot to enjoy friend's company This little space should be allowed to stay as it is	Primbee

No.	Comment	Suburb
	Submission 2 This cafe definitely needs to be able to stay and serve our little community. Many locals and visitors to the are enjoy spending time and meeting other locals. Please allow this little cafe to stay. If The cafe was taken away it would be greatly missed to to the lack of facilities for the community to be able to sit and enjoy each others company either after a nice walk around the area or meeting other community members for a coffee or a nice meal.	
218	I believe that Wollongong Council should make the necessary changes to allow this cafe to continue on this site. Cakes by Rach adds to the Port Kembla community in a number of ways: * it provides a food and drink outlet for locals and visitors who council is already encouraging to visit the Port Kembla area, as well as people using the adjacent sports fields and schools. It is the only such outlet for a considerable distance, except for the beach kiosk which is open limited hours and only for part of the year. * the cafe provides a meeting hub for the community, which is otherwise without a central hub at this end of Port Kembla. It is used by informal and formal groups to gather and strengthen community bonds. * the cafe provides employment and work experience to many young people. The owner, Rachel, is a caring and supportive employer to young people first entering the workforce, as well as to more mature staff members. * The cafe hosts events to support people experiencing health and social concerns such as mental health and ageing, allowing community members to access information and support near their homes. * The site has been operating as a commercial venue for many years, and it makes sense to formalise its use as such.	Farmborough Heights
219	I love the cafe currently at the site and council should have the site rezoned so that it can continue trading.	Dapto
220	Support	Port Kembla
221	I am writing to express my strong support for the recent application submitted by Rach’s Cafe located at Port Kembla. As a resident and regular patron, I believe Rach’s Cafe is an asset to our local community. It provides not only high-quality food and coffee but also a welcoming and inclusive space for locals to meet, work, and connect. The café plays a vital role in fostering community spirit and supporting the vibrancy of our local economy. The application currently under consideration will enhance the café's ability to serve the community while remaining a sustainable and thriving local business. From my experience, the management has always been responsible, considerate of neighbours, and proactive in ensuring their operations are respectful of the surrounding area.	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	In particular, I would like to highlight that: * Rach's Cafe supports local jobs and often employs young people from the area. * The venue contributes to the safety and liveliness of the street, particularly during early morning hours. * The business has a proven track record of operating respectfully and within regulations. I urge the Council to consider the positive impact that Rach's Cafe has on the local area and to approve their application. Supporting small, community-focused businesses like this is essential for the long-term wellbeing and character of our neighbourhood. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.	
222	I support this change! I do however find it astonishing that such expense and red tape is required for a business that has clearly captured the communities hearts and is genuinely giving back.	Ryde
223	My family and I love to visit the cafe after swimming at PK pool. The cafe is intertwined in the fabric of Port Kembla's beautiful community. A perfect meeting point and creating jobs for the locals. I hope the council will acknowledge and respect the need for this cafe in this location.	Unanderra
224	I think the cafe is great for the area and generates lots of business and is needed in the area.	Port Kembla
225	I am in full support of cakes by Rach cafe to continue to trade at the proposed site. This cafe has reinvigorated this quite part of port Kembla.	Port Kembla
226	I am in full support of Cakes By Rach continuing to trade at 190 Military Road Port Kembla. The cafe is a great community hub for the eastern end of Port Kembla.	Port Kembla
227	There's always been a business in that location, and has been some sort of cafe for a very long time. Cakes by Rach is an excellent local business providing a service that is clearly needed in the area, otherwise it wouldn't be so popular. Nothing better than a hot Big Breakfast and a bucket of coffee after going hard in the pool on an early Saturday morning, or sneaking out of the office at lunchtime and grabbing something nice.	Horsley
228	Submission 1 Cakes by Rach has managed to build a beachside community. It's an inclusive and safe space, easily accessible by all members of the public. They have truly activated the area, far more than anyone else who has used the space. The thousands of signatures should have been indication enough for Council to permit them to stay. Submission 2 Cakes by Rach have proven they have community support. Since opening the cafe it has been a hive of activity. We walk along MM beach a few times a week and it's great we can pick-up a coffee and enjoy it while we walk. It has brought life to the	Lake Heights

No.	Comment	Suburb
	area let's face it... the building itself has been in use for decades.. I remember visiting a few times when it was the Spanish restaurant... why wasn't it questioned then? The location poses no harm to others and has been a great venue for me to catch-up with friends and family because it offers a friendly, safe and inclusive vibe.	
229	Cakes By Rach is such an asset to Port Kembla and the broader community of the Illawarra. Much-loved by locals, this cafe is also a drawcard for tourists. This business is the very definition of a great business citizen in our community. It employs locals, supports locals, cares for its staff and clientele in extraordinary ways, and is conscious of being a good neighbour. It provides a much-needed and well-supported hub and meeting place for local friends, cyclists, walkers, sportspeople and those enjoying our beautiful coastline. It is contributing to the renewed vigour of the Port Kembla local area and, due to its location, effectively complements other offerings in the area rather than competing. Given that this site has been in use for the purpose of food-based hospitality for many years, the continuation of use for this purpose for a business which has shown itself to be such a wonderful community asset should not be in question.	Cordeaux Heights
230	Supported. An establishment of this type is needed in this area. It operates year round, offers youth employment opportunities and social space.	Port Kembla
231	Please keep it it’s great for the community great place	Lake Heights
232	I wholeheartedly support the rezoning to allow Cakes by Rache to keep trading as a café. This venue is a much needed social hub that is enjoyed by locals and visitors. I live in proximity [personal details redacted] and have nothing but praise and support for Rache and her team. The popular cafe provides jobs for locals and is a massive impact in the revitalization of Port Kembla.	Port Kembla
233	Planning Proposal should be approved, cafe has been a fantastic addition to the Port Kembla Community, Securing Jobs and wonderful service for the local area. Traffic is not affected and i l close by Parking has not been an issue. Would be a shame to loose such a wonderful local business.	Port Kembla
234	Such a great place to have in Port Kembla, for locals & visitors to go to relax there & enjoy a meal with family & friends	Port Kembla
235	I support the reasoning to allow the cafe to operate	Wollongong
236	I work in Port Kembla and this Cafe is a God send. Great coffee and food and lovely staff running this business. Its always busy and it also give people visiting Port Kembla on a weekend a place for a beautiful coffee and breakfast and entices visitors to return.	Dapto
237	Cakes by Rach is an important community venue that provides a much needed additional venue close to Port Kembla beach and other community hot spots. I am highly supportive of this	Mount Saint Thomas

No.	Comment	Suburb
	proposal and hope that we can ensure this important small business can continue to operate for years to come.	
238	I support the ongoing presence of this eatery. I frequent this cafe in winter and summer. Food and service is of a very high standard. It is a local icon, well established and liked.	Berkeley
239	The proposal would allow an important port Kembla community to continue to run. We travel from our area regularly to visit	Wongawilli
240	The planning proposal is a tick box exercise that should have been put forward the other times and you should take the previous feedback on board that the majority of people support this business location (not just cakes by Rach) as they believed it already was one and no one ever complained about it previously. In fact, if council had managed this site properly this wouldn't be an issue now, would it? The people against, have conflicts of interest or relations to those who do. Hurry up and push this through, speed up the process and follow the recommendations given to you and approve this. The amount of times we need to continue to put feedback in is ridiculous and feels like some people are hoping the support drops, instead its added to frustration over council policies and procedures and where rates fees are going to. Feedback is: Approve already.	Port Kembla
241	I believe this Cakes By Rach is a vital part of the community of Port Kembla. I was born in Port and there has always been a business on this site, ranging from a corner store to a restaurant. Changing the zoning will only continue the previous usage of this site.	Dapto
242	**Correspondence 1** I am writing to express my strong support for the Planning Proposal PP-2025/1 to amend Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP 2009) to include Restaurant or café as a permissible use with consent, at 190 Military Road Port Kembla This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community. I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the advice from the Wollongong Local Planning Panel dated 12th May 2025 to enable a “restaurant or café” use on the site. Furthermore, I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the determination from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure dated 20th August 2025 to proceed with the amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to amend Schedule 1 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 to permit an additional use for ‘Restaurant or Café’ at 190 Military Road, Port	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	Kembla **Correspondence 2** The advice received from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) that, pursuant to section 3.34(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act), an amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (WLEP 2009) to amend Schedule 1 of the WLEP 2009 and permit an additional use for a 'Restaurant or Café' at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, is to proceed. We submit that the forthcoming public exhibition and Council resolution must reflect both: 1. The planning proposal as formally lodged with the NSW Planning Portal on 12 February 2025; and 2. The determination issued by DPHI on 20 August 2025, which endorsed the amendment to Schedule 1 of the WLEP 2009 to allow the additional use of 'Restaurant or Café' at the subject site. Importantly, and as communicated to you via email on the 11th June 2025, at no stage did the planning proposal or proceeding scoping document request any area limitations in relation to the amendment of Schedule 1. Equally, the DPHI determination did not impose such limitations, having considered and endorsed the proposal in the precise form submitted by the proponent. Accordingly, we strongly maintain that the proposal must proceed in accordance with the planning proposal submitted and assessed—without the imposition of additional limitations placed by Council without the consultation to the proponent—so as to give proper effect to the determination of the DPHI and to uphold the integrity of the planning process.	
243	The following statement pretty much sums up my support for the proposal for 190 Military Rd Port Kembla. The community would continue to be better for it. I am writing to express my strong support for the Planning Proposal PP-2025/1 to amend Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP 2009) to include Restaurant or café as a permissible use with consent, at 190 Military Road Port Kembla This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community. I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the advice from the Wollongong Local Planning Panel dated 12th May 2025 to enable a "restaurant or café" use on the site. Furthermore, I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the determination from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure dated 20th August 2025 to proceed with the	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to amend Schedule 1 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 to permit an additional use for‘ Restaurant or Café’ at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla	
244	I am writing to express my strong support for the Planning Proposal PP-2025/1 to amend Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP 2009) to include Restaurant or café as a permissible use with consent, at 190 Military Road Port Kembla This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community. I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the advice from the Wollongong Local Planning Panel dated 12th May 2025 to enable a “restaurant or café” use on the site. Furthermore, I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the determination from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure dated 20th August 2025 to proceed with the amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to amend Schedule 1 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 to permit an additional use for‘ Restaurant or Café’ at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla	Port Kembla
245	I am writing to express my strong support for the Planning Proposal PP-2025/1 to amend Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP 2009) to include Restaurant or café as a permissible use with consent, at 190 Military Road Port Kembla This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community. I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the advice from the Wollongong Local Planning Panel dated 12th May 2025 to enable a “restaurant or café” use on the site. Furthermore, I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the determination from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure dated 20th August 2025 to proceed with the amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to amend Schedule 1 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 to permit an additional use for‘ Restaurant or Café’ at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla	Port Kembla
246	I am 100% in agreeing with the zoning change to support this business to continue to operate as it currently does, and as small business has on this land for the previous 40-50 years plus.	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
	It is small cafes like this one that have turned the stigma of port Kembla from (lack of better terms) ‘junkie/dero’ to an up and coming, family friendly suburb with multiple areas for families to eat and visit.	
247	I love the cafe it's a great place to rest and have a coffee or a meal we need something like this in port Kembla	Port Kembla
248	As a local resident that needs to drive past the site to leave my house I am more affected than most. And I desperately want this to be successful. We need more of this type of business. A central place to gather and enjoy food etc. Port Kembla is underrated due to having no services away from the Main Street.	Port Kembla
249	This cafe has been operating for a while now. Don’t fix what’s not broken, it should stay in business.	Shell Cove
250	The thousands of locals who have rallied to support Cakes by Rach can’t be wrong. There is no other business as strategically located in Port, being opposite the college and the cricket and soccer grounds, within 200 metres of 3 beaches, and just down the hill from the new Hill 60 lookout. No one wants to drive to the dying Warrawong shopping centre for a coffee, or to Wentworth Street to stare at the sad street. I was born and raised in Port, and I know that his cafe site has been commercial since the 1960’s: corner store cafe, Portside Milk Bar, Spanish restaurant. Rachel and her amazing team have embraced the Port community. They provide a beautiful friendly relaxed place for locals and visitors to the Illawarra they and generously support local sporting teams and charities. Wollongong City Council needs to listen to the community and to grant the zoning changes required to allow Cakes by Rach to stay, so that they can continue to be a vital member of the Port Kembla community.	Port Kembla
251	Having cakes by Rach os this little store where the community can get together during holidays throughout the work day even before and after school has brought so much joy to so many around the area, growing up and always living in port has been great but if we had this before we would have been so happy to have this safe little hang out where the staff and community all look out for each other	Port Kembla
252	I support the objective of the Planning Proposal to amend the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP 2009) to permit an additional use for ‘Restaurant or Café’ upon the site through an amendment to Schedule 1 Additional permitted uses. The cafe is a valued part of the community and it would be to the areas great detriment should it be forced to close due to zoning.	Port Kembla
253	Should be allowed to operate as a cafe. Site has ways been commercial operation whether it was a cafe or restaurant in previous iterations	Port Kembla

No.	Comment	Suburb
254	Keep cafe open	Port Kembla
255	In support.	Lake Heights
256	I frequent this cafe and think that it would be a crime to society to close it down I've taken overseas visitors there and every one agrees it's in a perfect location for a cafe and much needed in our community	Shell Cove
257	This cafe is great for the area I often have breakfast if lunch and the team are wonderful please do not shut them down!	Primbee
258	'Im writing to formally object this Planning Proposal - 190 Military Road, Port Kembla While many public submissions have expressed support for the café, viewing it as a welcome addition to the area and a positive local business, it is important to also acknowledge the views of residents within the local community. It's my understanding several local individuals and businesses had previously shown genuine interest in leasing this property when it became available. However, they ultimately chose not to proceed, as it was well understood that development approval for a café or similar use would not be permitted under the current zoning regulations. Hence the 6 months period it was up for lease. (Jan 2021 – June 2021). WCC DA Register clearly shows that this site was refused several times, twice being for change of use to take-away shop. The property at 190 Military Road was leased in June 2021. Rachel subsequently registered Cakes by Rach as a business in September 2021, with its principal place of business listed in Woonona. It was not until June 2022 that Cakes by Rach Café was registered at the Port Kembla address. What was the owner's intent from June 2021 when commencing the lease given that a business had not even been registered yet.? If there was an intent to operate a café or restaurant at the site from June 2021, why wasn't a change of use permit requested than or seeking relevant legal aid. The business operator had over a year to seek the appropriate planning approvals for this location but chose instead to proceed without them. Three months after the café commenced operations, Wollongong City Council communicated with the current property owner and business operator about the lack of relevant development consent for the business activities. At that time, both parties were advised that they did not have consent to operate the site as a café. The business operator chose to commence trade contrary to this advice. I agree that the location is well-suited for a café or restaurant. However, zoning regulations exist to ensure consistency, fairness, and the proper planning of the community. My concerns regarding the current proposal are as follows:	Unknown

No.	Comment	Suburb
	1. Precedent and Planning Integrity • Approving this proposal could set an undesirable precedent that signals zoning laws can be disregarded if enough public pressure is applied. • What would prevent future applicants from bypassing planning regulations and then lobbying Council for retrospective approval, citing this case as justification? • What guarantees are there that the existing dwelling will not be demolished and replaced with a larger café or restaurant, further intensifying usage? 2. Parking and Infrastructure • The proposal lacks clarity on how it intends to meet parking requirements. • Council plans to construct a shared path/pop-up cycleway from Church Street to Olympic Boulevard, which will likely remove on-street parking along the western side of Military Road. - Question: Where is parking proposed for this development application? - There is currently no off-street parking provided, and what was once looked like it was available (Southern side where crossover is) is now being used for additional seating. - Deliveries and even drop offs by the owner park within this crossover and block the current pedestrian footpath. • If approval is granted, the existing building would need to be upgraded and certified to meet the minimum requirements for a Class 6 building in accordance with the National Construction Code (NCC). It appears the building was previously certified under earlier Development Applications (DAs) as a Class 1a structure. Given that CBR has been operating as a "Restaurant & Café" for the past three years, it raises the question of why neither the business operators nor the property owner have taken steps to upgrade the building to the appropriate classification within the year since leasing commenced in June 2021. 3. Traffic and Safety • Traffic flow at the existing intersection is already problematic. • The introduction of a high-traffic business and removal of the off-street parking from the pop-up cycleway may necessitate infrastructure changes, such as a roundabout or additional carpark created by council, which should be at the expense of the business and/or property owner. What is more disappointing is how has Council allowed this business to operate for so long? You overstay a 1hr parking, you get fined by Parking Compliance officer. You make late payment on your land rates, interest is applied. Minor sediment run off from construction sites leads to an instant fine by Council BUT you can run a small business without approval for three years without any ramifications. It just makes you think, how is this possible	

No.	Comment	Suburb
	without some support from someone within. Furthermore, it is difficult to ignore that the property owner stands to benefit regardless of the outcome. If the proposal is denied, they continue to lease the premises; if approved, the property's value is significantly enhanced. In either scenario, the owner appears to have taken little to no risk, potentially profiting from a situation that has placed the community and Council in a difficult position. Supporting small businesses is important, but it shouldn't come at the cost of ignoring planning rules or damaging the community's trust in how development decisions are made. Any decision here should be based on clear, consistent policies — not made after the fact or influenced by public pressure. It's pretty concerning that the owner of Cakes by Rach Café started trading without getting the proper planning approvals, raising questions about how much thought or research went into things before signing the lease. Other small business owners who investigated leasing this site did their homework and saw there was no DA in place for café or restaurant use — and chose not to move forward. Instead of following the right process from the beginning, the current operator is now seeking approval after the fact, supported by a community campaign that seems aimed at pressuring Council into changing the LEP just to make this unauthorised use fit. The push for approval now appears driven by the financial investment already made — but that was always a risk the owner chose to take. I urge Council to carefully consider the broader implications of this proposal on future planning decisions and community expectations.	
259	I strongly approve the proposal to amend planning and allow a restaurant/ Cafe to remain on-site at the above mentioned address. Cakes by Rach has been a wonderful addition to our local community. No other Cafe provides inclusive access for our friends and family for wheelchairs and prams and even fur friends! My kids already talk about wanting their first casual job to be a cakes by Rach! This area of Port Kembla has no other Cafe that brings community together in such a convenient and beautiful space. The hours are respectful and noise and traffic is never a problem. I hope to see this successful business here for many many years to come!	Port Kembla
260	I think that this is a good proposal as the business generates visitors to Port Kembla who might not ordinarily visit the area. It has a diverse customer base and promotes community mindedness.	Lake Heights

No.	Comment	Suburb
261	We are excited to continue the enjoyment of the Cafe at Port Kembla and be part of this amazing community. We fully support Cakes by Rach. Thank you.	Port Kembla
262	I strongly support the amendments to allow Cakes by Rach to continue operating. Since it's opening it has become an integral part of the community of Port Kembla and beyond. It has become a social hub for a range of people including parents and children, the elderly, workers in the area, local residents and those from further away. I live in Woonona and frequent the cafe on a regular basis as do many others from outside the general area. It provides employment for local people (particularly young people in the area) and supports many local organisations such as sporting clubs etc. To close this great asset to the area would have a detrimental effect on the community of Port Kembla.	Woonona East

Table 2: NSW Planning Portal Submissions

NSW Planning Portal Submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
1	I support the rezoning to allow a cafe or restaurant to operate in this area. I frequently visit the area to swim etc and believe a hospitality business in the area is a positive	Mangerton
2	My submission is in favour of keeping the café as it brings the community together in an otherwise area with no shops or cafés besides the café at the summing pool leased from council not far away in the same zone. The land use to be a restaurant for 20 years and had no issues. I am confused how it could be a restaurant and then council take two years and advise the café they cant operate. Council shouldn't have let them operate to start if the zoning was incorrect. We need more life into Port Kembla area besides just Wentworth St, which is dead.	Lake Heights
3	I am writing in strong support of permitting the additional use of Restaurant or Café at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla. Cakes by Rach is more than just a café it's a much-loved local institution that provides a welcoming space for the community. It is a small business that creates local jobs, supports other local suppliers, and contributes positively to the social and cultural fabric of Port Kembla. Council concerns about zoning are understandable, but this café operates responsibly, with respect for neighbours and the local area. Formalising its use will allow Rach to continue running the business in a compliant way, ensuring safety and accountability while keeping a much-needed gathering place alive in our community. I urge Council to approve this proposal. It will secure the future of	Fairy Meadow

NSW Planning Portal Submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	a local small business that genuinely enriches Port Kembla and has strong community backing.	

Table 3: Email and Letter Submissions

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
1	**Member for Wollongong – Paul Scully MP** I write in relation to the Planning Proposal on exhibition for 190 Military Road, Port Kembla (the premises currently operating as a cafe trading under the name 'Cakes by Rach'). This correspondence is provided in my capacity as the Member for Wollongong. This proponent-led Planning Proposal seeks a site-specific amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP) to permit cafe/restaurant use at this site, while retaining the existing R2 Low-Density Residential zoning. The proposal follows a Gateway Determination issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 20 August 2025, with the intended outcome to permit a Restaurant or Cafe to operate on the site, subject to development consent. Since 1965, this site has hosted commercial activities and the proposal before Council is consistent with the long-standing use of the site. Cakes by Rach is a well-established and popular local cafe that contributes to the vitality of the area, provides an important hospitality service, and supports local employment. I cannot see any short- or long-term benefits from preventing the continuation of this use, at this location, given the long history of the site as a commercial operation in various guises Further, I consider the proposed amendment to the Wollongong LEP to be consistent with the objectives of Wollongong City Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement and Economic Development Strategy by: • Strengthening local employment opportunities and supporting small business; • Maintaining vibrancy and services within the Port Kembla town centre; and • Encouraging economic resilience through entrepreneurship and community focused business activity. It is also important to note that Council has already received strong community support for this cafe through previous consultation and preliminary notification processes. This reflects the value residents and visitors place on Cakes by Rach as a much-loved local business and gathering place. While matters relating to amenity, traffic, or residential interface may be raised during this exhibition these can be suitably	Wollongong

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	addressed and mitigated through conditions of consent that do not unreasonably impact on the operation and viability of the cafe. The continued operation of Cakes by Rach at this location will sustain local jobs, contribute to the economy, and provide an ongoing service to the community.	
2	**Resident** I have no objections to the Cafe staying open. Port Kembla only has 2 cafes close to the water within walking distance from the beach. The café supports locals and provides a welcoming atmosphere when dining inside or out	Flinders
3	**Resident** I am writing to express my strong support for the Planning Proposal to permit a café/restaurant at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla, currently trading as Cakes by Rach. This café has become an important part of our local community. It is more than just a place to buy coffee and food – it has developed into a hub where people come together, connect, and build relationships. For many of us, it provides a welcoming space to meet with friends, colleagues, and neighbours, fostering a sense of belonging within Port Kembla. Importantly, Cakes by Rach has consistently given back to the community. The café has supported and sponsored numerous local sporting teams [personal information redacted], and has provided opportunities for young people to feel encouraged and included. This level of commitment shows that the café is not only a successful business, but also a valued community partner. The site itself has a long history of commercial use, and the café has proven to be a respectful and well-managed operation. Allowing it to continue operating lawfully would provide certainty for both the proprietor and the community members who rely on it as a gathering place. It would also contribute positively to the activation of the local area and the ongoing vitality of Port Kembla. For these reasons, I strongly support the amendment to Schedule 1 of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to include “Restaurant or Café” as a permissible use on the site.	Port Kembla
4	**Resident** I support this submission and believe it would be a great incentive for people to travel to the region	Kembla Grange
5	**Resident** I fully support the business being proposed at this address. It has been there for a long time, provides a service many people want and is a very popular place where people can meet and converse in a civilized way	Unknown
6	**Port Kembla Pollution Committee (PKPC)**	Port Kembla

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	This objection is submitted in two parts. The first part are comments regarding the recent public exhibition (27/8/25) of planning proposal 2025/1 whereby WCC is seeking feedback on amendments to Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the Wollongong LEP 2009 to include a restaurant or cafe. The second part of this objection is related to Port Kembla pollution Committee's (P.K.P.C) previous objection submitted to WCC on 20/3/25. Firstly: PKPC note that WCC's Planning assessment report – Executive Summary (DA 2024/330) specifically state: "The proposal is unsatisfactory with regard to the applicable planning controls as discussed……." If the proposal is unsatisfactory it remains unsatisfactory and attempting to alter Planning Controls to appease an illegal operation sets a precedent that has the potential to alter all zoning restrictions and zoning classifications both locally and statewide. Under Wollongong LEP 2009, a restaurant cafe is defined as...."serves food and drink". The dangers of altering residential zoning under the planning controls and subsequently altering the Wollongong LEP 2009 are very, very stark, as evidenced by the definitions (above) of Food and Drink and Retail Premises. It is conceivable that if (following alteration of the LEP) Cakes By Rach was to be sold it could be marketed as "Having the potential to be developed as a bar, pub, hardware store, landscaping supplies, markets, etc". The general residential community would have no lawful recourse to oppose any further changes to the type of business operation that might find its roots in a residential neighbourhood in Wollongong not just Port Kembla. WCC assessment report specifically states: "The lawful use of the site as a general store has been abandoned". "No past approvals have indicated food preparations on the plans". "Council recommend that the DA be refused". It is noted that the 1965 DA intentionally fails to include a restaurant and only approves a general store. Wollongong Council's recognition that "a shop/ general store have been abandoned by means of the land having been used for the different purpose of a restaurant" is strongly supported by PKPC. [personal information redacted] He states "My opinion…. On the facts I assume…..the land use rights conferred by 1965 consent and 1977 consent have not been abandoned" [personal information redacted] has not (apparently) provided any legal argument to support his opinion and assumptions, nor does he address the fact that the business operating today is not a general store (as approved in 1965) but a completely different	

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	business being a restaurant. [personal information redacted] relies on inference and assumptions to substantiate his opinions. [personal information redacted] opinion that “the original DA has not been abandoned” should be discarded. PKPC note that there is an attempt to use the business at 216-218 Lawrence Hargreave Drive Thirroul as a precedent. This business was/is also an illegal business operation and as such to offer it as precedent is abjectly wrong. Therein, lies the real dangers of approving the alteration of rezoning laws to approve an illegal business operation as new operators/ proponents (Cakes By Rach) are now attempting to use an illegal operation (Thirroul) to form the precedent to support further illegal operations. It is quite conceivable that Cakes by Rach (if rezoned) would be used in the future as precedent for other non residential purposes just as Cakes By Rach has attempted to use an earlier illegal business operation as a precedent. This practice needs to be arrested, the Wollongong LEP should not be altered to accommodate the application, and therefore Cakes by Rach should -as soon as practicable- be instructed to cease operating as an illegal business. Secondly: Objection Submitted On 20/3/25: The Port Kembla Pollution Committee (PKPC) would like to lodge a firm objection to the Planning Proposal Request referred to as PP-2025/1. The PKPC firmly object to ANY alteration of ANY current zoning particularly when it involves residential R2, Low Density Residential zoning. Our primary concerns are: 1: Illegal Past Operations: The past operations on the proposed site as a cafe were conducted illegally and should have been shut down as soon as council became aware of the illegal operations. Permitting the continued illegal operations to be conducted sends a message to the community that illegal operations are permitted provided council is comfortable with the operation. Furthermore, because council failed to recognise that the prior illegal operation of Spanish restaurant were being conducted, does not indicate that the operations were acceptable. It means council failed in their duty to the community to enforce the law. Previous compliance failures should not be considered a precedent for rezoning. Legal compliance is a fundamental requirement of any development application and past illegal activities should not influence current planning decisions or provide support for the promotion of any argument that suggests otherwise. The seriousness of the illegality of the current operation is abjectly displayed by:	

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	a- The illegal parking around the cafe, b- The congestion of what should be residential streets, c- The dangerous situations pedestrians are confronted with when using the crossing, d- The illegal U Turns by patrons wanting a particular parking space, e- The danger to cyclists by car doors being flung open. The most glaring affront to any attempt to permit additional use (rezone) of the property is the fact that the owner knew full well that she was operating illegally from the very day she commenced trading. This is evidenced by the fact that other potential operators withdrew their interest after discovering that the residence could not be used as a cafe. The fact the cafe/restaurant has operated illegally for four years makes a complete mockery of Wollongong City Council, WCC zoning restrictions and WCC regulation compliance. 2: Community sentiment and current success: While there may be community sentiment and current success associated with the cafe, these factors do not outweigh and override the current zoning regulations. Community “wants” and the “success” of illegal operations do not justify a change in zoning laws. Furthermore, we note that most of the community support for the cafe has come from people who do not live in Port Kembla. This proposal predominantly affects Port Kembla residents and as such support from anyone outside the 2505 post code should be discarded. 3: Comparative rezoning: Other rezoning in Port Kembla such as the Old Port Kembla Public School site (rezoned as a result of a suspicious fire) and the suspected [personal information redacted] towers in Quarry Street Port Kembla are false precedents and should not be used as justification for the alteration of zoning or rezoning of this site or any part of this proposal or in fact any proposal in Port Kembla. Each case should be evaluated on its merit or lack of merit and past poor rezoning decisions should not set a precedent for further spot rezoning. To use these rezoning failures as a precedent fully illustrates the argument that this proposal should be rejected because it opens the door to any other obnoxious proposal that might not “fit” in Port Kembla. 4: Parking Issues: The introduction of a cafe/restaurant in residential Port Kembla will exacerbate parking problems. The current infrastructure is not equipped to handle the increased traffic and parking demands that a commercial establishment would bring. This is currently evidenced by the chaos and near misses demonstrated on the adjacent intersection on any current busy day. The proposal would fail the basic parking requirement for a cafe given the dangerous intersection it is located on and the bus stop	

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	and pedestrian crossing located outside the front door. 5: Rubbish on Streets: The operation of a cafe will lead to an increase in rubbish on the streets around the cafe. This is already problematic for local residents who have to continually clean the streets of used nappies, coffee cups and plastic lids, food containers etc. This has already negatively impacted the cleanliness and aesthetic appeal of the residential area. 6: Potential for further “spot” rezoning: Approving this alteration of activities or rezoning proposal will set a dangerous precedent for further spot rezoning throughout Port Kembla. This “thin edge of the wedge “approach will lead to a gradual erosion of residential zoning protections, resulting in a patchwork of commercial and residential areas that disrupts community cohesion and planning integrity. If this proposal is permitted; it is not a giant leap to imagine brothels or needle exchange houses or micro pubs or any other non residential operation to take up roots amongst homes. People have bought into a residential area not a semi commercial area that has grown out of Wollongong Councils ineptitude to regulate illegally operating businesses. 7: WCC’s letter states the operation is NOT PERMISSIBLE. WCC has openly admitted in their letter to residents that “Despite the sites history, the current cafe is not permissible” The residents therefore have a right to ask “Why is this even a proposal that warrants consideration and response by the public?”. If WCC are fully aware that the operation is not permissible why is the cafe still operating. The fact that the cafe continues to operate fully sanctioned by WCC sends a very dangerous message to the public. 8: The alteration to the Zoning is not permitted under NSW legislation. The NSW legislation that deals with zoning regulations - particularly R2- does not permit a restaurant of cafe. The extract from NSW legislation (below) explicitly excludes restaurants and cafes. This request for an alteration to R2 zoning will have implications that extend to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and infrastructure planning rules and regulations and subsequently NSW legislation. Wollongong City Council will be asking the NSW Government to set a precedent that will change statewide planning rules and developments. All this as a result of an illegal operation. We strongly urge the planning committee to reject this alteration/ addition/ rezoning proposal. The integrity of our residential zoning laws must be upheld to ensure the long term well being and orderly development of our	

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	residential community..	
7	**Resident** I am writing this submission in strong support of the application to amend the Development Application (DA) for Cakes By Rach, located in Port Kembla, to reflect its current and longstanding operation as a café. Background Cakes By Rach is more than just a local café — it is a vital community hub and a pillar of support for many in Port Kembla. The café is operated by Rach, a deeply valued member of our community, whose efforts go far beyond running a small business. Rach has created a welcoming and inclusive space that serves social, emotional, and practical needs for a diverse cross-section of our community. Community Contribution Over the years, Rach has: Trained/ mentored and encouraged Many young people in our community. Many of these young people still, after moving on from the cafe, visit, Rach… a Testimony of the loving mentor ship that she has provided. Rach continues to welcome and support mental health groups, providing them with a safe, non-judgmental space to meet. Neighbours, are part of the cafe community, staff helping with everyday tasks such as taking out their bins and running errands — small acts of kindness that mean the world to those in need. Rach has created a truly inclusive space, where everyone from young families to seniors feels welcome. The next goal, is to work toward establishing a homework club for disadvantaged children, providing both educational support and free milkshakes — again, not for profit, but for the betterment of the community. Rach does all of this without any financial incentive. Her café is a labour of love, not a commercial enterprise in the typical sense. Her motivation is connection, compassion, and community spirit — values we need more of in our world today. DA Technicality and Community Response In September 2022, it was discovered that the café was technically operating under an outdated DA that classified the premises as a "grocery store." This classification has remained in place through previous operators, including other restaurants that functioned in the same capacity for over 20 years — without incident. Unfortunately, a single complaint forced Council's hand, resulting in an initial decision that would have led to the closure of the café. This was a devastating prospect not only for Rach but for the broader community. In response, the community mobilised quickly and strongly in support of Cakes By Rach. This outpouring of support is a	Port Kembla

Email or letter submissions		
No.	**Comment**	**Suburb**
	testament to how deeply valued this space and its owner are to so many people. Wollongong City Council has exhausted its capacity to reach a solution, for which we are grateful. On 20 August 2025, the Gateway Recommended the amendment of the current DA, so as to allow Cakes by Rach to remain open. I am urging Council to approve this change without delay. Why Council Should Support the Amendment This amendment simply aligns the legal classification with the longstanding, existing use of the site. The café poses no threat to local amenity, zoning, or public safety. Rach has invested significant personal funds into complying with Council requests and meeting regulatory requirements. The closure or ongoing uncertainty around this issue would represent a huge loss to the Port Kembla community, especially to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups who rely on this space. The amendment would set a fair and consistent precedent, especially given that other similar businesses operate under similar conditions. Conclusion Cakes By Rach is not just a café — it is the heart of Port Kembla. We as a community urge you to recognise the profound positive impact that this business and its owner have had, and to support the DA amendment without further delay. Doing so is not just a legal or planning decision — it is a decision that speaks to the values of fairness, compassion, and community.	

Table 4: Template Letter

Template letter		
1	I am writing to express my strong support for the Planning Proposal PP-2025/1 to amend Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (Wollongong LEP 2009) to include Restaurant or cafe as permissible use with consent, at 190 Military Road Port Kembla This proposal is an important step in preserving the long-standing cafe at the site that has served the community for decades. The site serves as a key venue and meeting place for the local Port Kembla and broader Wollongong community. I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the advice from the Wollongong Local Planning Panel dated 12th May 2025 to enable a "restaurant or cafe" use on the site. Furthermore, I encourage Wollongong City Council to support the determination from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure dated 20th August 2025 to proceed with the	125 signatures

Template letter		
	amendment to the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 to amend Schedule 1 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 to permit an additional use for 'Restaurant or Cafe' at 190 Military Road, Port Kembla	

Wollongong Local Strategi Planning Statement 2025 – 2045

Assessment of Planning Priorities

Strategic Planning Priority	Consideration	Response
Sustainability and resilient		
1 We rehabilitate and protect natural Environments and ecosystems	Preservation and improvement of natural environments through the management and restoration of natural areas. Conserve endangered ecological communities and threatened species. Coastal management, floodplain risk management and stormwater management.	The proposal is within an existing residential area. The site is not mapped as natural areas or containing EEC and threatened species. The proposed additional permitted uses are not expected to impact upon natural areas in proximity the site.
2 We are resilient to climate risks and environmental hazards	Ensure our urban areas are resilient, thrive in ideal conditions, adapt to change and survive and recover from extreme events to reduce the risks to our community from environmental hazards. Avoid intensification in flood - prone, bushfire - prone and coastal hazard areas and align with relevant guidelines and policies. Support net - zero targets and renewable energy transition.	The site is mapped as Coastal Use Area under the SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021. Due to the minor nature of the proposal and the site being within an existing residential neighbourhood it is not expected the proposal will impact upon mapped coastal areas. The site is mapped as being impact by Class 5 Acid Sulfate Soils. As the proposal seeks to permit the additional use of Restaurant or Café on the site it is expected concerns regarding Acid Sulfate Soils can be managed through the Development Application process.
3 We have access to green and healthy urban open spaces and streets.	Provide and utilise green and healthy open spaces and streets to offset the impacts of urban heat island effects and improve amenity and community wellbeing. Ensure community access to high amenity natural and urban green space and utilise our existing open spaces and streets creatively to	The site is located in proximity to Council's footpath and cycle network infrastructure, sporting fields and pool. The site is also located in proximity to Port Kembla Beach. The proposal will likely contribute to the community using these spaces.

Strategic Planning Priority	Consideration	Response
	maximise urban greening and community recreation.	
Liveable and connected		
4 The natural, built and cultural context informs the design of places and buildings.	Respect the natural and cultural landscapes and environments with the Wollongong Local Government Area. Enable development which recognises and responds to environmental conditions, landscape character, heritage, and cultural values	The proposal is limited to a site in an existing residential neighbourhood. The proposal will enable the use of a Restaurant or Café within an existing commercial building.
5 We are growing our capacity for housing, so our community have access to diverse and high-quality homes in the future.	Strategic planning provides the ability to deliver diverse and high-quality housing to meet the needs of our growing community. Housing should be suitable at all price points and created with community well-being and sustainable development in mind.	The proposal will not preclude residential development from being undertaken on the site.
6 The network of Centres provides for the needs of our community	City, town and village centres meet the needs of the community and support creativity, economic growth, sustainability and social well-being.	The site is not located in a Town Centre. The proposal will enable the use of a Restaurant or Café to occur on a site that previously has been used for commercial purposes. The proposal is not expected to result in development that would detract from exiting town centres.
7 Transport options are safe, reliable and accessible.	Transport networks enable a shift in transport modes from private vehicles to public and active transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, urban heat, travel times and poor health outcomes, while increasing social and economic participation and street safety.	The site is located in proximity to Council's footpath and cycle network infrastructure. As the site is in proximity to footpaths and cycleway, it is able to accessed via active transport modes.

Strategic Planning Priority	Consideration	Response
	Land use and transport planning is integrated to ensure infrastructure is maximised to support growth in well serviced locations.	
8 The city reflects the creativity, history, identity of our people; invitees community participation, and contributes to a diverse economy	Enable development that responds to the cultural history of place and promotes ongoing engagement through restoration, interpretation and creative expression	Not applicable
Productive and vibrant		
9 Employment generating uses are prioritised in Centres and Industrial areas.	Plan for employment generating uses to support local and regional employment enhance Wollongong's economy and provide goods and services to the community. Protect and retain diverse industrial land and enable its productivity and ability to cater to emerging industries. Support the role of existing and planned centres as defined through the Retail and Business Centres Hierarchy.	The site is not located in a Town Centre. The proposal seeks to enable the use of a Restaurant or Café to occur on the site, which has previously been used for a General Store. The proposed additional permitted uses provides small scale employment benefits.
10 The freight network is efficient, from international trade to the last mile	Ensure transport corridors link freight to ports, airports, retail centres and employment lands to promote economic and industrial growth. Freight Transport corridors should be resilient to environmental hazards and have appropriate capacity while avoiding incompatible land uses.	Not applicable
11 Port Kembla's industrial precinct and Port are a hub for	Recognise, retain, and promote the Port of Port Kembla and surrounds as	Not applicable

Strategic Planning Priority	Consideration	Response
economic growth, employment and innovation.	an area of significant economic importance focused on employment generation in heavy industry, port operations and clean energy investment	
12 The growing visitor economy celebrates natural and cultural assets.	Grow the visitor economy of the Wollongong LGA through attracting more major events and tourism infrastructure to increase visitation rates while caring for our natural and cultural assets.	The proposal will provide a service to visitors.

ITEM 7 POST EXHIBITION - RIPARIAN CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR WEST DAPTO

On 30 April 2025, the Lord Mayor and Ward 3 Councillors were notified that a draft Riparian Corridor Management Strategy for the West Dapto Urban Release Area will be exhibited for community and stakeholder feedback.

The draft Strategy was publicly exhibited from 22 May to 19 June 2025 with 51 submissions received. The feedback has been considered in the updated Strategy, the subject to this report.

The Strategy provides guidance on managing and planning for riparian corridors and includes contemporary mapping of waterways and riparian corridors specific to the West Dapto Urban Release Area.

This report provides a brief background and description of the Strategy, as well as feedback from the public exhibition process and staff response to submissions. This report recommends that Council adopt the Riparian Corridor Management Strategy for the West Dapto Urban Release Area to enable the mapping and recommendations to be embedded into current and future Council policy, development controls and Council's IntraMaps system.

RECOMMENDATION

The Riparian Corridor Management Strategy for the West Dapto Urban Release Area (Attachment 1) be adopted and published on Council's website.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Luke Musgrave, Manager City Strategy
Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

1 Riparian Corridor Management Strategy for the West Dapto Urban Release Area
2 Summary of Public Submissions, Council Responses and Amendments - Riparian

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
DIPNR	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources
LGA	Local Government Area
RCMS	Riparian Corridor Management Study (2004)
RCMS-WD	Riparian Corridor Management Strategy – West Dapto (2025)
WDURA	West Dapto Urban Release Area

BACKGROUND

The management of riparian corridors within the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) has primarily been guided over the past 21 years by an informing document prepared by the former NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) in 2004. This document is the "Riparian Corridor Management Study" (RCMS) and covers all the Wollongong LGA and Calderwood Valley in the Shellharbour LGA. The 2004 RCMS was prepared in response to the 1999 Commission of Inquiry into the long-term planning and management of the Illawarra Escarpment.

This 2004 study continues to be a key environmental document for Wollongong City Council and has since informed the Riparian Land Management Chapter (E23) and the West Dapto Release Area Chapter (D16) of Council's 2009 Development Control Plan, and the West Dapto Vision (2018).

The need to review riparian management within the West Dapto Urban Release Area (WDURA) resulted from several factors, including:

- To confirm Council's current approach to riparian management for the WDURA, given the age of the 2004 DIPNR study.
- Criticism from some stakeholders (primarily during development assessment) that Council's approach to riparian management is not contemporary and is inconsistent with the State Government 2012 Riparian Corridor guidelines used for Controlled Activity Approvals.
- Ongoing development occurring within the WDURA since 2010.
- To provide contemporary guidance to Council and development industry that focuses on the WDURA.
- To inform other Council documents and policies, including establishing a renewed and elevated policy position once adopted, as stated in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement 2025-2045, and informing other local and regional strategic planning documents.

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water have provided continual support on Council's approach to Riparian Management for West Dapto and the greater Wollongong LGA based on the 2004 RCMS, rather than the generic 2012 Riparian guidelines used for Controlled Activity Approvals.

PROPOSAL

The Riparian Corridor Management Strategy (RCMS-WD) for the WDURA (Attachment 1) provides a contemporary basis for the management of riparian corridors specific to the WDURA. The RCMS-WD is primarily based on a review of the 2004 RCMS, other relevant State and Council policies, current riparian management practices and available information.

The RCMS-WD provides:

- Background information.
- Relevant planning and legislation.
- Updated criteria for stream categories.
- Updated riparian management principles.
- Methodology for defining and redefining streams and associated riparian corridors.
- Top of stream bank mapping, updated stream and riparian corridor mapping, typical riparian corridor cross sections.
- Recommendations and actions and implementation plan.
- Community consultation outcomes.

Summary of Main Differences between the 2025 RCMS-WD and 2004 RCMS

The table below summaries the main differences between the 2025 RCMS-WD and the 2004 RCMS.

2025 RCMS-WD	2004 RCMS
Exclusive to the West Dapto Urban Release Area.	Covers the Wollongong LGA and Calderwood Valley in the Shellharbour LGA.
Based on contemporary analysis of available data using current technology for the study area (2024-25).	Based on analysis of available data using technology for the study area, circa (2001-04).
Identification and mapping of top of highest bank of streams or stream bed width.	Top of highest bank and stream bed width mapping not available.
Contemporary mapping of stream centrelines (2024-25).	Mapping of stream centrelines (2004).

2025 RCMS-WD	2004 RCMS
Mapping of riparian corridors for all mapped streams within study area.	Mapping of riparian corridors for only key streams within study area.
Methodology for mapping of riparian corridors from top of highest bank of streams (where available) or from stream bed widths or stream centrelines.	Methodology for mapping of riparian corridors from stream centrelines.
Identification and mapping of streams previously unmapped in 2004 study.	Mapping of streams based on those investigated as part of 2004 study.
Reclassification and mapping of some stream categories from 2004 study.	Mapping of stream categories investigated as part of 2004 study.
Mapping of reduced riparian corridors in locations adjacent to existing development.	Mapping of reduced riparian corridors in locations adjacent to existing development for only key streams within study area (2004).
Overall increase in riparian lands across the study area compared to 2004 study because of improved technology to map top of stream banks and macro channels.	The 2004 study is the baseline data for riparian land in Wollongong LGA – no comparison available.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Council staff undertook engagement with stakeholders prior to and during the public exhibition of the RCMS-WD for the WDURA.

Pre-Exhibition

Three stakeholder engagement workshops were undertaken by Council staff in partnership with the project consultant Australian Wetlands Consulting Pty Ltd. Each workshop targeted individual stakeholder groups including relevant Council Staff from Urban Release, Land Use Planning, Environmental Planning, Open Space and Environment Services and Engagement Teams, consultants specialising in Ecology / Engineering and State Government Agencies.

The aim of this early engagement was to identify the current issues faced by end users in applying the 2004 RCMS and also to identify any improvements that could be made to specifically apply to the WDURA.

Aboriginal Community Engagement

Consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders occurred between 22 April to 19 June 2025.

The aim of the Aboriginal stakeholder engagement was to seek and gather feedback on the riparian mapping to ensure that culturally important areas were identified and understand how Aboriginal knowledge can be embedded into the RCMS-WD.

We emailed the draft riparian package to 10 Aboriginal Stakeholders and met with Aboriginal stakeholders' face to face to share the information and gather feedback. Key feedback received is summarised below:

- Waterways in the WDURA hold profound cultural, spiritual, and ecological importance.
- A call for stronger protection and restoration of riparian areas, recognising their dual ecological and cultural value.
- A broader catchment approach was encouraged to protect connected waterways like Lake Illawarra.

Public Exhibition

The public exhibition of the draft RCMS-WD occurred between 22 May to 19 June 2025.

The aim of the broader stakeholder engagement was to gather feedback on:

- The watercourse mapping and riparian buffer classifications.
- How practical the existing and proposed buffer rules are for landowners and developers.
- What improvements could be made to support both environmental protection and future development.

The communication methods used during the public exhibition included:

- Letters sent to 60 landholders in the study area.
- Emails sent to 33 key stakeholders.
- Emails sent to 2,821 participants registered on Council's engagement website.
- A project webpage including links to the draft RCMS-WD, background information, survey, frequently asked questions (FAQ) document and questions and answers (Q&A) tool.
- Printed copies of the draft RCMS-WD and survey at Dapto Library.
- In person and online meetings with the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to provide awareness and obtain feedback.
- A media release was issued on 27 May 2025 to promote the engagement.
- Promotion of the engagement in Council's Sustainable Wollongong e-newsletter on 20 June 2025.
- Social media promotion.
- Phone calls.

Results of Public Exhibition

The project webpage was viewed 530 times and the RCMS-WD was downloaded 306 times.

Council heard from 51 respondents, including 25 emails, one phone submission, one hardcopy survey, eight people who submitted comments via survey or asked a question in the Q&A tool and 16 people via meetings.

The major themes raised in submissions during the exhibition period are summarised below:

Theme	Feedback
Environmental protection and biodiversity	• Stakeholders supported the Strategy's ecological objectives, especially its focus on buffer zones, vegetation restoration, and stream categorisation. • Some advocated for stronger protections for keystone species such as platypus, frogs, and turtles, and urged adoption of "platypus-friendly design principles "to avoid habitat fragmentation. • Some suggested investment in "public education and improved ecological literacy" to promote stewardship and ecological responsibility. Note: any proposed changes to mapped biodiversity contained within an Environmental Planning Instrument would be considered through the appropriate planning pathway.

Theme	Feedback
Climate change and long-term planning	• Some submissions reasoned that the Strategy does not go far enough in addressing climate risk. • Some indicated the need to future-proof ecological systems, allowing for upslope migration and planning restrictions in vulnerable low-lying zones.
Mapping methodology and technical refinement	• Concerns were raised about mapping methodology, such as the perceived reliance on desktop analysis. • Some requested clearly defined, repeatable methods for mapping and categorising streams and corridors. • Some submissions on the draft mapping suggested errors or inconsistencies in corridor mapping.
Planning Integration and existing approvals	• Several supported riparian management in principle but opposed retrospective application of mapping changes to land with existing development approvals. • Some were concerned about the Strategy's interaction with existing planning instruments. • Stakeholders requested that protections for prior approvals be embedded in Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) amendments through clear savings provisions.
Development viability, cost and implementation	• Some speculated that the Strategy, if implemented without adjustment, could reduce housing yields, increase costs, and undermine Council's housing delivery targets. • Buffer widths and stream categorisation were seen by some as excessive or inconsistent with State guidelines. • Stakeholders also raised concerns about unclear responsibilities for riparian land maintenance.
Flood risk, stormwater, and infrastructure integration	• There were conflicting opinions on flood management. • Some called for stronger integration between riparian strategies and stormwater, nutrient, and pollutant management – especially regarding Lake Illawarra's long-term water quality.
Bushfire planning and asset protection zones	• Concerns were raised about the Strategy's impact on bushfire mitigation. • Some noted that the current approach may prevent the placement of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) within riparian corridors, potentially conflicting with bushfire planning requirements.
Public access and community connection	• Submissions supported enabling low-impact access in areas where it would not conflict with conservation goals.
Agency and Infrastructure stakeholders	• Several agencies expressed support for the Strategy's objectives, commending Council for aligning with best practice in riparian management. • One Stakeholder noted that high-voltage electricity infrastructure crosses riparian areas and that this must be planned for carefully.

The majority of stakeholders and submissions were supportive of the draft 2025 RCMS-WD and its recommendations/actions.

Further details on the Engagement process and summary of feedback received can be found in Council's Engagement Report, included as part of the RCMS-WD, within Attachment 1.

Council officer responses to the feedback received during the stakeholder consultation, including but not limited to development viability and yield, mapping methodology, environmental protection, existing approvals and flood/stormwater integration can be found within Attachment 2.

Summary of Key Updates to RCMS-WD from Stakeholder Feedback

The feedback received from stakeholders during the consultation phase was reviewed, and where appropriate, incorporated into the final version of the RCMS-WD (Attachment 1). Below are some of the key updates made:

Feedback	Key Updates to RCMS-WD
Strategy should not provide a retrospective impact on approved developments.	While the draft RCMS-WD did not intend to have a retrospective impact on approved developments, this intent has been further emphasised in the Executive Summary and Recommendations section of the RCMS-WD.
Recognise the cultural and ecological importance of the waterways and riparian corridors.	This was included in the final RCMS-WD as part of the waterway objectives and principles.
Provide clearer guidance regarding the mapping of top of bank and centreline of waterways.	This was addressed by way of additional wording and provision of a table summarising the methodology in Section 4.3.2 of the RCMS-WD.
Questioning the upgrading of waterway categories and inclusion of new waterways.	The locations where changes to waterway categories and inclusion of new waterways were made have been further reviewed, with some changes made, and justifications provided where the categories and/or new waterways were retained.

The proposed updates made to the draft RCMS-WD following a review of the submissions received during the public exhibition phase can be found in Attachment 2.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 1 – "We are a sustainable and climate resilient city" and Goal 2 – "We have well planned, connected, and liveable places". It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2035		Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy		Service
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.	Land Use Planning Environmental Services
1.3	Manage and improve the cleanliness, health, biodiversity of land and water including creeks, lakes, waterways and oceans.	
1.4	Increase our resilience to natural disasters and ability to adapt to a changing climate, to protect life, property, and the environment.	
2.1	Urban areas are planned and well maintained to provide a healthy and safe environment for our community to live, work and play.	

The RCMS-WD will be used to inform Council's future asset management planning, Council Infrastructure projects, planning policies, Council's IntraMaps system, and Planning Proposals, Neighbourhood Planning and Development Applications specific to the WDURA.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 RCMS-WD specifically provides guidance on managing riparian lands within WDURA by way of preserving and enhancing the connection of our waterways and green corridors, to ensure the long-term health of the catchments, and amenity and enjoyment for future residents. The appropriate management of riparian lands within WDURA is key to reducing the pressure on and threats to waterways and their associated ecosystems because of future developments, and to support the biodiversity for the area in the long-term.

The RCMS-WD also aims to deliver on specific strategies of Goals 1 and 2 of Council's Community Strategic Plan 2035 relating to improving and preserving our waterways and green corridors, increasing resilience to natural disasters, ability to adapt to a changing climate and planning for a healthy and safe environment to live, work and play.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The RCMS-WD provides a contemporary strategic approach to managing riparian lands specific to the WDURA. In particular, it identifies all streams within the study area and provides minimum riparian corridor widths to each waterway based on specific objectives and detailed methodology, to ensure the long-term functioning of each waterway according to its environmental category. The RCMS-WD will improve clarity for Council, and developers/consultants proposing future developments within the WDURA.

It is considered likely that most riparian lands associated with future development areas will be proposed for dedication to Council following the completion of the establishment and maintenance phase of the riparian works. The risk of a potential increased maintenance burden to Council resulting from handover of sub-standard riparian land as part of constructed developments is expected to be minimised through the greater emphasis of appropriate management of riparian lands during the establishment phase of riparian corridors by developers, as recommended in the RCMS-WD.

The potential for additional resources required to undertake ongoing maintenance of riparian lands dedicated to Council in the future could be supported with volunteer programs, and where funding is required, subsidised with Government grants, Public-Private partnerships, Voluntary Planning Agreements between Council and Developers, and general Council revenue, as recommended in the RCMS-WD. The forward planning of any additional resources for management of riparian lands is key and expected to be undertaken through asset management planning as part of Council's Asset Management Plan and Policy framework, based on future growth predictions of the WDURA.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Most of the recommendations and actions proposed within the RCMS-WD are expected to be delivered as part of Council's core business. The RCMS-WD would not result in the need for any additional capital investment by Council. The RCMS-WD does not identify any specific infrastructure changes relevant to the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan. However, the RCMS-WD will inform the West Dapto Water Management Master Plan project. The Water Management Master Plan project is expected to inform water management infrastructure funded through the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan.

Other recommendations/actions that may require funding will be sourced from State/Federal Government grants or a business proposal for Council.

The funding of ongoing maintenance of riparian lands dedicated to Council as part of constructed developments is expected to be subsidised by Government grants, volunteer programs, Public-Private partnerships, Voluntary Planning Agreements between Council and developers, and general Council revenue.

CONCLUSION

The RCMS-WD provides a contemporary review on the management of riparian lands specific to the WDURA. This strategic document will provide further clarity to the development industry and Council on the future management of riparian lands within the WDURA.

The RCMS-WD will also aim to deliver specific outcomes that align with Council's Community Strategic Plan 2035, including:

- The expansion, improvement and preservation of our waterways and green corridors, connecting the escarpment to the sea.
- Managing the improvement of the cleanliness, health, biodiversity of land and water including waterways and lakes.
- Increasing resilience to natural disasters and ability to adapt to a changing climate.
- Assisting in the planning of urban areas to provide a healthy and safe environment for our community.

The RCMS-WD received broad support from stakeholders and has been updated as required in response to submissions made during the public exhibition phase including confirmation that the Strategy does not have a retrospective impact on approved development.

It is recommended that Council adopt the RCMS-WD for the WDURA.

For access to the attachments in this report, please use the below link:

Item 7 - Post Exhibition - Riparian Corridor Management Strategy for West Dapto

ITEM 8 POST EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG CITY-WIDE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN 2025

Development contributions are collected to help fund infrastructure that is required as a direct or indirect result of development. The current adopted Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2024) (Plan) came into force on 16 August 2024. The Plan is reviewed annually to reflect updates to Council's works program and any other required changes.

On 25 August 2025, Council considered the draft Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025) and resolved to exhibit the Plan for public comment. The draft 2025 Plan was exhibited from 8 September to 20 October 2025. Two submissions were received. This report recommends that the Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025) be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

The Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025) be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Luke Musgrave, Manager City Strategy
Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

1 Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2025

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
LGA	Wollongong Local Government Area
Plan	Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2024)
Regulation	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021

BACKGROUND

Development Contributions

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (Act) enables various mechanisms through which a Council can collect development contributions to fund local infrastructure required to meet the demand from new development.

Under Section 7.12 of the Act, contributions can be collected as 'fixed development consent levies' based on a percentage of the proposed cost of development.

Clause 209 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (Regulation) sets the maximum percentage that can be levied. For the Wollongong City Council Local Government Area (LGA) these are -

- Where the proposed cost of carrying out the development is -
  - Up to and including $100,000 – Nil.
  - More than $100,000 and up to and including $200,000 - 0.5% of that cost.
  - More than $200,001 - 1% of that cost.
- For land within the Wollongong City Centre E2 Commercial Centre zone -
  - Up to and including $250,000 – Nil.
  - More than $250,001 – 2%.

Contributions are applied towards the provision, extension or augmentation of public infrastructure across the contribution area, or towards the recoupment of these costs.

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan

The Wollongong Section 94A Development Contributions Plan initially came into force on 14 June 2006 when it repealed various Section 94 Contributions Plans. On 1 March 2018, the Act was amended, including a restructure and all sections were renumbered. Section 94A was renumbered to section 7.12. On 23 July 2018, Council resolved to rename the plan to the Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan.

Since 2006, the Plan has been reviewed annually to reflect updates to Council's works program and any other required changes. The Plan applies to the majority of the Wollongong City Council LGA, excluding the West Dapto Urban Release Area, where the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan (2025) currently applies. The Regulations require that projects to be fully or partially funded through the contribution plan are listed in Schedules 5 and 6 and mapped in Schedule 7 of the Plan.

The current Plan came into force on 16 August 2024.

On 25 August 2025, Council considered the draft 2025 Plan. The draft Plan proposed the following amendments:

1 Update of the list of proposed projects including proposed expenditure from the Wollongong City-Wide and City Centre Contributions accounts.

2 Restructuring, amendments, and additions to Clause 15 for better clarity on which developments are exempt to the levy:

   a New Clause 15(h) – Consistent with Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP) Clause 5.9 'Dwelling house or secondary dwelling affected by natural disaster', an application for the repair and/or replacement of development that has been impacted by natural disasters or unpreventable events (i.e., flooding, bushfire, hail, etc.) is proposed to be listed as exempt to the contributions levy.

   b Clause 15(l) [now 15(n)] – To ensure consistency with the definitions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021, the clause has been amended to also apply to 'social housing' in addition to 'affordable housing'.

   c New Clause 15(q) – To ensure consistency with development conducted by public authorities, social housing developments carried out by organisations such as the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), or the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) are now listed as exempt to the contributions levy.

   d Clause 18 'Cost estimate reports', has been amended to include a link to a Cost Summary Table Form for development under $2 Million as available on Council's website.

3 Implementation of actions contained in Council's 'Tourism Accommodation Strategy' adopted February 2025 –

   a The deferment of the payment of development contributions for new Hotel and Motel Accommodation (or that component in mixed use developments) from Construction Certificate until Occupation Certificate, as an incentive for new hotel and motel developments in the LGA (not retrospective for development consent issued, including any proposed modifications)

   b A reduction to contribution levy for new Hotel and Motel Accommodation (or that component in mixed use developments) in the Wollongong City Centre (as mapped in the LEP) from 2% to 1% as an incentive for the construction of new hotel and motel developments in the City Centre (not retrospective for development consent issued, including any proposed modifications).

4 Removal of the reference to the Ministerial Direction introduced as a COVID response to require the deferral of the payment of development contributions in specific cases.

5 Updated Schedule 3 – Works Schedule Summary.

6 Updated Detailed Works Schedule at Schedule 4 of the Plan.

7 New maps at Schedule 6 identifying the location of the proposed projects (projects with no specific location are not identified on the maps).

8 Update to the list of completed projects and actual expenditure from the Wollongong City-Wide Contributions account, shown in Schedule 5 of the Plan. Older projects are being summarised into an "Other" project to improve readability of the Schedule.

9 Updates to date references through the document, updated population forecasts through to 2046, renumbering of schedules, various minor corrections/updates etc.

Council resolved that:

The draft Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025), be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days.

The draft 2025 Plan was exhibited from 8 September 2025 to 20 October 2025.

PROPOSAL

At the close of the exhibition period two submissions were received. These are detailed as follows:

Table 1: Summary of Submissions

No	Submitter	Issues Raised	Response
1	Housing Trust	Commend Council for its clear and transparent approach to funding local infrastructure that supports growth and liveability across the city. The Plan demonstrates a strong commitment to delivering community facilities, open spaces and local amenities that benefit both new and existing residents. Strongly support the inclusion of levy exemptions for affordable, social, and accessible housing delivered by registered Community Housing Providers.	Support noted.
2	Resident	East-west cycleway connections needed between Grand Pacific Walk and locations like Corrimal Shops, Woonona Shops, and Bulli Train station. In particular an off-road cycle way should be constructed from Grand Pacific Walk in East Corrimal to Corrimal Shops passing Corrimal Train Station.	The need to improve east-west connections to the Grand Pacific Walk forms part of the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030 and the Wollongong Transport Strategy (adopted on 15/9/25). The Development Contributions Plan is a funding instrument, and not an instrument to propose infrastructure upgrades. The submission has been referred to the relevant Council team for consideration as part of the delivery of the strategies.

The Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025/26 – 2028/29 allocates contributions to a range of new infrastructure projects across seven (7) categories, as summarised in the following table. Additional contributions will be allocated to the outer years (replacing Nil) as part of the preparation of future Infrastructure Delivery Programs.

Post Exhibition Updates include:

- Schedule 2 inclusion of the date of the Council resolution relating to incentive for the construction of new hotel accommodation.
- Update Tables In schedule 3 and schedule 4 increasing the Land Acquisition Budget for the 2025/2026 Financial Year to facilitate upcoming land acquisitions.
- Update tables in Schedule 4 and 5 for calculating errors.

Table 2: Summary of Detailed Works Schedule – Projects proposed to utilise Section 7.12 funds (Schedule 4 of the draft Plan)

Category	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total	%
Roads and Bridges	$1,050,000	$2,750,000	$400,000	$400,000	**$4,600,000**	**14.46%**
Footpaths and cycleways	$1,600,000	$3,550,000	$1,000,000	$1,200,000	**$7,350,000**	**23.11%**
Car Parks	Nil	$900,000	Nil	Nil	**$900,000**	**2.83%**
Non-commercial buildings (e.g. community centres)	$9,100,000	$500,000	$4,000,000	Nil	**$13,600,000**	**42.76%**
Parks, gardens and sports fields	$520,000	$2,035,600	$1,351,668	$920,000	**$4,427,268**	**13.92%**
Land Acquisition	$350,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	**$350,000**	**1.10%**
Administration	$137,239	$141,407	$145,648	$150,309	**$574,603**	**1.81%**
Total	**$12,757,239**	**$9,877,007**	**$6,497,316**	**$2,670,309**	**$31,801,871**	**100.00%**

Infrastructure projects are funded from multiple sources, including development contributions, grant funding and general revenue. The funding spilt is allocated through the Infrastructure Delivery Program which forms part of the Operational Plan adopted by Council on 30 June 2025.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft 2025 Plan was exhibited from 8 September 2025 to 20 October 2025. Copies were available on Council's website and at Council's Administration Centre and libraries.

An advertisement was placed in the Illawarra Mercury on 8 September 2025. Notification emails outlining the public exhibition and methods of making a submission were sent to relevant stakeholders on 8 September 2025.

The exhibition webpage was viewed 92 times, and the Council report and draft Plan downloaded 38 times.

The Works Schedule in the draft 2025 Plan has been updated in consultation with the Infrastructure Strategy and Planning Division. The update of the Plan has been discussed at the internal Development Contributions Coordination Group meetings. Internal feedback has shaped the draft Plan.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

The Plan is linked to the Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan 2035, the Delivery Program 2025/26-2028/29 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 which was adopted by Council on 30 June 2025. Specifically, the contributions are used to fund or part fund infrastructure projects in the Infrastructure Delivery Program 2025/26 – 2028/29.

As the projects listed in the Infrastructure Delivery Program are updated annually, the Plan also needs to be updated annually. The Plan includes a 4-year work schedule that provides flexibility for infrastructure projects to either be brought forward or delayed, depending on other issues such as the timing of approvals.

It also delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Land Use Planning Service Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Since 2006, Council has allocated $54.7 million of developer contributions to a range of projects, as summarised in the following table:

Table 3: Summary of Schedule 5 Detailed Funding Completed – Projects that include Section 7.12 funds (Schedule 5 of the draft Plan)

Category	Total	%
Roads and Bridges	$6,719,986	**12.25%**
Footpaths and Cycleways	$13,965,948	**25.46%**
Car Parks	$2,650,270	**4.83%**
Non-commercial Buildings	$16,406,367	**29.91%**
Parks, Gardens and Sports Fields	$6,668,356	**12.16%**
Land Acquisition	$5,968,538	**10.88%**
Administration	$2,467,791	**4.50%**
Total	**$54,847,256**	**100.00%**

As of 30 September 2025, the net balance of Section 7.12 contributions held by Council was $49.41 million. This includes $38.46 million held in the City-Wide restricted account and a balance of $10.95 million in the City Centre restricted account. The balance has been allowed to grow to enable the funds to be allocated to significant projects in the coming years.

Development contribution income for the City-wide Contribution area is forecast at an average of approximately $3 million per annum, although this fluctuates depending on the commencement of development. The proposed Works Schedule for 2025/26 includes approximately $12.65 million of expenditure, with an additional $19 million over the following three years. Significant projects to be partially funded from contributions include the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library ($9.6 million) and the Helensburgh Community Centre and Library (currently $4 million). The income and expenditure will continue to be monitored and reviewed as needed to respond to community needs.

CONCLUSION

The Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan is an important mechanism to assist with funding of public infrastructure within the City. The exhibited draft Plan has been updated to include the allocation for new projects with the adoption of the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026.

It is recommended that the Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025) (Attachment 1) be adopted.

Wollongong City Council

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan

2025

wollongong
city of innovation

Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025)

Document Control

Document ID: Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan

Rev No	Date	Revision Details	Typist	Author	Verifier	Approver
1	March 2006	Draft for exhibition (2006 version)	ZS	ZS	ZS	ZS
2	June 2006	In force (2006 version)	ZS	ZS	ZS	ZS
3	December 2006	Ministers Direction under S94E added	ZS	ZS	ZS	ZS
4	May 2007	Draft for exhibition (2007 version)	ZS	ZS	ZS	ZS
5	June 2007	In force (2007 version) Draft	ZS	ZS	ZS	ZS
6	May 2008	For exhibition (2008 version)	DG	DG	DG	DG
7	24 July 2008	In force (2008 version) Draft	DG	DG	DG	DG
8	28 July 2009	For exhibition (2009 version)	DG	DG	DG	DG
9	27 October 2009	Endorsed by Council	DG	DG	DG	DG
10	4 November 2009	In force (2009 version)	DG	DG	DG	DG
11	27 July 2010	Draft for exhibition (2010 version)	DH	DH	JB	RC
12	6 September 2010	In force (2010 version)	DH	DH	DG	DG
13	3 June 2011	Draft for exhibition (2011 version)	DH	DH	DG	DG
14	26 July 2011	In force (2011 version)	DH	DH	DG	DG
15	2 August 2012	Draft for exhibition (2012 version)	DH	DH	DG	DG
16	8 December 2012	In force (2012 version)	DH	DH	DG	DG
17	8 April 2013	Draft for exhibition (2013 version)	DH	DH	DG	DG
18	16 September 2013	In force (2013 version)	DH	DH	DG	DG
19	9 September 2014	Draft for exhibition (2014 version)	DG	DG	DG	DG
20	3 November 2014	In force (2014 version)	DG	DG	DG	DG
21	10 July 2015	Draft for exhibition (2015 version)	MH	MH	DG	DG
22	26 October 2015	In force (2015 version)	MH	MH	DG	DG
23	06 October 2016	Draft for Exhibition (2016 version)	BL	MH	DG	DG
24	19 December 2016	In force (2016 version)	BL	MH	DG	DG
25	8 May 2017	Draft for Exhibition (2017 version)	MB	MB	MH	DG
26	26 July 2017	In force (2017 version)	JP	MB	MB	DG
27	7 May 2018	Draft for exhibition (2018 version)	MB	MB	DG	DG
28	28 July 2018	In force (2018 version)	MB	MB	SH	DG
29	12 August 2019	Draft for exhibition (2019 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
30	23 November 2019	In force (2019 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
31	20 July 2020	Draft for exhibition (2020 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
32	16 November 2020	In force (2020 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
33	31 May 2021	Draft for Exhibition (2021 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
34	2 August 2021	In force (2021 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
35	6 June 2022	Draft for Exhibition (2022 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
36	2 September 2022	In force (2022 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
37	29 May 2023	Draft for Exhibition (2023 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
38	8 September 2023	In force (2023 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
39	24 June 2024	Draft for Exhibition (2024 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
40	16 August 2024	In force (2024 version)	SH	SH	DG	DG
41	25 August 2025	Draft for Exhibition (2025 version)	CE/JT	CE/JT	DG	DG
42	TBD	In force (2025 version)				

Contents

Part A - Schedules ***3***
1. Schedule 1 – City-Wide levy rates 3
2. Schedule 2 - Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core levy rates 3
3. Schedule 3 – Works schedule summary 4

Part B – Expected Development and Demand for Public Facilities ***4***
4. Expected Development and Demand for Public Facilities 4

Part C – Administration and Operation of the Plan ***5***
5. What is the name of this Contributions Plan? 5
6. Where does this Plan apply? 5
7. What is the purpose of this Plan? 5
8. When does this development contributions Plan commence? 5
9. Relationship with other development contribution Plans 5
10. What does Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act provide? 9
11. Council may require payment of the levy as a condition of development consent 9
12. How will the levy be calculated 9
13. Development to which this Plan applies 9
14. Section 7.17 Directions 9
15. Are there any other exemptions to the levy? 10
16. Complying Development Certificates and the obligations of accredited certifiers 12
17. Construction/Subdivision certificates and the obligations of accredited certifiers 12
18. How is the proposed cost of carrying out development determined? 13
19. Cost estimate reports 14
20. How will the Council apply money obtained from the levy? 14
21. What are the funding priorities from levies authorised by this Plan? 14
22. Pooling of levies 14
23. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) 14
24. When is the levy payable? 15
25. Can deferred or periodic payments of levies be made? 15
26. Planning Agreements 16
27. How will the levy be adjusted? 16
28. Savings and Transitional Arrangements 16
29. Are refunds for payments of levies possible? 16

Part D – References ***16***
30. What definitions apply? 16
31. Schedule 4 – Detailed Works Schedule – Projects proposed to utilise Section 7.12 funds 18
32. Schedule 5 – Detailed Funding Completed – Projects that have included Section 7.12 funds 20
33. Schedule 6 - Works Schedule – Maps 23

Part A - Schedules

1. Schedule 1 – City-Wide levy rates

In accordance with clause 209(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation), the rate of the levy for development carried out on land to which this Plan applies (excluding Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core - see Schedule 2) is calculated as follows:

Proposed cost of carrying out development ***(Determined in accordance with Clause 19 of this Plan)***	**Levy Rate**
Up to and including $100,000	Nil
More than $100,000 and up to and including $200,000	0.5%
More than $200,000	1%

2. Schedule 2 - Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core levy rates

In accordance with clause 209(1) of the EP&A Regulation, the rate of the levy for development carried out on land within the Zone E2 Commercial Centre in the Wollongong City Centre, as shown at Figure 2, is calculated as follows:

Proposed cost of carrying out development ***(Determined in accordance with Clause 19 of this Plan)***	**Levy Rate**
Up to and including $250,000	Nil
More than $250,000	2%

To incentivise the construction of new Hotel accommodation, on 27 October 2025 Council resolved that a contribution rate of 1% will apply to new Hotel and Motel Accommodation (including in a mixed use development) in the Wollongong City Centre (as mapped in the LEP). This rate reduction does not apply to developments already approved. The timing of payment is prior to the issue of an occupation certificate for that component of the development.

This contribution provides funding towards the Special City projects originally nominated in the Civic Improvements Plan (2009) for the Wollongong City Centre, reproduced below. The timing of the implementation of the projects will be determined through Councils Management Plan process as funding permits and then detailed in Part D Schedule 5.

Item	**Cost Estimate (2009)**
Crown Street Upgrade	$14,200,000
City Beach Waterfront Improvements	$11,000,000
Civic Precinct Revitalisation	$21,000,000
MacCabe Park Landscape Improvements	$12,000,000
Bus Transport Initiatives	$20,000,000
Traffic Management Works	$2,000,000
City Centre Car Park	$8,000,000
Total	**$88,200,000**

Note: The Civic Improvement Plan was retired in 2016 as a policy document

In 2010 Wollongong Council commenced a CBD revitalisation program of streetscapes and public domain areas. Major projects completed since include:

- Keira Street – Crown Street to Smith Street
- Crown Street Mall – Kembla Street to Keira Street
- Market Street – Keira Street to Young Street
- Crown Street West – Atchison Street to Railway Parade

In addition, traffic signals have been installed to improve pedestrian activity and safety at:

- Intersection of Auburn & Burelli Streets
- Intersection of Victoria and Keira Streets
- Intersection of Kenny and Burelli Streets

3. Schedule 3 – Works schedule summary

Category/Asset Class	Actual Contribution Expenditure 2006/07 to 2024/25	Proposed Contribution Expenditure 2025/26 to 2028/29	Total Contribution Expenditure 2006/07 to 2028/29
Roads and bridges	$6,719,986.00	$4,600,000.00	$11,319,986.00
Footpaths and cycleways	$13,965,948.00	$7,350,000.00	$21,315,948.00
Car parks	$2,650,270.00	$900,000.00	$3,550,270.00
Community buildings	$16,406,367.00	$13,600,000.00	$30,006,367.00
Parks, gardens and sportsfields	$6,668,356.00	$4,427,268.00	$11,095,624.00
Land acquisitions	$5,968,538.00	$350,000.00	$6,218,538.00
Administration	$2,467,791.00	$574,603.00	$3,042,394.00
Total	**$54,847,256.00**	**$31,801,871.00**	**$86,649,127.00**

For further details refer to Part D Schedule 4 and 5 – Detailed Works Schedules.

Part B – Expected Development and Demand for Public Facilities

4. Expected Development and Demand for Public Facilities

This part broadly discusses the relationship between the expected types of development in the Council's area and the demand for additional public amenities and services to meet that development. That relationship is established through current demographic information.

The expected types of development include but are not limited to:

- Alterations and additions to existing development;
- Dwellings of all forms;
- Commercial development located primarily in commercial precincts;
- Industrial development;
- Subdivisions; and
- Mixed use development.

The relationship between expected development and the demand for public facilities is established through:

- The population projections undertaken by informed decisions (.id), adopted from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) information and other factors, indicate that continued population growth in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) is expected. A projected population of 255,183 is expected by 2036 and 291,797 by 2046.
- Accelerating housing costs in metropolitan Sydney contribute to certain pressures in the Wollongong LGA, particularly new housing developments, which will largely impact the future needs of the region.
- The likely population growth will diminish the enjoyment and standard of public facilities for the existing population unless additional facilities are provided to meet the additional demand.
- The likely growth will require the provision of additional public facilities to meet additional demands.

Wollongong City Council wants to ensure that it has a sustainable local government area, safeguarding the economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of present and future generations. These levies will assist Council to provide high quality and diverse public facilities to meet the expectations of the existing and new residents of Wollongong LGA.

The additional public facilities to be provided to meet the expected future development are set out in Part D Schedule 4 and 6.

The demand for facilities within the Wollongong City Centre is based on the growth and development projected for the Wollongong City Centre in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Growth Plan 2021-41 and A City for People 2016. In particular, this includes the total developable floor space allowed under the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 and Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009.

Part C – Administration and Operation of the Plan

5. What is the name of this Contributions Plan?

This Plan is called the "Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025)" (the Plan) and replaces the Wollongong City Wide Development Contributions Plan (2024).
This Plan levies contributions under Section 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*

6. Where does this Plan apply?

This Plan applies to all land within the local government area of Wollongong City Council excluding the West Dapto Urban Release Area, as shown at Figure 1.

7. What is the purpose of this Plan?

The purpose of this Plan is to:

- To enable the imposition of a condition on certain development consents and complying development certificates requiring the payment of a contribution pursuant to Section 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).
- Authorise Council, and accredited certifiers or other consent authority to impose conditions requiring contributions under Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act when determining an application on land to which this Plan applies;
- Assist the Council to provide the appropriate public facilities which are required to maintain and enhance amenity and service delivery within the area.
- Publicly identify the purposes for which the levies are required.

8. When does this development contributions Plan commence?

This Plan takes effect from the date on which this Plan is adopted, pursuant to clause 214(4) of the EP&A Regulation.

This Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan 2025 was adopted by Council at its Meeting of 17 November 2025 and came into force on TBD

9. Relationship with other development contribution Plans

This plan repeals the following contributions plan:

- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2024 version)

Previous iterations of contributions plans that applied to all or part of the land to which this plan applies which have been repealed are:

- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2023 version)
- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2022 version)
- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2021 version)
- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2020 version)
- Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2019 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2018 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2017 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2016 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2015 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2014 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2013 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2012 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2011 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2010 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2009 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2008 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2007 version)
- Wollongong Section 94A Contributions Plan (2006 version) – this plan repealed the following Section 94 plans:
  - CP No 1 Open Space Embellishment, Recreation Facilities, Community Facilities;

- Amendment to CP No 1 Open Space;
- CP No 2 Traffic Management & Road Works in City of Wollongong;
- CP No 3 Car Parking in the City of Wollongong;
- CP No 4 Studies & Administration;
- CP No 6 Car Parking in Area between Fairy Creek & Georges Plan Nth Wollongong;
- CP No 7 Open Space Dedication (Nth Side Kanahooka Road);
- CP No 8 Roundabout at the intersection of Unara Road, Yalunga Street & Princes Highway, Dapto;
- CP No 9 Mount Brown Local Area Traffic Management Scheme;
- CP No 10 Bank Street (Road Works & Intersection Upgrade);
- CP No 11 Bank Street (Car Parking Facility between Bank & Stewart Streets);
- CP No 12 Sandon Point Section 94 Land Acquisition; and
- CP No 13 Library Resources.

Any other Section 7.11 or Section 7.12 contributions plans that are not repealed continue to apply to all areas and development to which they are stated to apply.

Figure 1 Land to which this contributions plan applies

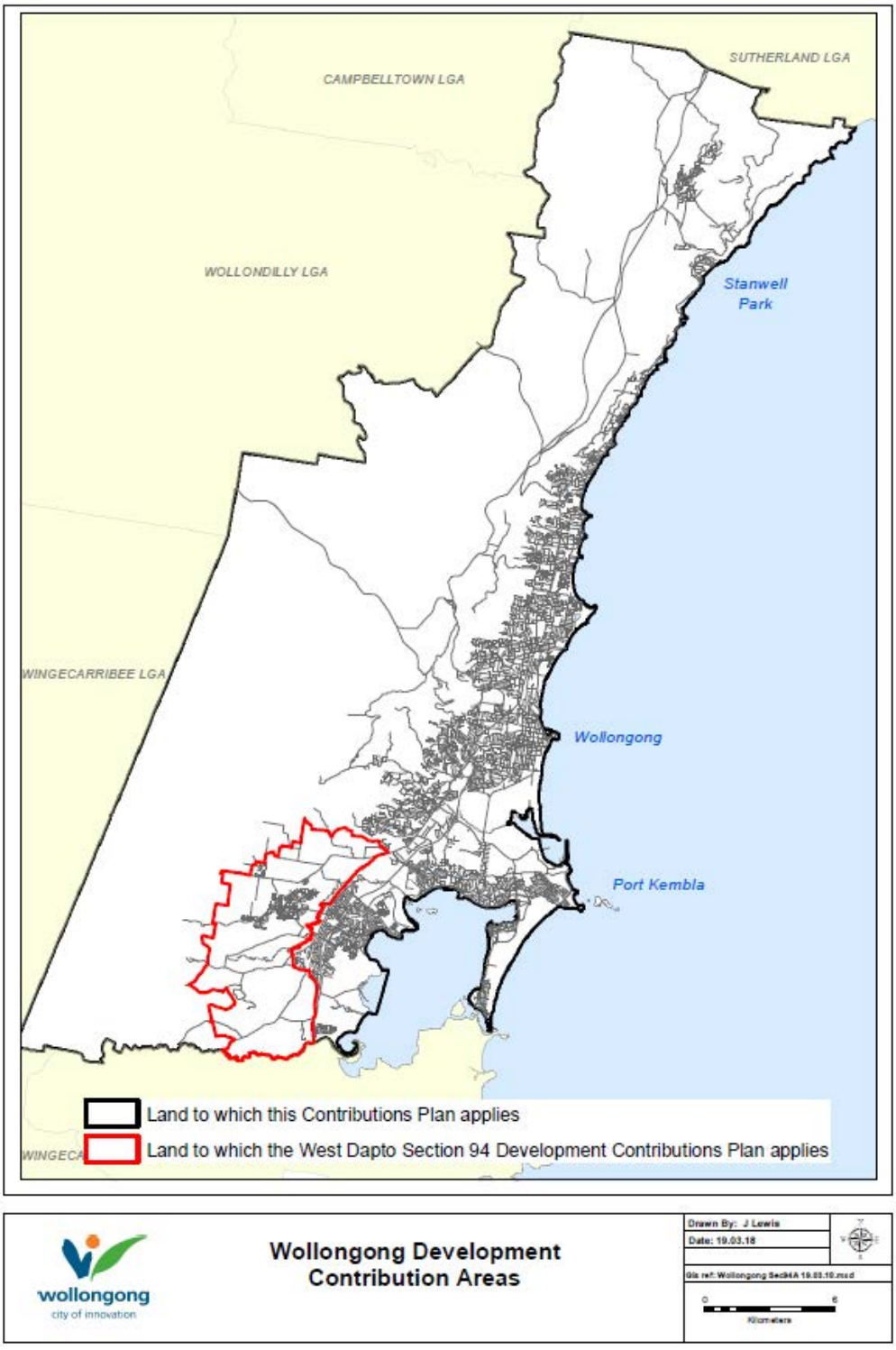
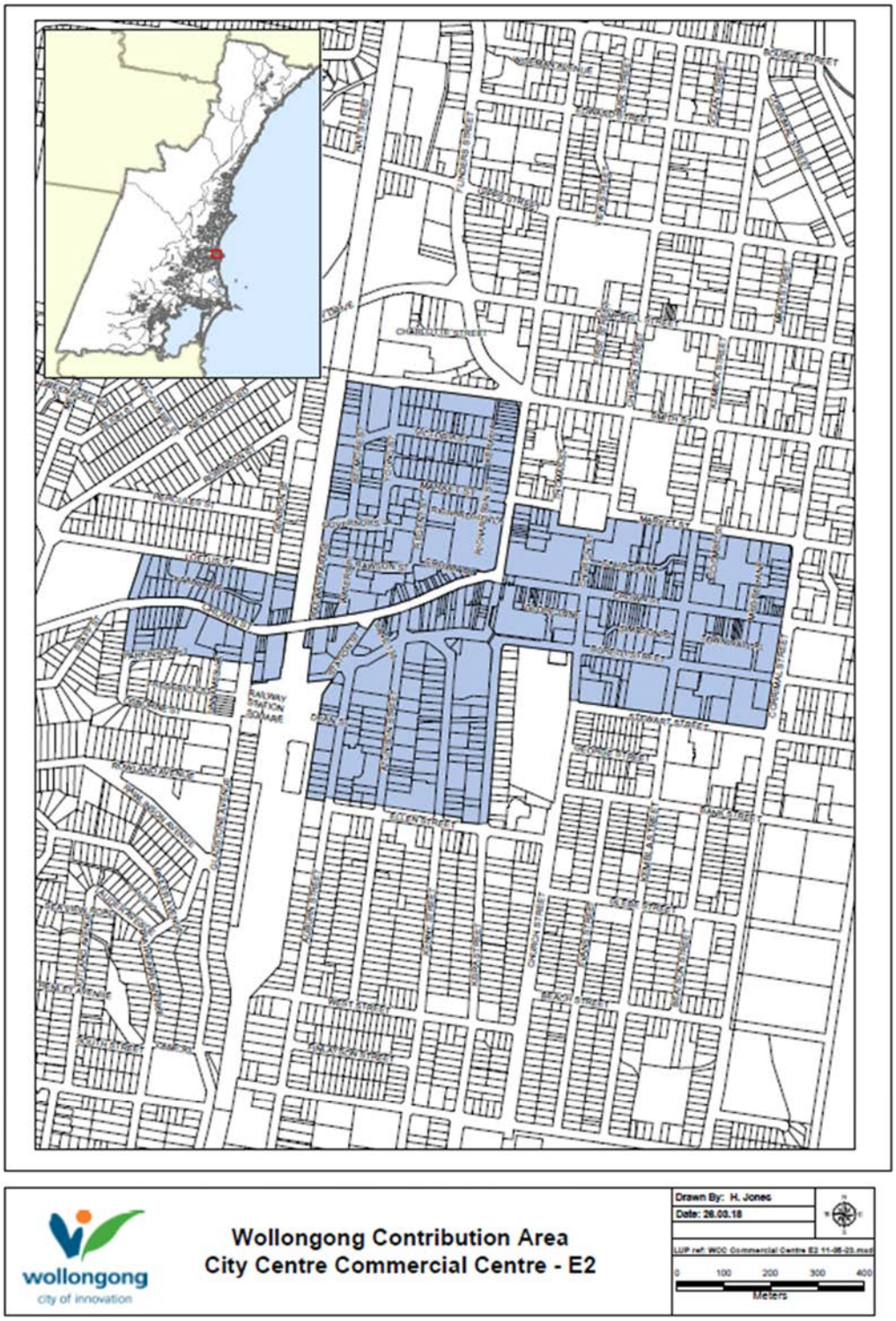


Figure 2 Land within the Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core



10. What does Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act provide?

Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act provides as follows:

7.12 Fixed development consent levies

(1) A consent authority may impose, as a condition of development consent, a requirement that the applicant pay a levy of the percentage, authorised by a contributions plan, of the proposed cost of carrying out the development.

(2) A consent authority cannot impose as a condition of the same development consent a condition under this section as well as a condition under section 7.11.

(2A) A consent authority cannot impose a condition under this section in relation to development on land within a special contributions area without the approval of:

(a) the Minister, or

(b) a development corporation designated by the Minister to give approvals under this subsection

(3) Money required to be paid by a condition imposed under this section is to be applied towards the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities or public services (or towards recouping the cost of their provision, extension or augmentation). The application of the money is subject to any relevant provisions of the contributions plan.

(4) A condition imposed under this section is not invalid by reason only that there is no connection between the development the subject of the development consent and the object of expenditure of any money required to be paid by the condition.

(5) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to levies under this section, including:

(a) the means by which the proposed cost of carrying out development is to be estimated or determined, and

(b) the maximum percentage of a levy.

11. Council may require payment of the levy as a condition of development consent

This Plan enables the Council to grant consent to development to which this Plan applies subject to a condition requiring the applicant to pay to the Council a levy calculated as per clause 12.

12. How will the levy be calculated

The levy will be determined on the basis of the rate as set out in Part A Schedule 1 City Wide Section 7.12 Levy Rates and Schedule 2 – Wollongong City Centre Commercial Core Section 7.12 Levy Rates. The levy will be calculated as follows:

Levy payable = %C x $C

Where:

%C is the levy rate applicable
$C is the proposed cost of carrying out development as determined in accordance with clause 19.

13. Development to which this Plan applies

This Plan applies to all applications for development consent and complying development certificates required to be made by or under Part 4 of the EP&A Act in respect of development on land to which this Plan applies.

14. Section 7.17 Directions

Any current and relevant Direction issued by the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 7.17 of the EP&A Act will prevail over the provisions of this Plan. Current Section 7.17 Directions relative to this Plan include:

- Local councils can combine monetary contributions collected under 7.11 and 7.12 of the EP&A Act for different purposes under various contributions plans and are to be used progressively to support public amenities and services outlined in said plans. (18/05/2020)

- If a development contribution under section 94 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* has been required in respect of the subdivision of land (initial subdivision), a levy under section 94A of that Act may not be required in respect of any other development on the land, unless that other development will, or is likely to, increase the demand for public amenities or public services beyond the increase in demand attributable to the initial subdivision. (14/04/2016)
- A condition may not be imposed under section 94A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in relation to development on land within the Port Kembla Lease Area, as mapped in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Port Botany and Port Kembla) 2013*. (6/12/2013)
- A contribution cannot be imposed on development for the purposes of any form of seniors housing as defined in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004 (formerly the State Environmental Planning Policy (Seniors Living) 2004) where the development consent is granted to a social housing provider as defined in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004*. (14/9/2007)

Further details on current Section 7.17 Directions can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au

15. Are there any other exemptions to the levy?

Requests for a full or partial exemption can be made in writing for the following types of development:

a. An application by Council for community infrastructure, such as but not limited to:
   i. Information & education facilities (i.e., libraries, visitor information centres)
   ii. Community facilities
   iii. Childcare facilities
   iv. Recreational facilities (i.e., sports fields, swimming pools, playgrounds)
   v. Car parking facilities.

b. An application by the NSW Government for public infrastructure, such as but not limited to:
   i. Hospitals (through Health Infrastructure NSW)
   ii. Police stations (through NSW Police)
   iii. Fire stations (through Fire and Rescue NSW)
   iv. Public education facilities (through NSW Department of Education)
   v. Public transport infrastructure (through Transport for NSW)

c. An application for the continued operation of a coal mine, where rail transport is used for the transportation of coal.

d. An application for place of public worship.

e. An application for a residential care facility carried out under Chapter 3 Part 5 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.

f. An application for an industrial training facility.

g. Development carried out by an emergency services organisation for that purpose.

h. An application for the repair and/or replacement of development that has been impacted by natural disasters or unpreventable events (i.e., flooding, bushfire, hail, etc.)

The following exemption requests (partial or full) will require a comprehensive written submission:

i. An application on behalf of Council for community infrastructure, such as but not limited to:
   i. Information & education facilities (i.e., libraries, visitor information centres)
   ii. Community facilities
   iii. Childcare facilities

iv. Recreational facilities (i.e., sports fields, swimming pools, playgrounds)

v. Car parking facilities.

j. An application on behalf of the NSW Government for public infrastructure, such as but not limited to:

i. Hospitals

ii. Police stations

iii. Fire stations

iv. Public education facilities (primary and secondary)

v. Public transport infrastructure.

k. An application for privately funded community infrastructure, such as but not limited to education facilities (primary and secondary) and private hospitals.

l. An application by or on behalf of a tertiary education provider (with the exception of development within the University of Wollongong Innovation Campus); consideration may be given for the following circumstances:

Exemption	Example
i) Full exemption	Facilities directly required by the main function of the educational facility, such as but not limited to– classrooms, lecture theatre, training facility, administrative office, research facility.
ii) Partial exemption (50%)	Facilities not directly required by the main function of the educational facility but will provide support to its main function, such as but not limited to – student accommodation, car park, sports facility, playgrounds, food-court, display facility, function centre, convention hall, auditorium, community centre.
iii) No exemption	Facilities not directly required to the main function of the educational facility and/or have potential to create additional demand for public services and amenities such as but not limited to – shops, supermarket, shopping centre, office for lease, business park, commercial centre, childcare centre, entertainment facility.

m. Any other development for which Council considers an exemption is warranted, where the decision is made by formal resolution of the Council at a public Council meeting or by a delegated Council Officer.

The following will require a complete comprehensive written submission, demonstration that their intended purposes will be available for a minimum period of 15 years, and is owned by the provider:

n. Affordable housing or social developments carried out by a registered Tier 1 or Tier 2 Community Housing Provider.

o. Accessible housing for supportive accommodation housing projects carried out by registered Provider of Accessible Housing.

p. Emergency and temporary housing development t carried out by a registered Provider of Emergency Housing.

q. Social housing developments carried out by public authorities such as the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), or the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO).

Note: A condition will be imposed on any consent issued to ensure the development is used for the exempt purpose for a minimum of 15 years.

Submission Requirements for an exemption claim to be considered

For an exemption to be considered in accordance with clause 15 (i) to (q) above, the application will need to include

a comprehensive written submission arguing the case for exemption and including details of:

- Under which sub-clause the exemption claimed is to be considered.
- The mechanism ensuring that such development will remain in the form proposed in the future (i.e. Not to increase future demand on public amenities and services), NB: where a further development application or application for complying development under the EP&A Act is required for any change to the development no mechanism is necessary, however if a change of use is available by way of exempt development then the requirement for a mechanism remains.
- Other items if applicable:
  - How the development will incorporate the maintenance of the item of heritage significance.
  - How the development will contribute to the public benefit of the community.
  - Works in the public domain included in the development.
  - How the residents/users will utilise existing private facilities attached to the development that replicate those types provided by Council.
  - Advice indicating that the application is on behalf of Council or the NSW Government.

Exemptions (partial or full) listed under clause 15 (i) to (m) will only to be granted with approval of the Council Officer(s) whose position(s) holds the required Council delegations or by formal resolution of the Council at a public Council meeting.

16. Complying Development Certificates and the obligations of accredited certifiers

In accordance with sections 4.28(9) and 7.21 of the EP&A Act and clause 156 of the EP&A Regulation, applications for a complying development certificate are also subject to the provisions of this Plan, and the Certifier (whether Council or an Accredited Certifier) must impose a condition requiring the payment of a Section 7.12 contribution in accordance with the requirements of this Plan.

The condition must include the contribution amount calculated in accordance with this Plan and require payment before any building or subdivision work authorised by the certificate commences. Further information on how to calculate and condition contributions is available on Councils website and from Council. The following template condition should be used:

Development Contributions

Pursuant to Section 4.28(9) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan (2025), a monetary contribution of $[INSERT AMOUNT], subject to indexation, must be paid to Wollongong City Council before any building or subdivision work authorised by this certificate commences.

As the contribution amount is subject to indexation until the date of payment, contact Council for the current indexed amount prior to payment. To pay the contribution go to www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/contributions and submit a Request for an Invoice. The following information will be required:

- *Application number and property address.*
- *Name and address of who the invoice and receipt should be issued to.*
- *Email address where the invoice should be sent.*

A copy of the Contributions Plan and accompanying information is available on Council's website www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au.

In accordance with clause 156(2) of the EP&A Regulation, the Certifier must ensure that the contribution has been fully paid before any building or subdivision work authorised by the certificate commences and submit receipt(s) confirming full payment with the complying development certificate.

17. Construction/Subdivision certificates and the obligations of accredited certifiers

In accordance with clause 20(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, a certifier must not issue a construction certificate for building work under a development

consent unless a condition of the development consent, referred to in the Act, section 7.11 or 7.12, requiring the payment of a monetary contribution or levy before building work is carried out.

In accordance with clause 34(2)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, a certifier must not issue a subdivision works certificate under a development consent unless a condition of the development consent, referred to in the Act, section 7.11 or 7.12, requiring the payment of a monetary contribution or levy before work is carried out.

In accordance with clause 12(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, the certifier must ensure that copies of receipt(s) confirming that contributions have been fully paid are provided to the Council.

18. How is the proposed cost of carrying out development determined?

Clause 208 of the EP&A Regulation sets out how the proposed cost of carrying out development is to be determined. That clause provides as follows:

208 Determination of proposed cost of development—the Act, s 7.12(5)(a)

(1) The proposed cost of carrying out development must be determined by the consent authority by adding up all the costs and expenses that have been or will be incurred by the applicant in carrying out the development.

(2) The costs of carrying out development include the costs of, and costs incidental to, the following—

(a) if the development involves the erection of a building or the carrying out of engineering or construction work—

(i) erecting the building or carrying out the work, and

(ii) demolition, excavation and site preparation, decontamination or remediation,

(b) if the development involves a change of use of land—doing anything necessary to enable the use of the land to be changed,

(c) if the development involves the subdivision of land—preparing, executing and registering—

(i) the plan of subdivision, and

(ii) the related covenants, easements or other rights.

(3) In determining the proposed cost, a consent authority may consider an estimate of the proposed cost that is prepared by a person, or a person of a class, approved by the consent authority to provide the estimate.

(4) The following costs and expenses must not be included in an estimate or determination of the proposed cost—

(a) the cost of the land on which the development will be carried out,

(b) the costs of repairs to a building or works on the land that will be kept in connection with the development,

(c) the costs associated with marketing or financing the development, including interest on loans,

(d) the costs associated with legal work carried out, or to be carried out, in connection with the development,

(e) project management costs associated with the development,

(f) the cost of building insurance for the development,

(g) the costs of fittings and furnishings, including refitting or refurbishing, associated with the development, except if the development involves an enlargement, expansion or intensification of a current use of land,

(h) the costs of commercial stock inventory,

(i) the taxes, levies or charges, excluding GST, paid or payable in connection with the development by or under a law,

(j) the costs of enabling access by people with disability to the development,

(k) the costs of energy and water efficiency measures associated with the development,

(l) the costs of development that is provided as affordable housing,

(m) the costs of development that is the adaptive reuse of a heritage item.

(5) The proposed cost may be adjusted before payment of a development levy, as specified in a contributions plan, to reflect quarterly or annual variations to readily accessible index figures adopted by the plan between the day on which the proposed cost was determined by the consent authority and the day by which the development levy must be paid.

(6) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the determination of the fee payable for a development application.

19. Cost estimate reports

An application for a development application or a complying development certificate is to be accompanied by a report, prepared at the applicant's cost and in accordance with this clause, setting out an estimate of the proposed cost of carrying out the development for the purposes of clause 208 of the EP&A Regulation, per clause 17 above. Where a separate cost estimate is not provided, the estimated cost of development as provided on the development application will be used to calculate the contribution.

The following types of report are required:

- Where the estimate of the proposed cost of carrying out the development is less than $2,000,000 –
  - A suitable cost estimate prepared by a person who, in the opinion of the Council, is suitably qualified. This includes a licensed builder, registered architect, qualified and accredited building designer, registered quantity surveyor or a person who is licensed with relevant qualifications and proven experience in costing of similar development works, but who is not the owner or applicant;
  - A Cost Summary Table Form for development under $2,000,000 can be found in Council's website: Cost-Summary-Table-for-development-under-$2-million-v2.pdf
- where the estimate of the proposed cost of carrying out the development is $2,000,000 or more –
  - A detailed cost report prepared by a quantity surveyor who is a registered member of the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

Applicants will be required to declare upon signing of application for development/building work that the cost of carrying out development as evidenced by their submitted estimate has been calculated in accordance with the provisions of this Plan, in particular clause 17.

Upon reviewing a cost estimate, the Council may require a further estimate to be provided by a registered quantity surveyor at the applicant's cost. The Council may, at the applicant's cost, engage a person referred to in this clause to review a report submitted by an applicant in accordance with this clause.

20. How will the Council apply money obtained from the levy?

Money paid to the Council under a condition authorised by this Plan is to be applied by the Council towards meeting the cost of the public facilities that will be or have been provided within the area as listed in Part D Schedule 4 and 6.

21. What are the funding priorities from levies authorised by this Plan?

Subject to section 7.3(2) of the EP&A Act and clauses 20 and 23 of this Plan, the public facilities listed in Part D Schedule 4 are to be provided in accordance with the staging set out in that Schedule.

22. Pooling of levies

For the purposes of section 7.3(2) of the EP&A Act and the S7.17 Direction dated 18/05/2020, this Plan authorises money obtained from levies paid in respect of different developments to be pooled and applied by the Council progressively towards the public facilities listed in Part D Schedule 5 in accordance with the staging set out in that Schedule.

23. The Goods and Services Tax (GST)

At the time this Plan was made, the position of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) was that the payment of development contributions made under the EP&A Act is exempt from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Items in

the works schedule of this Plan have been calculated without any GST component.

24. When is the levy payable?

A levy to be paid by a condition authorised by this Plan must be paid to the Council in accordance with the following requirements:

- A Development Application involving construction – prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate;
- A Development Application involving subdivision – prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate;
- A Development Application involving construction and subdivision (ie dual occupancies) – prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate;
- A Development Application involving the construction of a new hotel or motel accommodation development (or its components within mixed use development) within the Wollongong City Centre – prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate for the hotel component;
- A Complying Development Certificate Application – before any work authorised by the certificate commences.

Where the development is phased, the condition may allow for the levy to be paid at relevant phases.

25. Can deferred or periodic payments of levies be made?

Deferred or periodic payments may be permitted in the following circumstances:

- Deferred or periodic payment of the contribution will not prejudice the timing or the manner of the provision of public facilities included in the works program;
- In other circumstances considered reasonable by Council.

For a deferred or periodic payment to be considered, the applicant must satisfy to Council that:

- There are valid reasons for deferred or periodic payment;
- No prejudice will be caused to the community deriving benefit from the services being provided under this Plan;
- No prejudice will be caused to the efficiency and operation of this Plan.

If Council does decide to accept deferred or periodic payment, Council may require the applicant to provide a bank guarantee for the full amount of the contribution or the outstanding balance on condition that:

a) The bank guarantee be issued by a bank for the amount of the total contribution, or the amount of the outstanding contribution, plus an amount equal to thirteen (13) months interest.

b) Any charges associated with establishing or operating the bank security are payable by the applicant.

c) The bank guarantee must carry specific wording identifying the exact obligation to which it relates (i.e. section 7.12 development contributions for development of Lot x DP xxx under Development Consent No. xxx)

d) The bank unconditionally pays the guaranteed sum to the Council if the Council so demands in writing not earlier than 12 months from the provision of the guarantee or completion of the work.

e) The bank must pay the guaranteed sum without reference to the applicant or landowner or other person who provided the guarantee, and without regard to any dispute, controversy, issue or other matter relating to the development consent or the carrying out of development.

f) The bank's obligations are discharged when payment to the Council is made in accordance with this guarantee or when Council notifies the bank in writing that the guarantee is no longer required.

g) Where a bank guarantee has been deposited with Council, the guarantee shall not be cancelled until such time as the original contribution and accrued interest are paid.

Deferred or periodic payments may be permitted, in accordance with the above requirements, only with approval of the Council Officer(s) whose position(s) holds the required Council delegations.

26. Planning Agreements

Section 7.4 of the EP&A Act states that a planning agreement is a voluntary agreement between a planning authority and a developer, under which the developer agrees to make contributions towards a public purpose. This may include the dedication of land, a monetary contribution, any other material public benefit or a combination of these. A planning agreement may exclude the application of Section 7.12 to the entire development or to part of the development that is subject to the agreement.

The provisions of Sections 7.4 to 7.10 of the EP&A Act and Part 9 Division 1 of the EP&A Regulation prescribe the contents, form, subject matter and procedures for making planning agreements.

Further information can be found in Council's Planning Agreements Policy.

27. How will the levy be adjusted?

As the date of the consent may vary to the actual time of payment of the contribution, clause 208(5) of the EP&A Regulation allows Council to adjust the contribution to reflect current between the date of the consent and the time of payment. Contributions required as a condition of consent under the provisions of this Plan will be indexed quarterly in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index; All Groups CPI; issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS Series ID A2325806K).

The following formula for indexing contributions is to be used:

Contribution at time of payment = $C x (CP2/CP1)

Where:

$C is the original contribution as set out in the consent

CP1 is the Consumer Price Index; All Groups CPI; Sydney at the time the consent was issued

CP2 is the Consumer Price Index; All Groups CPI; Sydney at the time of payment

In the event that the current index is lower than the index for the previous quarter, no adjustment will be made.

28. Savings and Transitional Arrangements

A development application or complying development certificate application which has been submitted prior to the adoption of this Plan but not determined shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Plan.

29. Are refunds for payments of levies possible?

For a refund of levy payments to be considered, the applicant/landowner must:

- Submit a written request to Council;
- As a part of the request, demonstrate that the development that is the subject of the consent has not been commenced;
- Submit the request for a refund within 12 months of the payment;
- Formally surrender the consent that applied the levy;

In other circumstances considered reasonable by Council at its sole and unfettered discretion, where a formal request is made, part or full refunds may be provided.

Part D – References

30. What definitions apply?

In this Plan, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires the following definitions apply:

- **ABS** means the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- **EP&A Act** means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

- **EP&A Regulation** means the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021
- **Council** means Wollongong City Council
- **Levy** means a levy under section 7.12 of the EP&A Act authorised by this Plan
- **LEP** means the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009
- **Plan** means this Wollongong City-Wide Development Contributions Plan
- **Public facility and Public Infrastructure** means a public amenity or public service

31. Schedule 4 – Detailed Works Schedule – Projects proposed to utilise Section 7.12 funds

The Capital Works Program that Council delivers is funded from a mix of budget sources, including contributions collected from this Plan. Section 7.12 Contributions will be allocated to projects through the annual budget preparation process based on this schedule, and will be subject to refinement until the project delivery stage. This may include the review of projects and/or budget allocations as part of the monthly budget review process that is reported to and endorsed by Council. Section 7.12 Contributions currently allocated to future projects are shown in the table below:

Map No.	Project Number	Project	Location	Section 7.12 Forecast Funding Allocation				
				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
		Roads and Bridges						
	127424	Traffic Facility Improvements (50% RMS) (bulk)	Various	$200,000	$200,000	$400,000	$400,000	**$1,200,000**
7	127948	King St/Greene St/Montgomery St TS1	Warrawong	$850,000	$850,000	$0	$0	**$1,700,000**
7	128107	King St/Cowper St Traffic Light Upgrade TS2	Warrawong	$0	$1,700,000	$0	$0	**$1,700,000**
		Sub total		**$1,050,000**	**$2,750,000**	**$400,000**	**$400,000**	**$4,600,000**
		Footpaths and Cycleways						
	126485	Footpaths and Cycleways (bulk)	Various	$100,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$1,200,000	**$2,800,000**
1	129676	Towradgi Creek Shared Path (Stage 1)	East Corrimal	$0	$1,000,000	$0	$0	**$1,000,000**
7	129672	Warrawong Town Square CC2	Warrawong	$0	$1,700,000	$0	$0	**$1,700,000**
4	127575	Wollongong City Centre Wayfinding Signage Stage 3 (City Centre)	Wollongong	$50,000	$0	$0	$0	**$50,000**
2	128146	Bourke St, North Wollongong Train Station to Virginia St	North Wollongong	$150,000	$350,000	$0	$0	**$500,000**
	128482	Throsby Drive Shared Path: Foley Street to Flinders Street	Gwynneville	$550,000	$0	$0	$0	**$550,000**
	127896	Princes Highway; Collaery Street to Bellambi Road Shared Path	Bellambi	$750,000	$0	$0	$0	**$750,000**
		Sub total		**$1,600,000**	**$3,550,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$1,200,000**	**$7,350,000**
		Car parks						
7	129671	Warrawong Laneway Relocation and Carpark - CC3	Warrawong		$900,000	$0	$0	**$900,000**
		Sub total		**$0**	**$900,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$900,000**
		Non-Commercial buildings						
7	125350	Southern Suburbs Library + Community Centre CC1	Warrawong	$9,100,000	$500,000	$0	$0	**$9,600,000**
	125353	Helensburgh Library	Helensburgh	$0	$0	$4,000,000	$0	**$4,000,000**
		Sub total		**$9,100,000**	**$500,000**	**$4,000,000**	**$0**	**$13,600,000**

Map No.	Project Number	Project	Location	Section 7.12 Forecast Funding Allocation				
				2025/26	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**Total**
		Parks, Gardens and sports fields						
	125109	New sporting facilities (bulk)	Various	$0	$0	$400,000	$400,000	**$800,000**
	129028	Thirroul Skate Park	Thirroul	$0	$900,000	$0	$0	**$900,000**
	129027	Wollongong Skate Park	Wollongong	$0	$600,000	$0	$0	**$600,000**
2	129919	Beaton Park Sportsfield Lighting	Gwynneville	$0	$0	$0	$520,000	**$520,000**
1	129920	Towradgi Park Sportsfield Lighting	Towradgi	$320,000	$200,000	$0	$0	**$520,000**
6	129921	Berkeley Sportsfield Lighting	Berkeley	$200,000	$335,600	$0	$0	**$535,600**
5	129922	Mt Kembla Sportsfield Lighting	Mount Kembla	$0	$0	$275,834	$0	**$275,834**
3	129923	Mt Keira Sportsfield Lighting	Mount Keira	$0	$0	$275,834	$0	**$275,834**
		Sub total		**$520,000**	**$2,035,600**	**$951,668**	**$920,000**	**$4,427,268**
		Land Acquisitions						
		Land acquisitions as required		$350,000	$0	$0	$0	**$350,000**
		Sub total		**$350,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$350,000**
		Administration						
		Development Contributions Planner		$124,620	$128,359	$132,210	$136,441	**$521,630**
		Development Contributions Support Finance		$12,619	$13,048	$13,438	$13,868	**$52,973**
		Sub total		**$137,239**	**$141,407**	**$145,648**	**$150,309**	**$574,603**
		TOTAL		**$12,757,239**	**$9,877,007**	**$6,897,316**	**$2,270,309**	**$31,801,871**

32. Schedule 5 – Detailed Funding Completed – Projects that have included Section 7.12 funds

The Capital Works that Council delivers are funded from a mix of sources, including contributions collected from this Plan. Section 7.12 Contributions that have been allocated to projects are shown in the table below:

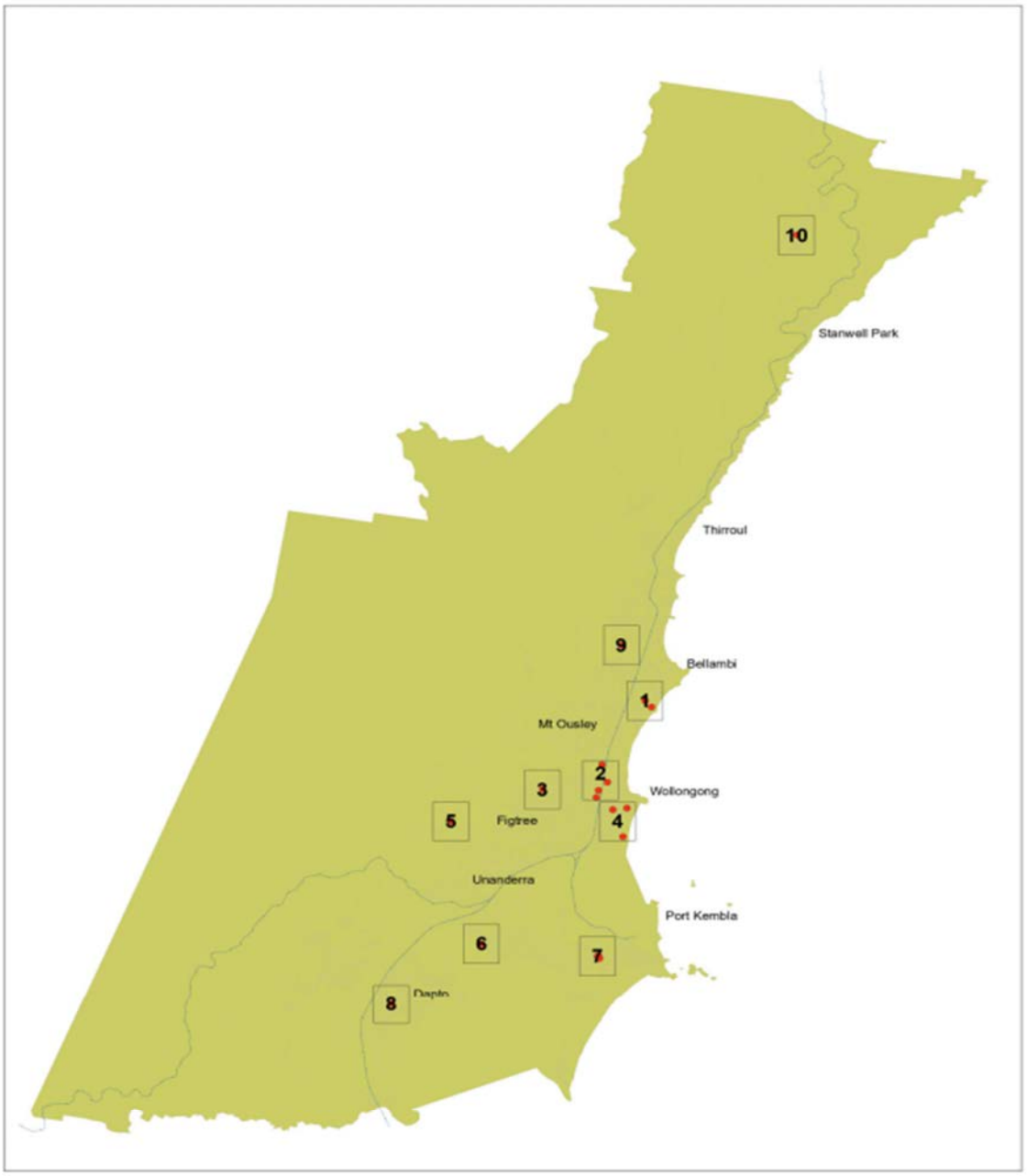
Project	Section 7.12 Actual Funding Allocations					
	2006/07 to 2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total 2006-07 to 2024/25
Roads and Bridges						
Other Road and Bridge Projects	$5,898,764					$5,898,764
Point Street Local Area Traffic Management	$132,263					$132,263
Northcliffe Dr, Pharlap Ave to Princes Hwy, roundabout	$102,037					$102,037
Cordeaux Rd - Princes Hwy Roundabout Upgrade		$13,910				$13,910
Phillips St near Ryan's Hotel Pedestrian Facility		$39,200				$39,200
Wollongong City Centre Wayfinding Signage		$31,123	$169,154	$8,813		$209,090
Factory Rd, kerb and gutter			$105,533			$105,533
C - Gipps Rd; Foley St to Vickery St				$219,189		$219,189
Sub total	***$6,133,034***	***$84,233***	***$274,687***	***$228,002***	***$-***	$6,719,986
Other footpath and cycleway projects	$12,349,415				$100,000	$12,449,415
Crawford Ave; Porter St to Hay St access	$247,725					$247,725
Greenacre Rd, Mercury St to Rosemont St	$145,137					$145,137
Beacon Ave; Showground to Coastline Cycleway	$84,403					$84,403
Murranar Rd; Towradgi Station to Coastline Cycleway	$125,440					$125,440
Cliff Rd; Stuart Park to Marine Dr	$18,073					$18,073
Hooka Creek Road; Lake Ride to Northcliffe Dr	$16,848					$16,848
Wollongong City Centre Wayfinding Signage	$30,265				$50,000	$80,265
Smith St - Keira St to Harbour St; and Harbour St - Smith St	$328					$328
Station St; Duff Pde to Pioneer Rd; north side	$128,917					$128,917
Smith St - Belmore St to Keira St	$90,000					$90,000
Kembla St - Smith St to Crown St	$45,000					$45,000
Beacon Ave; Showground to Coastline Cycleway		$22,992				$22,992
Military Rd, Old Port Rd to Port Kembla Pool, On-road Cycleway		$91,112				$91,112
Reserve St; Gilmore St to Robsons Rd; south side		$10,223				$10,223

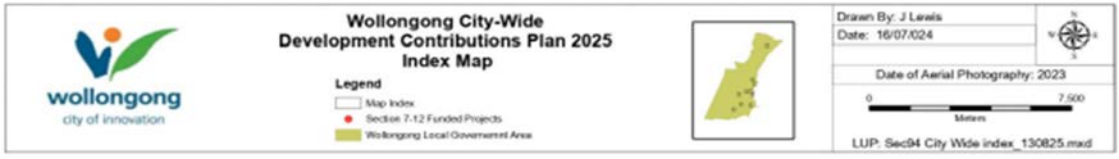
Project	Section 7.12 Actual Funding Allocations					
	2006/07 to 2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total 2006-07 to 2024/25
Gladstone Ave - Crown St to Railway Station Sq; Railway Station		$26,043				$26,043
Stewart St -Corrimal St to Church St; and Church St – Stewart St		$28,754				$28,754
Crown St - Kembla St to Corrimal St		$1,499				$1,499
Princes Hwy; North Wollongong Station to Guest Ave						$0
Phillips St near Ryan's Hotel Pedestrian Facility		$39,200				$39,200
Grand Pacific Walk - Clifton						$0
Gipps Rd; Vickery St to Foley St, Southern side						$0
Factory Rd, Shared User path and Footpath			$58,867			***$58,867***
Kembla St - Crown St to Stewart St			$1,338			***$1,338***
Braeside Ave, Murphys Ave to Gipps Rd				$120,462		***$120,462***
Gipps Rd; Vickery St to Foley St, Southern side				$194,112		***$194,112***
Sub total	***$13,609,223***	***$219,823***	***$308,734***	***$314,574***	***$150,000***	***$13,965,948***
Car parks						
Other car park projects	$2,450,270					$2,450,270
Robert Ziems Park Cricket Ground Carpark	$200,000					$200,000
Sub total	***$2,650,270***	***$-***	***$-***	***$-***	***$-***	***$2,650,270***
Non-Commercial buildings						
Other Non-Commercial Building projects	$14,055,419					$14,055,419
New Warrawong Multipurpose Facility	$381,606	$859,907	$1,109,435			$2,350,948
Sub total	***$14,437,025***	***$859,907***	***$1,109,435***	***$-***	***$-***	***$16,406,367***
Parks, Gardens and Sports Fields						
Other Parks, Gardens and Sports Fields Projects	$5,570,615					$5,570,615
Cringila Hills Pump Track	$30,000					$30,000
Criterium Track	$45,000		$348,964			$393,964
Lindsay Mayne Park Perimeter Control and Landscaping		$30,000	$213,256			$243,256
Thomas Gibson Sports Field Lighting			$43,128			$43,128
Port Kembla Beach access ramp			$386,288			$386,288
Corrimal Memorial Park Fencing				$1,105		$1,105

Project	Section 7.12 Actual Funding Allocations					
	2006/07 to 2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total 2006-07 to 2024/25
Sub total	***$5,645,615***	***$30,000***	***$991,636***	***$1,105***		***$6,668,356***
Land Acquisitions						
Other Land Acquisitions	$2,201,500				**$250,000**	$2,451,500
Acquisition of Strip adjoining 5 Franklin Avenue, Bulli	$1,500	$5,838				$7,338
Helensburgh CC+L Land Acquisition		$3,500,000				$3,500,000
216 Princes Highway Dapto LOT B DP156856		$4,300		$4,300		$8,600
Acquisition of part lot 1 DP1207666 - Dapto Leagues Club		$1,100				$1,100
Sub total	***$2,203,000***	***$3,511,238***	***$-***	**$4,300**	**$250,000**	***$5,968,538***
Administration						
Contributions Planner	$851,824	$110,723	$114,045	$107,838	$124,620	$1,309,050
Contributions Admin Support - Finance	$664,212	$11,212	$7,562	$10,920	$12,619	$706,525
Contributions Administration & Studies	$452,216					$452,216
Sub total	***$1,968,252***	***$121,935***	***$121,607***	***$118,758***	***$137,239***	***$2,467,791***
TOTAL	**$46,318,777**	**$4,827,136**	**$2,497,365**	**$666,739**	**$537,239**	**$54,847,256**

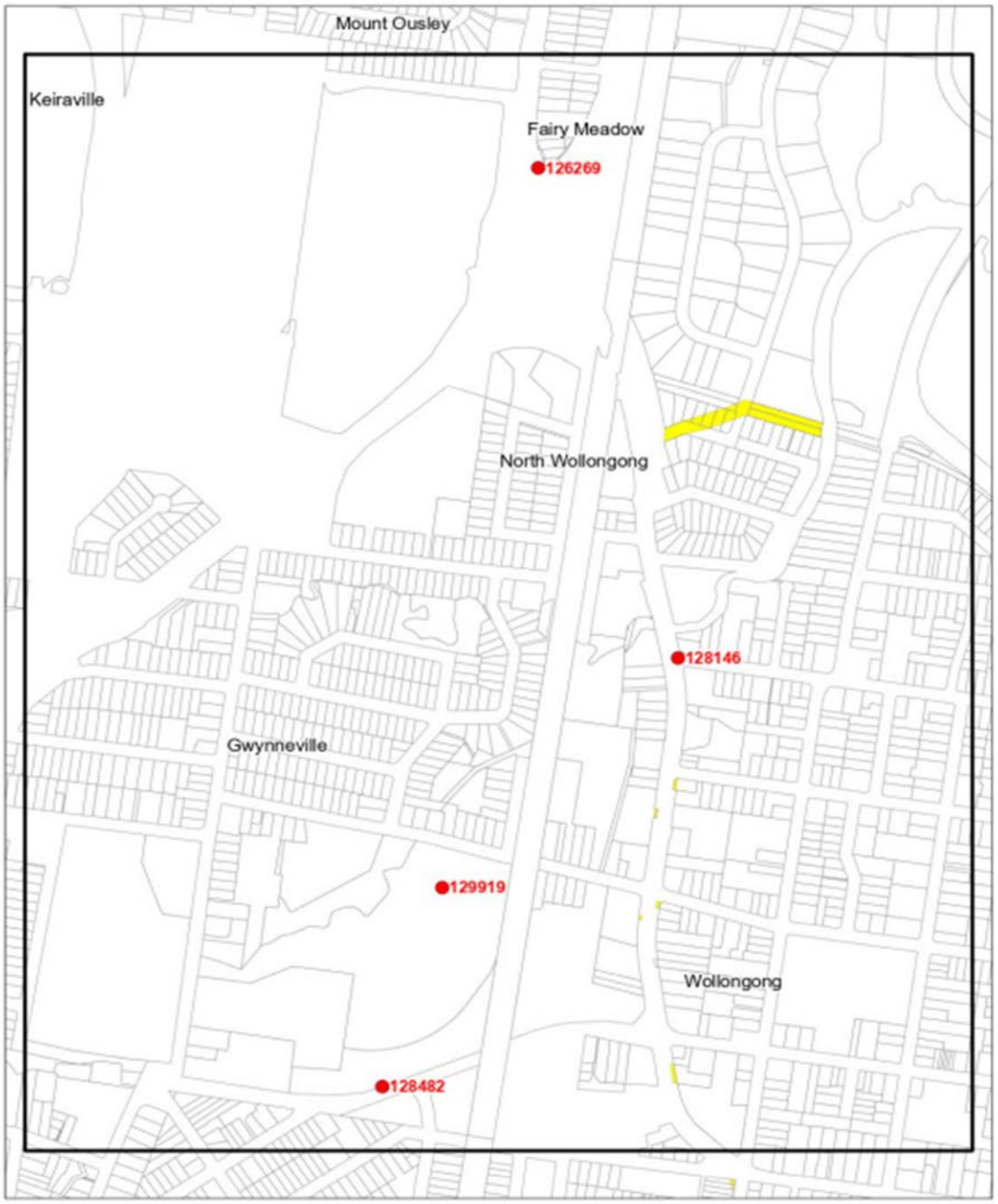
33. Schedule 6 - Works Schedule – Maps

Projects locations are noted as best as possible given their nature and scale of mapping.





Bellambi
Corrimal
East Corrimal
Towradgi
Fairy Meadow
129676
129920
RAILWAY STREET
MURRAY ROAD
STATION STREET
GREGORY AVENUE
LAKE PARADE
AUGUSTA STREET
JUANITA AVENUE
JENNER AVENUE
STURDEE STREET
TOWRADGI ROAD
MURRANAR ROAD
MARLO ROAD
EDGAR STREET
ALDRIDGE AVENUE
DOBBIE AVENUE
THALASSA AVENUE
CONNAUGHAN AVENUE
COOLGARDIE STREET
PARK ROAD
HIGH STREET
PIONEER ROAD
PAYNE ROAD
SPINKS ROAD
CARROLL ROAD
PARKER ROAD
CARLEY STREET
MARINE PARADE
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 1
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd



Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 2

Legend
Section 7-12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land

Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25

Date of Aerial Photography: 2023

0 300
Meters

LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

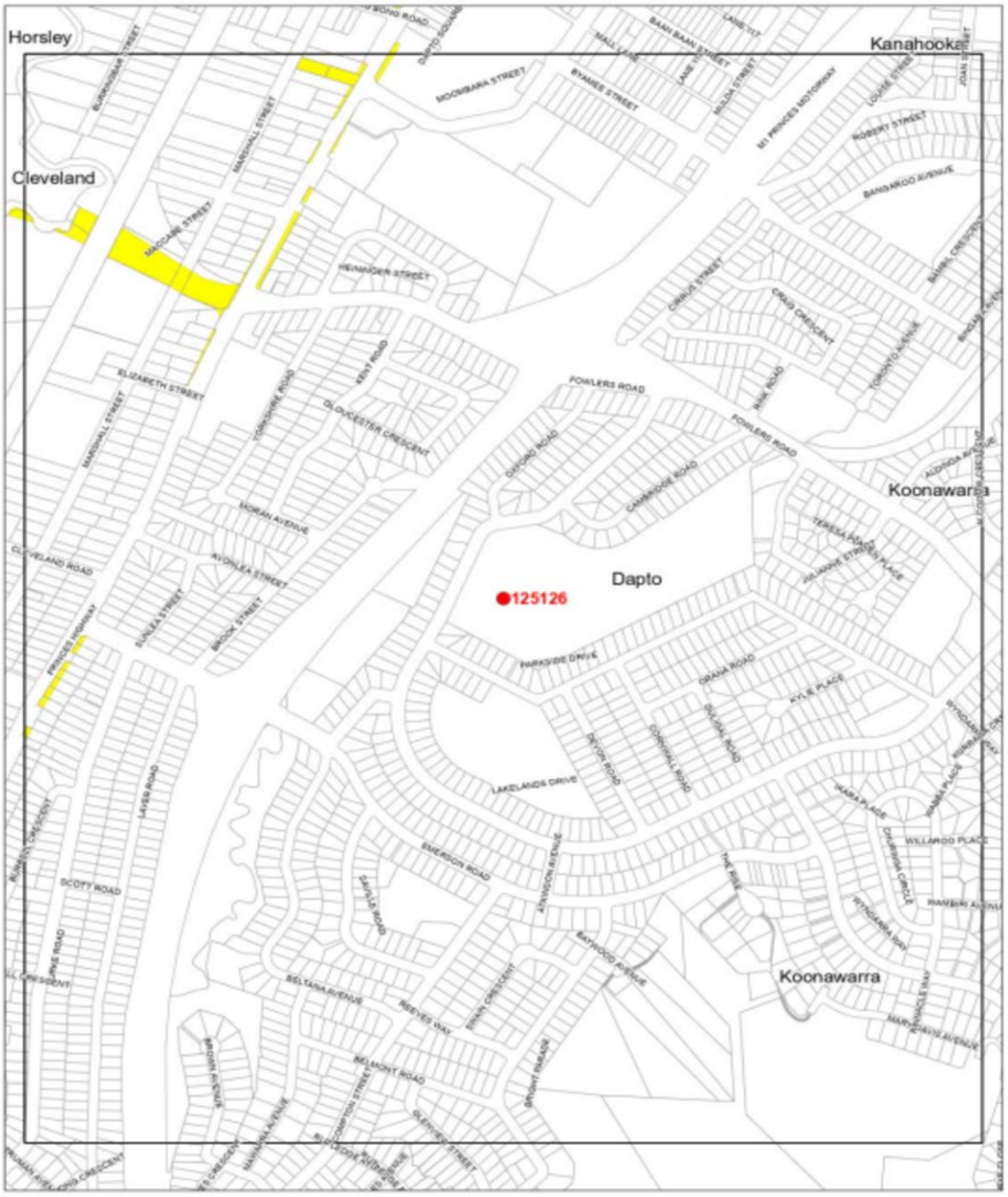
Mount Keira
Keiraville
West Wollongong
Figtree
129923
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 3
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

128130
127575
128034
Wollongong
Coniston
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 4
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

Kembla Heights
Mount Kembla
129922
KIRKWOOD PLACE
STAFFORD LANE
LANE 99
BENJAMIN ROAD
STAFFORD ROAD
JAMES ROAD
CORDEAUX ROAD
BRADLEY AVENUE
STONES ROAD
WILLIAM JAMES DRIVE
NORTHMEADOWS
Cordeaux Heights
wollongong
city of innovation
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 5
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
Meters
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

Unanderra
Kembla Grange
Berkeley
129921
CANTERBURY ROAD
M1 PRINCES MOTORWAY
HOOKA CREEK ROAD
NORTHCLIFFE DRIVE
FORK STREET
NOTTINGHAM STREET
CHESHIRE STREET
SUFFOLK STREET
LANCASHIRE STREET
NOLAN STREET
GALLOP STREET
BARKER STREET
BROUGHA STREET
KELLY STREET
DERBY STREET
HEATHCOTE ROAD
SALISBURY STREET
OXFORD STREET
HEATHCOTE STREET
BEDFORD STREET
ESSEX STREET
LONDON STREET
KENT STREET
SUSSEX STREET
SOUTHAMPTON STREET
HOLBORN STREET
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 6
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

Port Kembla
Warrawong
127948
129672
125350
129671
128107
WATTLE STREET
FIVE ISLANDS ROAD
FLAGSTAFF ROAD
BRUCE ROAD
TODD STREET
TURPIN AVENUE
COOPER STREET
GREENE STREET
NORTHCLIFFE DRIVE
MARGARET STREET
STUART ROAD
HOSKINS AVENUE
KEMBLA AWABA ROAD
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 7
Legend
Section 7-12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd


Horsley
Kanahooka
Cleveland
Koonawarra
Dapto
125126
Koonawarra
FOWLERS ROAD
PARKSIDE DRIVE
LAKELANDS DRIVE
ELIZABETH STREET
MARSHALL STREET
MACCABE STREET
HENNIGER STREET
MOORAKA STREET
BYAMEE STREET
ROBERT STREET
BANGAROO AVENUE
CLELAND ROAD
SCOTT ROAD
BELTANA AVENUE
REEVES WAY
BELMONT ROAD
BAYWOOD AVENUE
ATKINSON AVENUE
ENGERSON ROAD
GLOUCESTER CRESCENT
OXFORD ROAD
CAMBRIDGE ROAD
ORANA ROAD
KYLIE PLACE
WILLAROO PLACE
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 8
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
wollongong
city of innovation
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

Woonona
Russell Vale
Bellambi
Corrimal
127896
DUKE STREET
RIXONS PASS ROAD
HALLEY CRESCENT
PALLIER PLACE
ANDERSON STREET
MARLEY PLACE
OLDHAVEN STREET
BOOMBIE PLACE
DORIA PLACE
TRISTAN PLACE
LAVINIA AVENUE
KATHLEEN CRESCENT
NARELLE CRESCENT
DOUG'S AVENUE
COLLIERY ROAD
NEVILLE AVENUE
EDLIE STREET
LAVICTORIA CLOSE
WILLIAMS CRESCENT
NICKS STREET
WEST STREET
MORETON STREET
LANE 86
LANE 88
EAST STREET
CROOM CRESCENT
TERANA STREET
NIMMIN STREET
BROKER STREET
TALLOWOOD CRESCENT
CHANNON STREET
KEORA AVENUE
BELLAMBI LANE
WATTS LANE
MEMORIAL DRIVE
KIRTON ROAD
CHESTER STREET
ALBERT STREET
ALBERT STABLE LANE
LYNDON STREET
LANE 140
DONCASTER STREET
JOYCE LANE
PRINCES HIGHWAY
WHITING CRESCENT
ARTHUR STREET
KOW STREET
JONES PLACE
ANNIE STREET
BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
ROBSON STREET
BIGNELL LANE
RIDLEY STREET
FESTIVUS LANE
WILGA STREET
EAGER STREET
HAROLD STREET
ROTHERY STREET
DAPHNE STREET
BLUNDELL PARADE
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 9
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
wollongong
city of innovation
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
0
300
Meters
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

Helensburgh
125353
Otford
Wollongong City-Wide
Development Contributions Plan 2025
MAP 1
Legend
Section 7.12 Funded Projects
Land Reservation Acquisition LEP 2009
Community Land
wollongong
city of innovation
Drawn By: H. Jones
Date: 13/08/25
Date of Aerial Photography: 2023
0
300
Meters
LUP: Sec94 City Wide Mapbook_140825.mxd

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.

We value and protect our environment
We have an innovative and sustainable economy
Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
We are a connected and engaged community
We have a healthy community in a liveable city
We have affordable and accessible transport

wollongong
city of innovation

Wollongong City Council
wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone (02) 4227 7111

ITEM 9 POST EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2009 - CHAPTER E15 - WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

On 28 July 2025, Council resolved to place an updated draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and supporting resources on public exhibition for community feedback. The exhibition period ran from 4 August to 4 September 2025, during which time a total of 18 formal submissions were received.

The purpose of this report is to outline the feedback received during the exhibition period and recommend that Council adopt the amended Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD). The update to the Chapter also supports the actions under Council's Community Strategic Plan 2035 and broader objectives of the Climate Friendly DCP Review program.

RECOMMENDATION

The amended Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009, Chapter E15 – Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) be adopted and a notice placed on Council's Website.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Luke Musgrave, Manager City Strategy
Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

1 Amended WDCP 2009 Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) with tracked changes
2 Engagement Summary - WDCP 2009 Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
CSP	Wollongong Council Community Strategic Plan 2035
DCP	Development Control Plan
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LICMP	Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program
LIRBF	Lake Illawarra Catchment: Applying a Risk Based Framework for Improving Water Quality (DCCEEW, 2024)
MUSIC ™	Model for Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation – A hydrological modelling software
MUSIC-link	Is a timesaving feature available in the latest version of MUSIC It offers a tailored profile within the MUSIC software specific to each subscribing local government areas guidelines, WSUD design and water quality targets. MUSIC-link incorporates Council's specific requirements for water quality and treatment performance into MUSIC and can be used to build compliant models of stormwater systems that are appropriate to the local area.
UDIA	Urban Development Institute of Australia
WDURA	Wrest Dapto Urban Release Area
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design

BACKGROUND

Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 Chapter E15: Water Sensitive Urban Design was adopted on 15 December 2009 and commenced on 1 March 2010, following the introduction of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009. Chapter E15 was developed to mitigate the negative impacts of development on water quality and the health of local waterways, while also meeting Council's legislative responsibilities. It sets stormwater quality performance targets for specific scales and types of development.

Since its adoption, there have been significant advancements in WSUD research, technologies, and practices, offering more cost-effective, environmentally sensitive, and sustainable solutions. In 2024–2025, Council undertook a comprehensive review of Chapter E15. The review responds to ongoing community concerns about waterway health, and recommendations and actions from key environmental frameworks including the *Lake Illawarra Catchment Management Program* (2020–2030), the *Marine Estate Management Strategy* (2018–2028), and the *Lake Illawarra Risk-Based Framework (2024)*.

The *Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program 2020-30* recognises that development in certain areas of the Lake Illawarra catchment, specifically in the West Dapto Urban Release Area has the potential to cause significant, adverse impact upon the local environment and amenity. Action WQ1 of the program relates to implementation of a Risk Based Stormwater Management Framework for the Lake Illawarra catchment.

The *Lake Illawarra – Applying a Risk-Based Framework for Improving Water Quality* report was completed by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in 2024. The report advises that Council update the planning controls and the existing pollution reduction targets in Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 to better protect the water quality of the Lake.

PROPOSAL

Utilising grant funding under the Coastal and Estuary Program, Council has undertaken a review of its planning controls and technical guidebook.

The updated draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter E15 (WSUD) and supporting resources will:

- Reduce modelling and assessment costs for developers and Council.
- Provide clear, consistent guidance, reduce ambiguity and assist with the appropriate design of WSUD systems.
- Provide clear guidance on what Council will accept responsibility for, will prevent Council taking ownership of non-compliant WSUD measures.
- Reduce requirements water quality testing from three (3) to two (2) years reduced the costs to developers by approximately $5,000 per system.

The revised DCP chapter E15 along with supporting resources, including the WSUD Guidebook for developers and WSUD Engineering drawings series, were placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

A total of 18 formal submissions were received from community members, government agencies, industry bodies, and developers. Additional, valuable input was provided by internal teams and external consultants, helping to refine and improve the final documents. The exhibition period highlighted broad support for the revised Chapter's alignment with regional waterway health strategies and its evidence-based approach to WSUD.

A table summarising the key themes of the feedback received and proposed amendments is provided below.

Table 1*: *Summary of the key feedback themes from the public exhibition of WDCP Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)

Theme	Comment	Proposed Amendment
Support for new pollution reduction targets	NSW Government submissions highlighted that the revised targets are evidence-based and supported by rigorous scientific research, comprehensive environmental studies, and strategic planning initiatives focused on Lake Illawarra and its associated waterways	No amendments required
Positive feedback about the supporting resources for developers	Feedback on Council's WSUD Guidebook for Developers and the MUSIC-link tool highlighted the significant benefits these resources will deliver for WSUD design, planning, and assessment processes.	No amendments required
Feedback about clarity of the document and supporting resources	Several community members and stormwater consultants provided valuable advice and constructive feedback to enhance the clarity and usability of the DCP and its supporting materials.	Reduced technical language and incorporation of plain English. Wording in the development controls, particularly in the groundwater sections of the DCP, has been refined for accuracy and improved clarity. Added Development Application (DA) and handover checklists as well as enhanced MUSIC-link guidance.
Concerns about reduced developable land and increased costs to implement WSUD within the WDURA, particularly in Zone A:	The amended DCP provisions support the implementation of the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program 2020 -2030 (LI CMP) and other strategic and legislative commitments to protect water quality and mitigate the negative effects of stormwater on Lake Illawarra. In some cases, implementation of new targets may increase costs or impact development potential however, the WSUD footprint can be minimised in the early planning stages to minimise the number of WSUD assets required and using integrated WSUD features such as permeable pavement, or floating wetlands. To reduce costs for developers, Council has reduced the required water quality monitoring period from 3 years to 2 years, potentially saving the applicant $5,000 per asset. Advice on WSUD design is provided within the Developer Guidebook, and Council will provide pre-development guidance and resources to help identify practical, cost-effective solutions for developers. Council remains committed to working collaboratively with industry to identify practical solutions that balance development opportunities with environmental sustainability.	Council will prepare a factsheet demonstrating how applicants can integrate multiple WSUD systems cost-effectively without reducing developable land.

Theme	Comment	Proposed Amendment
Nutrient Management: Questions around the proposed pollutant reduction targets in Zone A.	The proposed pollutant reduction targets for Zone A were developed by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) using long-term scientific data and modelling specific to Lake Illawarra's catchment. These targets reflect the lake's unique tidal exchange and ecological response patterns. While higher than generic ANZECC values, both ANZECC and NSW monitoring frameworks recommend locally derived targets where possible. Targets are based on achieving a chlorophyll-a trigger value of 3.6 µg/L, which is linked to nitrogen levels and is critical for preventing algal blooms. The Risk-Based Framework sets these reductions strategically to maintain lake health and water quality. Future changes, such as reduced tidal flushing at the lake entrance, could increase nutrient risks. Implementing these targets now is essential to protect Lake Illawarra's ecological function, recreational value, and economic importance.	No amendments required
Inclusion of Smaller Developments (<20 lots): Why smaller-scale projects are not currently incorporated into the DCP	WSUD principles can be applied to all development scales, but the current DCP thresholds are designed to balance environmental outcomes with cost and administrative practicality. The updated DCP lowers the threshold from 50 lots to 20 lots, ensuring medium-scale developments include WSUD measures to protect water quality. Smaller (<20) scale projects remain exempt from mandatory WSUD targets to avoid unnecessary costs and complexity. However, under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022, these developments must still meet BASIX water-saving requirements, such as rainwater tanks, efficient fixtures, and sustainable landscaping. Council supports proponents who wish to integrate WSUD in smaller projects and provides resources, including the WSUD Guidebook, factsheets, and engineering series, to make inclusion practical and cost-effective.	No amendments required.

The amended draft Chapter (Attachment 1) incorporates feedback and insights gathered during the exhibition period through internal and external consultation with industry professionals, developers, and community members. The updated chapter aims to reduce risks to Council, protect environmental values, and enhance liveability across the LGA.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 Chapter E15: Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) was publicly exhibited from 4 August to 4 September 2025.

The public exhibition of the draft Wollongong Development Control Plan (WDCP) Chapter E15 – *Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)* received strong engagement and constructive feedback.

A comprehensive Engagement report is provided in Attachment 3 of this report.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This amendments to WDCP Chapter E15 support the delivery of the Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan 2035 -

- Goal 1 – "We are a sustainable and climate resilient city".
- Goal 2 – "We have well planned, connected, and liveable places".
- Goal 3 – "We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity".
- Goal 4 – "We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community".

Specifically, the amendments will contribute to the following strategic outcomes found in the table below–

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	**Service**
Goal 1 – 1.3 Manage and improve the cleanliness, health, biodiversity of land and water including creeks, lakes, waterways and oceans. 1.4 Increase our resilience to natural disasters and ability to adapt to a changing climate, to protect life, property, and the environment. 1.7 Manage our coastal environments including Lake Illawarra, to protect and enhance environmental sustainability, social, cultural and economic values.	Land Use Planning
Goal 2 – 2.1 Urban areas are planned and well maintained to provide a healthy and safe environment for our community to live, work and play. 2.2. Facilitate ecologically sustainable development that considers the current and future needs of our community and environment. 2.3 Deliver high quality, fit for purpose and sustainable infrastructure to support a growing and resilient city. 2.6 The growth of West Dapto urban release area is well planned with facilities, spaces and educational institutions to support the growing community. 2.10 Plan and provide sustainable infrastructure for safe and liveable places integrated with the environment and accessible to key transport routes	
Goal 3 – 3.6 We are leaders in sustainable industries and support a transition to a low-carbon and clean energy future	
Goal 4 – 4.2 Provide a variety of quality and accessible public spaces and opportunities for sport, play, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community.	

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Updates to Council's approach to WSUD and stormwater management will deliver multiple sustainability and community benefits, including:

- Early integration of stormwater management in urban planning, reducing the need for costly redesigns and retrofits.
- The preservation of natural floodplain functions, waterways, and riparian corridors to maintain and improve their ecological integrity.
- Protection of surface and groundwater quality through strengthened development controls.
- Improved water quality prior to discharge into the environment.
- Enhanced natural environment and biodiversity, achieved through increased vegetation and habitat creation, while providing community benefits such as passive cooling, recreational spaces, and stronger connections to nature.
- Sustainable stormwater infrastructure to support growth in the WDURA.
- Promotion of low-cost, passive WSUD systems over engineered solutions, or expensive proprietary devices.
- Long-term protection of receiving waters, including Lake Illawarra.
- Improved liveability and amenity through efficient, a co-benefit approach to development and sustainable water use.
- Reduced lifecycle costs by prioritising environmentally sensitive and passive WSUD measures (e.g. vegetated swales) that are less expensive to construct, operate, and maintain compared to proprietary filter or cartridge systems.
- Clear technical guidance and tools, such as the WSUD Guidebook for Developers, MUSIC-link platform, and WSUD Engineering Series, which will:
    - Ensure compliance with Council requirements.
    - Reduce costs for developers and Council by minimising retrofitting.
    - Streamline the application and assessment process.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Transitioning to the new water quality targets is essential to avoid significant environmental, social, and economic risks. Continuing with a business-as-usual approach to stormwater management, particularly in the WDURA, will lead to increased pollution in sensitive catchments such as Lake Illawarra. Adopting the proposed amendments to WDCP Chapter E15 will help Council, developers, and the community manage these risks effectively. The changes offer clear benefits while supporting long-term sustainability and compliance with strategic commitments. These benefits are outlined in the table below.

Risk	Benefits of Adoption
Financial risks	• The use of MUSIC-link platform and standardised modelling tools in the WSUD Guidebook will reduce time and costs associated with development application assessments and hydrological modelling for both developers and internal development assessors. • Clear guidance and standardised WSUD procedures will help developers avoid design and construction mistakes, reducing the likelihood of expensive rework or non-compliance systems. • Improved design and construction standards will ensure WSUD systems are more durable reducing maintenance costs for Council. Consideration of potential resourcing implication for Council to monitor and regulate private devices will be included in any decision about the installation of such devices such as rain gardens.

Risk	Benefits of Adoption
Environmental risks	• Updated development standards will better protect surface and groundwater from stormwater pollutants, reducing the risk of environmental degradation and Lake Illawarra from the impacts of urban development. • Ensure Council is meeting EPA water management requirements. • Encouraging non-proprietary, nature-based solutions will reduce reliance on hard infrastructure and support ecosystem health and lessen environmental impacts.
Community risks	• Cleaner waterways and reduced urban runoff will contribute to healthier environments and improved public amenity. • Incorporating localised native vegetation as part of a water-sensitive design will help mitigate urban heat, improving comfort and wellbeing in public spaces. • Clearer guidelines will provide the community with greater confidence in Council's planning process and outcomes.
Safety risks	• Enhanced floodplain and stormwater design standards aim to improve the performance of systems and reduce environmental and property damage during storm events. • Improved maintenance and safety standards will help ensure WSUD systems perform reliably, reducing the risk of system failure and negative effects to the community and the environment.
Legislative risks	• The update ensures consistency with the Wollongong LEP 2009, other relevant DCP chapters, and recent changes to State and Federal legislation, thereby reducing the risk of legal challenges and ensuring compliance with statutory obligations

CONCLUSION

The update to WDCP Chapter E15 delivers a contemporary and integrated approach to stormwater management across the Wollongong Local Government Area. It recognises the vital role that Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) plays in supporting community wellbeing, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability.

The revised chapter provides strategic alignment and a consistent framework for WSUD that meets the needs of a growing city, while delivering benefits for the community and the environment through:

- Improved water quality, protecting downstream waterways, the ocean, and Lake Illawarra.
- Protection of water resources, by managing stormwater sustainably and reducing pollution at the source.
- Reduced erosion and sedimentation, downstream of development.
- Minimised environmental impact, of new developments.
- Lower demand for drinking water, through rainwater harvesting and reuse.
- Cooling the region, by mitigating the urban heat island effect.
- Enhanced biodiversity, by supporting local wildlife and expanding natural habitats.

It is recommended that Council adopt the amended WDCP Chapter E15: Water Sensitive Urban Design to ensure a resilient, liveable, and sustainable future for Wollongong.

Part E General Controls – Environmental Controls
Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION 3
1.1 Purpose of this Chapter 4
1.2 Development to which this Chapter applies 4
1.3 Aims of this Chapter ~~WSUD OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES~~ 4
2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES 5
3. WSUD COMPLIANCE PATHWAYS 6
3.1 Accepted WSUD measures for assets being transferred to Council 6
3.2 MUSIC-link 7
4. DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS 8
4.1 General 8
4.2 Stormwater quality 8
4.3 Stormwater harvesting, reuse, and efficiency 12
4.4 Stormwater retention 12
4.5 Groundwater 13
4.6 Erosion and sedimentation 14
5. APPENDIX 1 – WSUD HANDOVER CHECKLIST 15

Figures

Figure 1 - Map showing the water quality target areas including, Zone A (the NSW Government's Risk-based framework for improving water quality target area) and Zone B for the Wollongong LGA only..... 10

Figure 2 - Zone A – Priority area for applying the Risk-based framework's reduction targets for water quality in the Wollongong LGA only ~~targets in the Lake Illawarra catchment.)~~ (NSW Government, 2024). 11

Document Control

Rev No.	Adoption Date	In Force Date	Revision Details
	15 December 2009	1 March 2010	Commenced
1		TBA	Updates to development controls, compliance pathways, accepted WSUD measures and pollution reduction targets.

1. INTRODUCTION

Water is a precious and ~~finite~~ limited resource that must be carefully managed to meet the needs of current and future generations. This Chapter of the Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) outlines the requirements for the incorporation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) for development ~~and re-development~~ within the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA).

Wollongong's unique geography, situated between the escarpment and the coast, creates varied climate and water conditions that influence stormwater behaviour. In the steep escarpment areas, rainfall generates rapid runoff and limited infiltration. While on the flatter coastal floodplains, water moves slowly and remains on the surface for longer periods. The region's sandy and fine soils are highly erodible, presenting challenges for stormwater and erosion management and requiring specific design responses.

With an expected population increase of nearly 70,000 by 2045, urban development will place growing pressure on local water systems. Development alters natural water flow patterns and introduces pollutants from impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways, and footpaths. WSUD provides a strategic approach to manage the impacts of urbanisation. It integrates urban planning, stormwater management, and environmental protection to:

- Reduce peak stormwater flows.
- Improve water quality.
- Reuse rainwater.
- Support water-efficient landscaping.
- Protect natural waterways and habitats.

Wollongong's waterways, and Lake Illawarra face increasing pressure from urban development. By incorporating WSUD during the design and development phases, significant environmental and community benefits can be achieved, including:

- Improved water quality, helping to protect downstream waterways, the ocean, and Lake Illawarra.
- Protection of water resources, by managing stormwater sustainably and ~~reducing~~ treating pollution at the source.
- Reduced erosion and sedimentation downstream of development.
- Minimising the environmental impact of new developments.
- Lower demand for drinking water, through rainwater harvesting and reuse.
- Cooling the region, by mitigating the urban heat island effect.
- Enhanced biodiversity, by supporting local wildlife and expanding natural habitats.

In 2024, the NSW Government assessed the impacts of development in the West Dapto Urban Release Area. The study found that continuing with a business-as-usual approach would harm Lake Illawarra. To address this finding, this Chapter incorporates pollution reduction targets based on the NSW Government's *Lake Illawarra Catchment – Applying a risk-based framework for improving water quality* for an area identified as Zone A.

1.1 Purpose of this Chapter

The Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 – Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) outlines the objectives, controls and design guidance for protecting and improving water quality. The Chapter also outlines Council's requirements for stormwater quality, reuse and retention. This Chapter supports the objectives contained in the *Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009*. This Chapter is informed by the following Council policies and strategies:

- Community Strategic Plan

This Chapter includes specific references to recognised best practice design standards and guidelines, where appropriate.

1.2 Development to which this Chapter applies

This Chapter applies to any development requiring development consent under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). Applicants must comply with, and address Council's WSUD requirements, including the Development Controls in this Wollongong DCP Chapter, or other Wollongong DCP Chapters such as A2, E13, E14 and E23.

The Development Controls in this Chapter apply to the following forms of development:

1) Residential land subdivisions involving ~~50~~ 20 or more proposed lots.

2) Medium density housing involving 20 or more dwellings.

3) Mixed use apartment buildings involving 20 or more residential apartments, or a gross floor area of 3,000 square metres or more.

4) Serviced apartments, motels or hotel developments with 20 rooms or more.

5) Industrial developments (including major alterations and additions to existing industrial buildings) involving a gross floor area of 4,000 square metres or more.

6) Industrial subdivisions involving five (5) or more proposed lots, or a total footprint of 4,000 square metres or more.

7) ~~Business parks~~ Development within a Peripheral sales precinct involving a total gross floor area of 10,000 square metres or more.

8) Commercial office developments involving a total ~~footprint~~ gross floor area of 10,000 square metres or more.

9) All Industrial and business developments adjacent to riparian category 1 or 2 waterways.

1.3 Aims of this Chapter ~~WSUD OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES~~

The determining authority will take the provisions of this Chapter into consideration in determining applications within the Wollongong LGA. Development applications must demonstrate conformity with the aims, objectives and controls of this and other relevant chapters of the Wollongong DCP.

The ~~key~~ aims, ~~objectives and principles~~ of this Chapter are to:

a) Minimise any adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and diffuse stormwater pollution on receiving environments.

b) Ensure that developments minimise the impact of stormwater runoff on adjoining properties, native bushland, riparian land, key fish habitats, the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment Area (SDWCA), receiving waterways, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and groundwater systems.

c) Integrate stormwater management systems into the landscape in a manner that provides multiple benefits, including environmental and water quality protection, the enhancement of ecological processes, habitat and biodiversity, flood mitigation, recreational value, visual amenity, and urban heat mitigation.

d) Integrate environmentally sensitive WSUD and stormwater management solutions early in the development and design processes to ensure that WSUD treatment measures are incorporated and that both stormwater and floodplain management issues are adequately addressed.

e) Maintain the health of Lake Illawarra, the ocean and all receiving waterways.

f) Ensure the sustainable and appropriate development of the floodplains, the West Dapto Urban Release Area (WDURA), and the Lake Illawarra catchment area.

g) Reduce the demand for potable water through water efficient fittings, rainwater harvesting and reuse.

h) Improve liveability and community amenity by managing water in a holistic, environmentally sensitive, and integrated way.

i) Apply a treatment-train approach matched to pollutant types and sources.

j) Keep WSUD assets as simple and cost-effective as possible, without compromising performance.

k) Encourage co-benefits for example, detention basins that function as open space when dry, or shaded paths adjacent to wetlands and educational signage.

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The following are relevant to this Chapter:

- *Estimation of Very Rare to Extreme Floods,* Book 8 *in* Australian Rainfall and Runoff - *A Guide to Flood Estimation, Commonwealth of Australia, 2019.*
- Guide *to Groundwater Management in NSW*, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2023.
- *Lake Illawarra Catchment – Applying a risk-based framework for improving water quality,* NSW Government, 2024.
- Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (the Blue Book), Landcom, 4th Edition, 2004.
- *Coastal Management Act 2016* (NSW).
- *Conveyancing Act 1919* (NSW).
- Guidelines for Groundwater Documentation for SSD/SSI Projects, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2022.
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021.*

Note: Where the above-mentioned standards and guidelines are superseded by updated versions, the version current at the date of lodgement of the Development Application shall apply to the proposed development.

3. WSUD COMPLIANCE PATHWAYS

WSUD must be integrated at the Neighbourhood, Development Application (DA), and Construction Certificate (CC) stages. To meet Council's WSUD requirements, a WSUD Strategy must accompany an applicant's Water Cycle Management Plan and demonstrate compliance with:

1) This Chapter (E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design).

2) Other applicable guidelines and regulations, such as:

   i) Council's WSUD Guidebook for Developers 2025 (as amended or superseded),

   ii) Council's WSUD Engineering Series 2025 (as amended or superseded),

   iii) any other relevant local and state legislation or technical standards.

Notes:

- Full details of preparing a compliant WSUD Strategy, along with other resources to support WSUD planning for developments and development applications, are available in the latest version of Council's WSUD Guidebook for Developers available on Council's website.
- All electronic files related to or included as part of a WSUD Strategy must be submitted alongside the corresponding documentation, hereinafter referred to as a 'WSUD Strategy.'
- A pre-lodgement meeting with Council is highly recommended at an early stage in the application process to discuss and agree on the overall design approach before a detailed WSUD Strategy is completed. In cases where a pre-lodgement meeting is not held upfront on a proposed WSUD Strategy, or the parameters determined by Council are not met in the WSUD Strategy, Council may either require a major redesign of the WSUD design at the development application stage or may decline to accept the dedication of the WSUD asset to Council.

3.1 Accepted WSUD measures for assets being transferred to Council

A WSUD measure, device or system refers to any, or all the components of a stormwater management system. These components can include, but are not limited to, devices, infrastructure assets, technologies or strategies designed to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff from impervious areas. This may include methods such as rainwater tanks, permeable surfaces, wetlands, bio-retention systems, GPTs, swales, and, or other infrastructure that work together to reduce runoff, enhance water quality, ensure sustainable and integrated water management practices.

Table 1 below outlines WSUD options that may be acceptable to Council for different development scales, where the WSUD measure or asset is intended to be handed over to Council after the maintenance period. ~~Where~~ If the WSUD measure is not intended to become a Council asset (and is not located on Council land), alternative solutions may be considered, provided they meet the relevant performance and maintenance requirements.

Table 1 - Approved WSUD options

Accepted WSUD measure	Lot scale	Street scale	Subdivision scale	Neighbourhood scale
Raingardens	✓			
Passively watered street trees		✓		

Accepted WSUD measure	Lot scale	Street scale	Subdivision scale	Neighbourhood scale
Porous pavement	✓	✓		
Infiltration pits and trenches	✓	✓		
Traditional or vegetated swales and buffer strips		✓		
Street stormwater gardens		✓		
Sediment forebays and inlet basins			✓	✓
Bio-retention and filtration basins			✓	✓
Constructed wetlands and ponds			✓	✓
Detention basins and ephemeral parks			✓	✓
Level spreaders	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gross pollutant traps (GPTs)			✓	✓
Key: Approved WSUD option	✓			

3.2 MUSIC-link

MUSIC (Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation) is Australia's leading stormwater modelling software developed by eWater. The software simulates rainfall-runoff processes and pollutant generation within urban catchments and evaluates the performance of WSUD treatment measures.

MUSIC-link software streamlines both the development and assessment of MUSIC (models by incorporating the LGAs specific modelling parameters. Applicants using MUSIC-link can generate a detailed report demonstrating how well their model meets the Council's stormwater treatment requirements and regulatory frameworks. The MUSIC-link report can then be submitted along with the WSUD Strategy.

4. DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS

4.1 General

1) ~~The activation of any WSUD measures subdivision~~ WSUD measures must only be commissioned once 80% of the development's dwellings are completed, or upon receiving the Subdivision Certificate. This ensures that the WSUD measures are not commissioned until most of the development's infrastructure is completed, and the landform is stabilised. Until the 80% threshold is reached, temporary WSUD measures must be implemented.

2) ~~Any~~ All WSUD ~~elements~~ components, including subsoil drainage, must be located entirely within the property boundary to which the development application applies and must not contribute to any increased flooding risk.

3) Adequate spacing must be provided for the installation, accessibility, and long-term maintenance of WSUD systems. WSUD systems must be purposefully integrated into the development layout to maximise land efficiency and deliver co-benefits, rather than being confined to residual or leftover spaces. Designs that limit the system performance, co-benefits, maintenance access, or safety will not be accepted by Council, and applicants will be required to revise the design accordingly.

4) Accepted proprietary WSUD measures for assets being transferred to Council: Where WSUD measures will be ~~returned~~ handed over to Council responsibility after an establishment and maintenance period, proprietary cartridge, and filter WSUD systems ~~should~~ will not be used, or accepted as a treatment option for pollutant removal. However, Council may accept some proprietary gross pollutant trap systems such as those listed below:

   i) Non-blocking high performance continuous deflection separation units, and

   ii) non-blocking vortex separator systems.

Notes:

- Council may consider supplementary proprietary devices where:

  i) Independent peer-reviewed research demonstrates their effectiveness, and performance claims are supported by complete, unrestricted information that allows Council to assess and, if appropriate, accept those claims. For more information and guidance on Council's requirements regarding proprietary systems, please refer to the WSUD Guidebook for Developers.

- A requirement for a positive covenant may be imposed by a condition of consent, requiring the maintenance and / or repair of a new, or existing WSUD measure, and an associated easement for this purpose may also be required to be registered on title, in accordance with sections 88, 88B and 88BA of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*. The positive covenant will be binding on all subsequent property owners and registered with the appropriate land authority. The covenant will ensure the ongoing maintenance of the WSUD system(s) in perpetuity if applicable, or as specified in the development conditions. Where required, the applicant must ensure that the covenant complies with the requirements set out in the Council's WSUD guidebook for developers, as well as any relevant local, state, or national laws governing land use, environmental protection, and water management.

- In cases where WSUD measures become redundant, due to changes in surrounding development, upstream improvements, or the installation of centralised WSUD systems, Council may decommission those systems as needed to maintain overall water quality.

4.2 Stormwater quality

A key initial step in preparing a compliant WSUD Strategy is to confirm the appropriate objectives

and pollution reduction targets that apply to the development site. ~~All~~ Where required, developments must achieve the minimum percentage (%) reduction of the pre-development pollutants in accordance with Table 2 and Figures 1 and 2.

Table 2 - Minimum post- development pollution reduction targets (%)

Pollutant	Zone A	Zone B
Gross Pollutants (GP)	90%	90%
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	82%	85%
Total Phosphorus (TP)	78%	60%
Total Nitrogen (TN)	67%	45%

Notes:

- Zone A includes areas subject to the water quality targets identified by the NSW Government. Zone B covers all other parts of the LGA.
- The percentages listed in Table 2 represent the minimum reduction in pollutant loads that must be achieved through WSUD treatment measures and demonstrated through MUSIC modelling.
- The stormwater quality performance targets set out in Table 2 may be adjusted by Council at its discretion. This is particularly applicable to developments located in sensitive catchments, such as the Lake Illawarra catchment. Furthermore, Council may require proponents to include additional analysis and related performance criteria in a WSUD Strategy for specific developments, such as those on land affected by soil or groundwater contamination.
- Detailed maps of Zone A (the priority area for applying the NSW Governments risk-based framework for improving water quality targets in Lake Illawarra catchment) are available through the Council's interactive online map service, IntraMaps. This platform allows users to explore comprehensive and key information related to the City's infrastructure, zoning, land use, and other relevant data.
- All development within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment must comply with the Neutral or Beneficial Effect (NorBE) water quality controls.

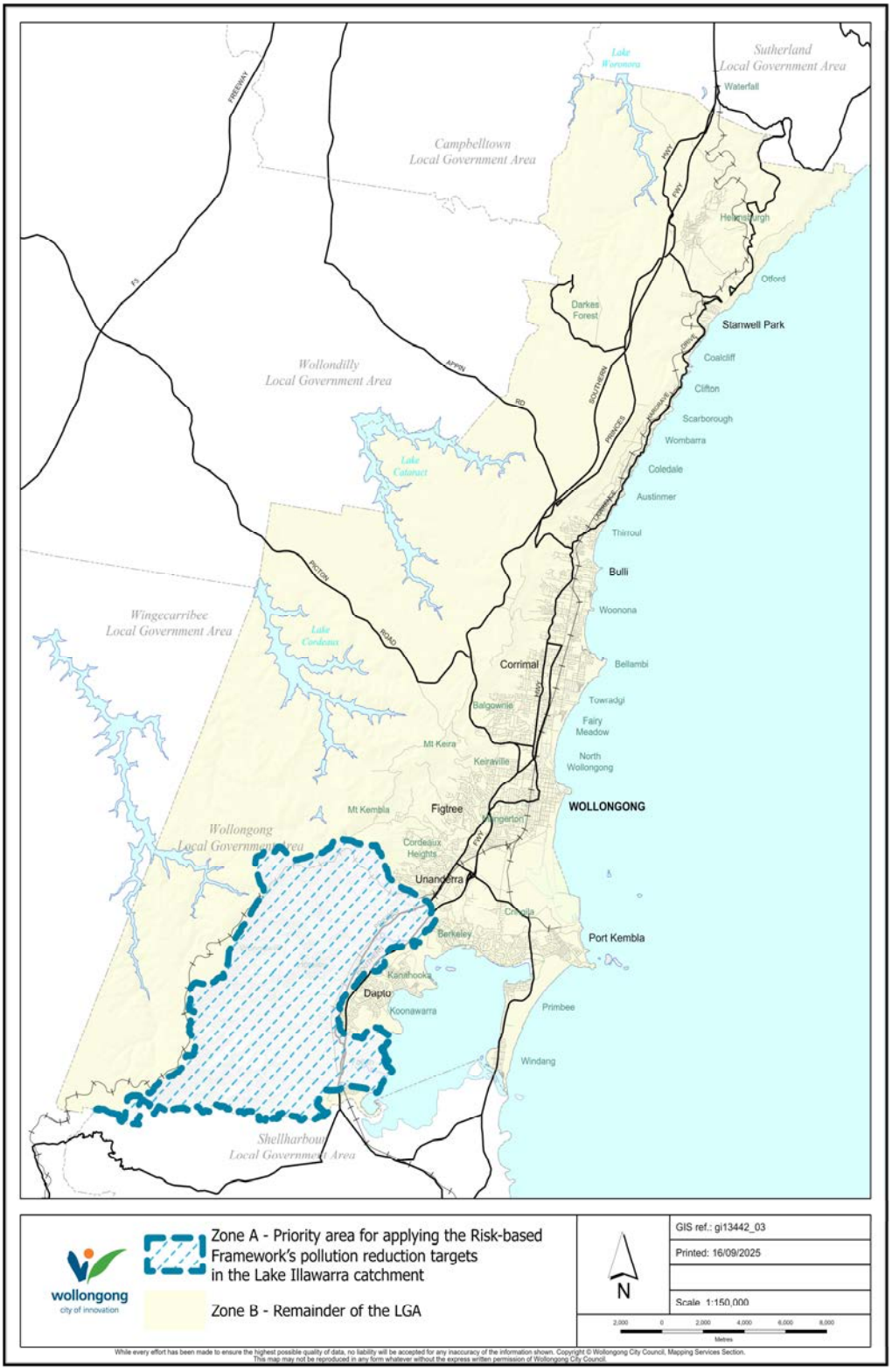


Figure 1 - Map showing the water quality target areas including, Zone A (the NSW Government's Risk-based framework for improving water quality target area) and Zone B for the Wollongong LGA only.

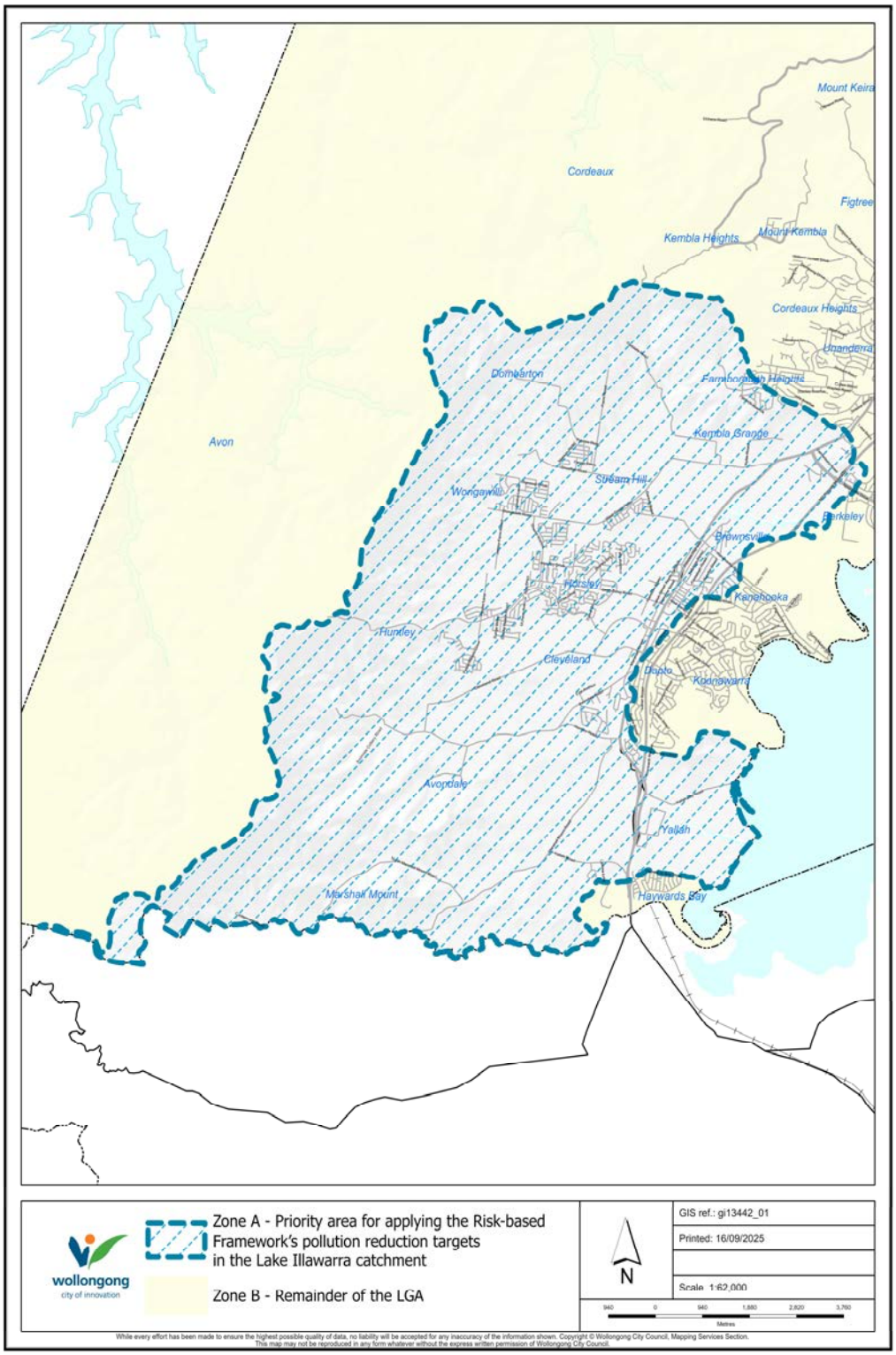


Figure 2 - Zone A – Priority area for applying the Risk-based framework's reduction targets ~~for water quality in the Wollongong LGA only targets in the Lake Illawarra catchment.)~~ (NSW Government, 2024).

4.3 Stormwater harvesting, reuse, and efficiency

1) The percentage of proposed roof, or impervious surfaces directed to a rainwater tank must be maximised to increase the effectiveness and reliability of any stormwater reuse, or harvesting systems. The following water conservation measures must be incorporated unless a higher standard is required under the Sustainable Buildings SEPP 2022. Alternative approaches may be considered by Council on merit:

   i) Water Fixtures - All fixtures (e.g. taps, toilets, urinals, showerheads) must have a minimum 3-star WELS rating.

   ii) Appliances - All water-using appliances (e.g. dishwashers, washing machines) must have a minimum 3-star WELS rating. Where appliances are not installed at the time of construction, applicants must demonstrate how compliance will be achieved post occupancy

   iii) Landscaping - Landscaping must incorporate water-efficient or locally indigenous plant species, consistent with Council's recommended planting guidelines.

2) Developments that are not subject to BASIX must still meet water efficiency requirements and achieve at a minimum, a 3-star WELS rating. ~~Buildings not subject to BASIX that are installing any water use fittings must ensure compliance with a minimum or exceed 5-star standards as defined by the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme~~.

3) Industrial, commercial, and business developments must supply 80% of their non-potable demand using non-potable water sources. ~~For industrial and business development~~ Rainwater shall be the primary source and only supplemented by potable, or recycled water when rainwater cannot meet the 80% target of the demand. Where site constraints prevent full compliance, applicants must demonstrate best-practice water efficiency and provide justification for alternative approaches, to be assessed by Council.

Note: Council supports the use of water harvesting and reuse systems as part of stormwater management measures to reduce runoff volumes, conserve water, and promote sustainable development. ~~In~~ For high-density residential developments in the city centre, spatial constraints may limit the feasibility of implementing water reuse measures. Where such limitations exist, developers are encouraged to consult with Council to explore alternative approaches that align with local planning controls and best practice stormwater management principles.

4.4 Stormwater retention

1) All WSUD measures must be designed to retain, treat, and gradually release all stormwater runoff up to the four (4) month Exceedances per year (EY) design storm (equivalent to a 98.17% AEP, as defined in Australian Rainfall and Runoff 2019 terminology. This design standard ensures that around 90% of the long-term stormwater runoff volume is treated, with only ten percent (10%) bypassing, or overflowing the WSUD measure during larger rainfall events. For higher flows, such as those associated with up to a one per cent (1%) AEP event, additional dedicated detention storage may be required to significantly reduce peak flow rates and mitigate downstream impacts. the impact of stormwater from the development.

Notes:

- For Council's requirements about on-site stormwater detention (OSD), refer to Wollongong DCP 2009 – Chapter E14 Stormwater Management.
- Where required by Council, a "no worsening" criterion may apply to other design events (e.g., 5% AEP or 20% AEP) to manage erosion and protect waterway health. Compliance with Council's stormwater targets must be demonstrated through hydrological modelling that compares pre- and post-development scenarios at relevant discharge points. This evidence should be included in the applicant's WSUD Strategy.

4.5 Groundwater

~~Where groundwater will be encountered, the WSUD Strategy must demonstrate that the belowground structures will be constructed in a water-proof manner (e.g. tanked construction) at all levels where groundwater could be encountered. Where a desktop groundwater assessment of the site indicates potential interaction with groundwater, or groundwater dependent systems, a Groundwater Management Plan must be submitted as part of the applicant's WSUD Strategy and demonstrate:with an applicant's WSUD Strategy, and must address the following within an applicant's WSUD Strategy:~~

~~1. No impacts to groundwater, or groundwater dependent ecosystems, including:~~
~~2. No impacts resulting from changes in groundwater behaviour, or groundwater dependent ecosystems due to the chosen construction method, and~~
~~3. That No changes into groundwater behaviour in the surrounding area resulting from the design of the groundwater management system. Consultation with the NSW Government is necessary if dewatering is proposed before submitting the development application.~~

1) All Development Applications involving excavation for below-ground WSUD structures must assess the potential for groundwater interaction. Where an assessment of the site indicates possible interaction with groundwater or groundwater-dependent ecosystems, a Groundwater Management Plan must be included in the applicant's WSUD Strategy. The Groundwater Management Plan must address and demonstrate:

   i) Whether groundwater will be encountered during excavation or operation.

   ii) Potential impacts on groundwater or groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

   iii) Measures to prevent adverse effects, including waterproof construction methods (e.g. tanked structures).

   iv) That the design of the groundwater management system will not alter groundwater behaviour in the surrounding area.

   v) The groundwater regime must be maintained as close as possible to pre-development conditions during both construction and operational phases.

2) Any extraction of groundwater is considered an aquifer interference activity and requires assessment, approval and permits from Water NSW. Aquifer interference activities must be licensed to account for all water taken, have an approval, and must be designed and managed to ensure impacts are acceptable. Prior to any excavation starting, one or more of the following approvals will be needed and be include in the applicant's WSUD Strategy:

   i) A water access licence.

   ii) Water supply works approval.

   iii) Aquifer interference activity approval.

3) Any proposed groundwater management systems must be designed for a minimum lifespan of 100 years. For construction on hillsides involving permanent structures (other than piles or footings below the water table), the method of construction must be clearly outlined in a WSUD Strategy and approved by Council.

4) All groundwater management activities, including monitoring, must align with state guidelines and be outlined in WSUD Strategy and approved by Council.

5) Groundwater management systems must be designed so that they are safely and easily accessible and maintainable.

6) All groundwater management activities, including monitoring, must comply with the approved

groundwater assessment and management plan, as agreed upon with Council as part of an applicant's WSUD Strategy.

7) All construction techniques must be employed that minimise or eliminate the need for dewatering. If dewatering is proposed, consultation with the NSW Government is required prior to submitting the development application.

8) If below-ground structures are within three (3) metres of each other, the design must accommodate natural groundwater flow through perimeter, or drainage systems to prevent flow restrictions. If construction methods, or the size of a below-ground structure impede natural flow paths, artificial drainage must be implemented.

Note: Council prohibits the discharge of intercepted groundwater into waterways, Lake Illawarra, Council's stormwater infrastructure, or the ocean if it could have an adverse environmental impact, including the discharge of highly saline groundwater. In such cases, the groundwater must be directed to the sewer through a trade waste agreement (subject to approval from Sydney Water and Council).

4.6 Erosion and sedimentation

The Erosion and Sedimentation Development Controls in this Chapter apply to all development, or activity that will involve disturbance of the soil surface, or that includes the cut or placement of fill, or storage of materials over 3 (three) tonnes. Developments must comply with the following requirements:

1) During the construction of WSUD measures, applicants must comply with the actions and recommendations listed in the latest version of *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (the Blue Book)* prepared by Landcom.

2) ~~During the post-construction phase of the development.~~ The WSUD measures implemented by the developer must be designed and executed to effectively control and direct stormwater runoff in a manner that prevents erosion of natural waterways. The selected measures must ensure that the flow of water is responsibly managed to avoid any adverse impacts on, surrounding water courses, including the risk of increased sedimentation, bank instability, or degradation of aquatic habitats.

3) Any run-off entering directly to waterways, or bushland must be avoided, or appropriately treated to reduce erosion and sedimentation, nutrient, and exotic seed dispersal.

4) Development is to minimise site disturbance, including impact on vegetation and significant trees. For larger developments and subdivisions, site disturbances must be staged to minimise the area left exposed to erosion and all overland stormwater flow be diverted around any exposed areas of the site.

5) Soil loss due to the development must be minimised through effective site management practices that reduce sedimentation impacts on downstream waterways and drainage systems and minimise windblown soil loss.

6) Developers must adopt an environmentally sensitive and sustainable approach to prevent erosion and maintain the site's natural hydrology. This includes minimising the amount of cut and fill proposed for the site by:

   i) Ensuring subdivisions and building designs follow the existing site contours,

   ii) using foundation systems which minimise ground and tree root disturbances

   iii) ~~designing the site to follow natural contours and slopes,~~

   iv) using grassed swales to direct flow towards vegetated areas at regular intervals (every three metres) to reduce water volume and allow for smaller depressions in driveway

profiles.

5. APPENDIX 1 – WSUD HANDOVER CHECKLIST

This section applies to WSUD systems that are intended to be transferred to Council following the completion of a three (3) year maintenance period. At the conclusion of the 3-year maintenance period the lot must be dedicated to Council prior to any bond being released. A detailed list of the handover requirements can be found in Councils WSUD Guidebook for Developers. Council will not assume responsibility for any WSUD assets unless all the conditions in the table below are met.

Table 3 – WSUD handover checklist

Checklist Item	Details	Inspected (y/n)	Notes	Hold Point/Timing
Certificates and Plans	All relevant certificates and plans are lodged before subdivision or occupation certificate issuance.			Prior to subdivision certificate
Construction Compliance	WSUD measures constructed and operating in full compliance with approved design.			Post-construction inspection
Validation Report	Water quality validation report submitted confirming operational effectiveness and approved by Council.			End of 2-year monitoring
Sediment Build-up	Sediment build-up does not exceed 10% reduction in operational volume.			Final inspection
Handover Inspection	Comprehensive handover inspection completed, and defects rectified.			Final inspection
Structural Integrity	Infrastructure certified as structurally and geotechnically sound.			Prior to handover
WAE Drawings	Works as Executed drawings submitted with required accuracy and details.			Prior to handover
Design Variations	Significant design variations certified with supporting calculations.			Prior to handover
Digital Files	Design drawings, surveys, models, and bathymetry provided in acceptable formats.			Prior to handover
Landscape Plans	Functional vegetation distribution documented in landscape designs.			Prior to handover
Land Condition	Associated land and infrastructure are in satisfactory condition.			Final inspection
Filter Media Performance	Bio-filter media infiltration rates are within 10% of design parameters.			Performance testing
Vegetation Establishment	Vegetation establishment period completed (typically 3 years).			End of maintenance period
Vegetation Compliance	Vegetation was installed according per Council requirements.			Final inspection
Exotic Vegetation	Exotic vegetation does not exceed 15% per square metre.			Final inspection

Checklist Item	Details	Inspected (y/n)	Notes	Hold Point/Timing
Tree Clearance	No trees/shrubs within 2m of WSUD access/maintenance areas, culverts, or stormwater inlets/outlets.			Final inspection
Maintenance Access	System meets Council's maintenance and access requirements.			Final inspection
O&M Manual	Finalised operation and maintenance manual provided with all required details.			Prior to handover
Consent Conditions	All development conditions related to WSUD measures complied with.			Final inspection
Water Issues	No ponding, pooling, or backflow issues present.			Final inspection
Land Condition	Associated land and infrastructure are in satisfactory condition.			Final inspection
Filter Media Performance	Bio-filter media infiltration rates are within 10% of design parameters.			Performance testing
Vegetation Establishment	Vegetation establishment period completed (typically 3 years).			End of maintenance period

Wollongong Development Control Plan Chapter E15: Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Engagement Report

November 2025

Wollongong City Council

Visit 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong
Phone 4227 7111
Email engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Web our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

wollongong
city of innovation

Table of Contents

Table of Contents....2
Executive Summary....3
Background....4
Stakeholders....5
Communication methods....5
Results....6
Next Steps....8

The information in this report is based on data collected from community members who chose to be involved in engagement activities and therefore should not be considered representative.
This report is intended to provide a high-level analysis of the most prominent themes and issues. While it's not possible to include all the details of feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to technical experts for review and consideration.
The analysis of engagement results was assisted by the use of AI technology using de-identified data. All data had been reviewed and de-identified by staff before being input into AI.

Executive Summary

About the Project

Wollongong Council's DCP Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) was adopted in 2010 to address the impacts of urban development on the region's waterways. A review of Chapter E15 was undertaken in response to incorporate updates and actions from key strategic environmental frameworks and including (but not limited to); *the Lake Illawarra Catchment Management Program (2020–2030), the Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018–2028*), and the *Lake Illawarra Risk-Based Framework for improving water quality (2024).*

A revised draft of Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) was placed on public exhibition from 4 August to 4 September 2025. Supporting materials included a WSUD Guidebook for developers and a WSUD Engineering Drawing series.

Engagement overview

- 2274 stakeholders were notified including community memebrs, developers, consultants and industry professionals.

Participation

- There were 437 visits to the project website and 327 downloads of the draft chapter and supporting documents during the exhibition period.

18 submissions were received from community members, Government agencies, consultants and industry stakeholders.

Key findings

The feedback reflected a range of perspectives, with strong community, NSW government and stormwater industry support for protecting and improving water quality and the health of Lake Illawarra, alongside practical concerns about the impacts to developable land and development costs.

Common concerns

- The potential reduction in developable land within Zone A as a result of meeting the new DCCEEW water quality targets.
- Increased financial implications of implementing new WSUD requirements in Zone A of the LGA

Key questions

- The appropriateness of the pollutant reduction targets for Zone A.
- The exclusion of residential developments of 20 lots or less for WSUD requirements in the DCP.

Next steps

Council will consider the feedback received and update the draft WDCP Chapter and supporting materials where appropriate. A final version of WDCP Chapter E15: Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) will be presented to Council for adoption. Community members and stakeholders who made submissions will be notified when the report goes to Council.

Background

Council adopted the Wollongong Development Control Plan (DCP) 2009 on 15 December 2009, following the commencement of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009.

DCP Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design was adopted on 1 March 2010 to protect water quality, waterways, the environment, and to address the impacts of urban development on stormwater volume and quality.

The current review of Chapter E15 responds to ongoing community concerns about waterway health, and key actions and recommendations from environmental frameworks including (but not limited to) :

- the *Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program* 2020–2030,
- the *Marine Estate Management Strategy* 2018–2028, and
- the *Lake Illawarra – Risk-Based Framework for Improving Water Quality 2024*

The update supports actions under Council's Community Strategic Plan 2035 and broader objectives of the Climate Friendly DCP Review program.

As part of the water quality actions outlined in the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program 2020–2030, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) finalised a report in September 2024 focused on protecting Lake Illawarra's water quality. Prepared by the Department's Principal Scientist and team, the report found that ongoing development within the WDURA, combined with anticipated changes to tidal exchange resulting from entrance management options, could negatively impact the lake's ecological health and function. To address these risks, the report recommended introducing new water quality targets for the Lake Illawarra catchment (Zone A), which includes the WDURA.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified prior to the start of the engagement period included:

- Neighbourhood Forums
- General community members
- The University of Wollongong (Environment Department)
- Local environmental groups
- Development industry
- Ecological consultants
- State Government agencies
- Lord Mayor & Councillors
- Our Wollongong participants; Register of Interest (Environment)

Communication methods

Table 1: Details of Communication and Engagement Methods for Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design

Methods	Details of Methods
Communication Methods	
Register of Interest	An email was sent to 2,298 participants, either directly by the Project Officer, or to those registered on the Our Wollongong website who had expressed an interest in the environment.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	Responses to questions about the draft plans were distributed with the letter and emails and published on the project webpage.

Our Wollongong website	The project webpage hosted background information and supporting documents:
	• Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
	• The draft DCP Chapter
	• Question & Answer (Q&A) forum
	• Online survey
	• WSUD educational video
	• WSUD factsheets
	• Links to:
	  ◦ WCC WSUD Guidebook for Developers - 2025
	  ◦ WCC WSUD Engineering Series -2025

	• The Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water's Lake Illawarra - Risk-based study for improving water quality - 2024
Communication Methods	
Our Wollongong website	• An online survey was used to capture participants' comments. • An online Question & Answer (Q&A) forum was provided for participants to ask questions about the draft Chapter and supporting materials.
Email	People emailed in open written submissions and a completed hardcopy survey

Results

Engagement Participation

This section provides details on the participation in engagement activities and feedback received during the exhibition period. Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Participation in Engagement Activities

Engagement Activities	Participation
Emails	15
Online participation:	
• Aware – total number of people who viewed the project webpage.	433
• Informed – total number of people who clicked a hyperlink, e.g., to download the draft plans.	327
• Engaged – total number of people who actively contributed to the project, e.g., by submitting comments via the survey or posting a question to the Question & Answer (Q&A) section.	3

Submission Results

There were 18 submissions over the exhibition period. Feedback themes and individual comments focused on:

Development Feasibility in Zone A
The revised pollution reduction targets proposed in DCP Chapter E15 for Zone A have raised concerns about their impact on development feasibility. To meet the higher thresholds for Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen, developers are concerned they will be required to install larger and more complex WSUD infrastructure, reducing the amount of land available for housing and other productive uses, with some estimates suggesting up to four times more land take compared to previous standards. The reduction in

developable land directly affects dwelling yields, housing supply, and the ability to deliver planned community outcomes.

In addition to spatial constraints, the increased infrastructure requirements, developers may face higher upfront costs, due to the need for expanded WSUD systems or proprietary treatment products. These costs may affect project viability and affordability. Once assets are transferred, Council inherits long-term maintenance responsibilities, including inspection, vegetation management, sediment removal, and water quality monitoring. Stakeholders have recommended that Council reassess the proposed targets to ensure they balance environmental outcomes with development feasibility and affordability, and align with existing planning approvals and infrastructure contributions.

Strongly support for the draft Chapter and supporting materials

The chapter received strong support from several NSW Government agencies and stakeholders, particularly for their alignment with regional waterway health objectives and integrated water cycle management. Almost 50 per cent of the submissions received were supportive of Council's stormwater management initiatives.

An NSW Government agency fully endorsed the changes, noting the drafts consistency with the Illawarra Regional Master Plan and the Greater Sydney Water Strategy, which emphasise the importance of protecting biodiversity, improving stormwater management, and enhancing liveability. While another also expressed support, acknowledging that while the provisions have limited application within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, they complement existing water quality requirements under the Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP.

Submissions from community advocates, environmental consultants and stormwater professionals commended Council's adoption of catchment-specific pollution reduction targets and the integration of the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program. The use of a Risk-based framework and the emphasis on ecological resilience, rainwater reuse, and urban cooling were particularly well received. These stakeholders recognised the revised chapter as a proactive and evidence-based approach to managing urban runoff and improving waterway health, and encouraged Council to continue engaging with developers and the community to ensure effective implementation.

Reasoning behind the exclusion of smaller-scale projects from updated WSUD development controls

Several submissions raised concerns about the exclusion of smaller-scale developments, such as infill subdivisions with fewer than 50 lots or medium-density housing with fewer than 50 dwellings, from the updated WSUD development controls in DCP Chapter E15. Stakeholders questioned why these smaller projects are not required to implement water sensitive urban design measures, given their cumulative impact on stormwater quality and urban heat.

The draft DCP currently applies WSUD requirements to larger developments, reflecting a prioritisation of high-impact projects. However, feedback suggests that smaller

developments also contribute to increased runoff, reduced permeability, and loss of green infrastructure. Stakeholders recommended that Council consider extending WSUD obligations to smaller-scale projects, or at minimum, provide clearer guidance and incentives for voluntary uptake. This would support broader catchment health goals and encourage innovation in green infrastructure across all development scales.

Next Steps

Feedback heard from the community will now be considered by the project team.
All the responses from the exhibition period will be reviewed in detail. A final version of the WDCP Chapter E15 Water Sensitive Urban Design will be presented to Council for adoption. Community members and stakeholders who made submissions will be notified when the report goes to Council.

All feedback is important and is one factor in the decision-making process for Council. The graphic below shows some of the factors we consider in our decision making:

All identified stakeholders, participants and the broader community will be updated on this project as it progresses. Updates will be made available via the Our Wollongong website.

ITEM 10 POST EXHIBITION - CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER

On 25 August 2025, Council resolved to exhibit the draft Customer Service Policy and draft Customer Service Charter. These documents outline council's commitment to delivering respectful, inclusive and responsive customer service and provide a clear framework for service standards and community expectations. Feedback from the exhibition was supportive and the final documents are now presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Customer Service Policy and Customer Service Charter.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer + Business Integrity
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

1 Draft Customer Service Policy
2 Draft Customer Service Charter

BACKGROUND

Customer service is more than just a transaction, it's the frontline expression of Council's values, culture, and commitment to our community. Every interaction, whether online, over the phone or in person, shapes how our residents experience local government.

Recognising this, Council undertook a comprehensive refresh of its Customer Service Policy and developed a new Customer Service Charter to clearly articulate what our community can expect from us and what we expect in return. These documents are designed to embed a culture of respect, responsiveness and continuous improvement across all customer touchpoints.

The Policy and Charter reflect modern service principles, including First Contact Resolution, accessibility and proactive engagement. They also reinforce Council's zero tolerance for behaviour that threatens the safety and wellbeing of staff or other customers.

On 25 August 2025, Council resolved to place both documents on public exhibition to invite feedback from the community to ensure our service commitments resonate with those we serve.

PROPOSAL

No changes are proposed to the two documents following public exhibition, as community feedback was supportive and aligned with the intent of the documents.

These documents provide a contemporary framework for customer service delivery, embedding principles of First Contact Resolution, accessibility and proactive engagement. They also reinforce Council's commitment to respectful interactions, continuous improvement and the safety and wellbeing of staff and customers.

It is proposed that Council adopt the Customer Service Policy and Customer Service Charter as exhibited.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Policy and Charter were placed on public exhibition from 10 September to 22 October 2025, with the documents being available to view online via Council's engagement portal and on display at the Customer Service Centre.

The exhibition process generated the following engagement:

- 159 total visits to the engagement page
- 90 document downloads

- 2 participants lodging submissions

Two submissions were received with the feedback being positive and supportive of the proposed documents:

> *"Seems straightforward, achievable and customer focused. I am pleased to see mention of continuous improvement in the charter."*
>
> *"Council has already very good customer service and has responded quickly and professionally whenever I have had to deal with Council. I think Council already has good customer service and that it doesn't need to be improved."*

No changes are proposed or required as a result of the feedback.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Goal 4 of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035: "We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community."

It is directly supported by Strategy 4.14, which states: *"Council demonstrates responsible leadership that is customer focused, demonstrates respect and inclusion, and uses resources that are managed effectively to ensure long term sustainability."*

The Customer Service Policy and Charter align with Integrated Customer Service and are referenced in Council's strategic documents, including the Community Strategic Plan and the Annual Report of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. Their adoption reinforces Council's commitment to transparent, inclusive and accountable service delivery.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The adoption of the Customer Service Policy and the introduction of a Customer Service Charter present minimal operational risk and are expected to enhance service delivery and community satisfaction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of the draft Customer Service Policy and Customer Service Charter.

CONCLUSION

The Customer Service Policy and Customer Service Charter provide a clear framework for service delivery, expectations and accountability. The exhibition process confirmed community support for the documents, with no changes required. Adoption of these documents will reinforce Council's commitment to service excellence and transparency.

DRAFT CUSTOMER SERVICE COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

Our customers and community are at the heart of everything we do. At Wollongong City Council, we are unwavering in our commitment to delivering efficient, professional, inclusive and accessible customer service that supports our Community Strategic Plan and reflects our Organisational Values. This policy details how Council delivers on this commitment and how we measure our performance.

Council's commitment to Customer Service is underpinned by an unwavering focus on understanding and meeting our customer needs where they are. We recognise that this includes an effective complaint handling system and a proactive approach to understanding customer satisfaction. The feedback, suggestions and other information we receive from our customers provide a valuable source of insight and serves as a cornerstone for continual improvement of our services & experiences.

This policy, the Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy and the Unreasonable Conduct of Customers Framework guide the way in which we deliver customer service across Council and is applicable to all Council employees.

POLICY INTENT

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- provide a clear and logical way for customers to access services and seek information from Council;
- recognise that customers may wish to contact Council through various channels, and have the flexibility to choose how and when they access customer service functions,
- provide customers with a choice as to how they provide feedback to Council about service provision
- provide a structure around responding to, recording, reporting and using feedback to improve service to customers, and
- outline customer rights and responsibilities.

Council is committed to an effective feedback and complaint handling system which aims to benefit both our customers and Council in several ways including:

- responding to feedback/complaints equitably, objectively and in an unbiased manner, ensuring there is no loss of service to the customer
- creating an opportunity to address scenarios where service delivery has not met our standards
- identifying opportunities to enhance service delivery
- providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships between the community and Council, and
- assist in the planning of and allocation of resources for customer service functions.

WOLLONGONG 2035 OBJECTIVES

This policy contributes to Goal 4 "We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community" within our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan.

CUSTOMER SERVICE | COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Commitment to Customer Service

Council is committed to delivering high quality customer services that are fair and accessible to all customers. We understand that customers have an expectation that they receive the best possible service that can be practically achieved. Our service will always be guided by our organisational values.

We aim to deliver service in a courteous, knowledgeable and professional manner by:

- Being respectful, courteous and impartial in all dealings
- Identifying ourselves when we talk to customers
- Listening carefully to customers
- Providing consistent and clear information across our communication channels
- Providing updates if we are unable to meet our commitments, and periodic updates for complex matters or those that will have a lengthy timeline to review and respond to
- Ensuring your personal information is protected and respected, and
- Having trained and professional staff who will embrace Council's Values and abide by the Code of Conduct.

Customer Responsibilities

Outstanding customer service is only achieved via mutual respect in all interactions. Customers can assist Council staff in our service delivery by behaving in a fair and reasonable manner. This includes:

- Treating staff with courtesy and respect
- Respecting the rights of other customers and the wider community
- Being honest and accurate in information sought and supplied to Council
- Working with us to reach a resolution
- Providing Council with respectful feedback

At times inappropriate behaviour may be directed toward Council staff, or customers, by members of the public. In such circumstances, Council staff will follow adopted procedures to deal effectively with such scenarios, ensuring the safety and the right to peaceful enjoyment of Council facilities by all. Council does not tolerate any threat to the safety or wellbeing of any individual and Police may be called in such circumstances. Our staff our empowered to terminate customer interactions that have the potential to jeopardise the safety of any individual, including the staff member themselves.

POLICY

In order to meet our Customer Service commitment, Council will ensure staff have access to relevant customer service related training and materials to support service delivery.

Our community is diverse and every member of the public have rights and unique needs. We are committed to acting with respect and sensitivity in all interactions. We aim to offer quality service by recognising this diversity and ensuring individual needs, for accessing services are met. We will provide clear and logical means for customers to access services, facilities and information including assistance where necessary to lodge requests or provide feedback.

Council is committed to accessible contact. Where required, customers can contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS 131 450 or www.tisnational.gov.au) who can assist with the following:

- Phone interpreting
- Automated Telephone Interpreting Service
- On-site interpreting
- Video remote interpreting

Customers who are Deaf, deaf, or hard of hearing can contact Council via the National Relay Service (1800 555 677 or www.accesshub.gov.au). Additionally, Council has access to multilingual staff, who may be able to assist in circumstances where translation may be required. Customers may also appoint an advocate to deal with Council on their behalf, where practicable Council requires a written authority to provide information to an advocate.

Council recognises our customers may wish to contact Council in a variety of ways to suit their needs and technology use, and we are committed to providing choice about how customers can access Council customer services. Council has a range of methods and technologies via which customers can make contact with us. These options change and expand over time due to technological and social media advancements. Customers can call Council or check the contact us webpage on the Council website to see the up-to-date range of contact options.

Our approach to interacting, communicating, and engaging with our customers is further enhanced by Council's Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan. These initiatives work in tandem to provide a holistic view of our engagement efforts, ensuring that we effectively serve our diverse customer base. By aligning our customer service practices with these strategic frameworks, we are better equipped to understand and meet the needs of our community, fostering a more inclusive and responsive service environment.

First Contact Resolution

At Wollongong City Council, delivering exceptional customer service is a shared responsibility across all divisions. Our commitment to First Contact Resolution (FCR) extends beyond our Customer Service Team (CST); it encompasses a strategic approach to creating seamless customer journeys that minimise complexity and frustration, ensuring a smooth and efficient process for our customers.

We aim to resolve enquiries and requests during the first contact whenever possible, providing timely and efficient service and reducing the need for follow-ups. While we recognise that not all requests can be resolved at the first point of contact, our objective is to eliminate barriers that might cause failure demand. Failure demand, also known as avoidable contact, is a situation where an organisation's failure to do something, or to do something right, for a customer, leads to the customer having to contact the organisation again. This approach ensures that even if multiple touchpoints are required, the process remains clear, consistent, and straightforward from start to finish.

Our principles of transparency, consistency, accuracy, and completeness guide all interactions. This collective effort supports our strategic goals and ensures that customers experience minimal delays or complications throughout their journey. Every division within the Council plays a crucial role in achieving this, and we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our processes to deliver the best possible experience for our community.

By adopting a first contact resolution approach, we may slightly increase the time our staff spend with each customer initially, but this greatly reduces the likelihood of the customer needing to contact Council again on the same issue or being transferred to another part of Council unnecessarily. This focus not only saves our customers time and effort, allowing them to get back to their day without delays, but also delivers significant improvements in overall customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Measuring Customer Service Performance

Council will assess the quality of our customer service through various performance metrics. Our performance is evaluated based on the indicators outlined in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Specifically, we report as part of the outcomes that fall into *Goal 4; We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community*, including but not limited to:

1. Residents' average satisfaction score with customer service centre
2. Percentage of customer enquiries resolved at the first point of contact
3. Percentage of customer requests actioned within 10 days

The results of these evaluations are reported in the Quarterly Review Statement and the Annual Report.

Prioritising, Recording and Actioning of Customer Service requests

Council has an obligation to properly record and consider all customer requests and complaints.

In considering and actioning requests for service received by customers, consideration is given to:

- Public safety and situations deemed an emergency.
- Fulfilling Council's strategic priorities and statutory or policy requirements; and
- The efficient and effective use of Council resources.

Council utilises a Customer Request Management System (CRMS) to enable the recording, allocating, tracking and reporting of all Customer Service Requests. The CRMS also allows Council to measure performance in the completion of service requests.

Customers may contact Council with an expectation that specific action will be undertaken by Council. For example, according to Council's Enforcement Policy there are some categories where Council has determined no action will be taken. In these circumstances Customer Service staff may record the complaint and provide information to the customer if it is clear the complaint is a 'no action' matter. Customer service staff will advise the customer of any means available through other agencies which may assist the customer to resolve the matter.

Where Council receives a request that clearly relates to the functions of another government agency or government owned corporation, Council will provide relevant information to assist in redirecting the customer to the relevant agency or corporation to address their request.

Anonymous Requests

It is recognised that at times, anonymous service requests may be made. For many service requests a contact name, address and phone number is required to confirm information or if necessary to obtain additional information. Council will attempt to action service requests, where sufficient and relevant information is provided, or the severity of the situation warrants action. However, there may be instances where Council determines not to action an anonymous request for service , particularly where the information provided is lacking or not able to be verified.

Customer Feedback and Complaints

Quality customer service consists of providing an efficient, fair, impartial and responsive service. It is also about delivering the most appropriate and complete service at the outset. However, things can and do go wrong and can only be put right and a quality service delivered where Council becomes aware of the issue.

Council's feedback and complaint management system provides an opportunity to improve service delivery via the provision of feedback, compliments and suggestions from customers.

Feedback does not include:

- A request for service
- A request for information or explanation of policies or procedures
- Reports of damaged or faulty infrastructure (i.e. potholes)
- Reports of hazards (e.g. fallen trees)
- Disputes concerning neighbours
- The lodging of an appeal or request to review a decision
- Complaints where Council has no jurisdiction

A 'complaint' is an expression of dissatisfaction with Council's policies, procedures, charges, employees, contractors, quality of service or goods sold or provided.

Council has trained staff dedicated to dealing with and responding to customer feedback and complaints.

Complaints Management
Members of the local community who do not believe that Council has fulfilled its commitments should address their concerns to Council in the first instance.

Council manages complaints in accordance with an internal Customer Feedback and Complaints Policy, that adopts a three-tier approach to managing complaints, that is focussed on the principle of resolving complaints at the earliest possible opportunity.

Wherever possible frontline staff shall attempt to resolve complaints at first point of contact, via explanation, provision of additional information or lodgement of an additional service request. In circumstances where issues cannot be resolved at first contact or where a complaint is received in writing, the complaint shall be dealt with by the Manager of the relevant Division/Business unit of Council. If the complaint cannot be resolved within 10 working days, the customer will be provided with an acknowledgment in writing with an estimated date of completion of the matter.

In circumstances where a customer is unsatisfied with the initial outcome of their complaint and seek further review, or complaints of a very serious nature, the complaint will be noted by the General Manager who will appoint a senior member of staff to review the matter. These matters will generally be handled by a Director, the Professional Conduct Coordinator, or Public Officer.

If the complaint, and any subsequent review, does not resolve the matter, they can raise their concerns with:

- The NSW Ombudsman (if the matter concerns maladministration)
- The Office of Local Government (if the matter concerns a serious breakdown in Council operations, if Council as a whole, is not operating satisfactorily or the matter relates to pecuniary interest matters),
- The Office of the Children's Guardian (if the matter concerns Council's legislated child safety obligations), or
- The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) (if the matter concerns corrupt conduct).

Each agency has a separate role in relation to the oversight of the conduct of councils. The NSW Ombudsman is responsible for complaints about a broad range of matters generally described as maladministration. The Office of Local Government is responsible for investigating pecuniary interest matters and will intervene if councils are operating in an unsatisfactory manner or if council operations have seriously broken down. The Office of the Children's Guardian oversees organisations to uphold children and young people's right to be safe. The ICAC is responsible for investigating corrupt conduct.

DRAFT

CUSTOMER SERVICE | COUNCIL POLICY

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Council is committed to providing a fair and equitable service and this Policy has been developed particularly in accordance with the following legislation, regulations, policies and standards:

- Local Government Act
- State Records Act
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three years, or more frequently as required.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Manager Customer and Business Integrity:

Responsible Officer for the Policy and will coordinate the following functions in relation to the Policy:

- Maintaining appropriate records and reporting relating to Council's customer service functions
- Keeping the policy current, and undertaking regular reviews of both the policy and associated procedures
- Ensure that appropriate training and education of relevant employees with respect to customer service standards and processes occurs
- Provision of advice and ensuring adherence with the standards and principles of this policy
- Ensuring a culture of continuous review and improvement to enhance the customer experience

Divisional Managers:

Responsible for ensuring that all relevant customer facing services and all other customer interactions undertaken by staff of their Division are conducted in accordance with this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Customer: include ratepayers, residents, asset users, consultants, developers, government departments and visitors to the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) seeking products, services or information offered by Council. Internal customers are Council staff.

Customer Service: Interactions between a Customer and Council where that interaction relates to the provision of support, advice, assistance or delivery of a service by Council to the customer.

Customer Service Request: a request for action to be taken in relation to a service or product of Council.

Complaint: an expression of dissatisfaction with Council's policies, procedures, charges, employees, contractors, quality of service or goods sold or provided.

Correspondence: communications received by Council, which are not submitted as a customer request, requiring a response.

Feedback: the provision of a compliment or suggestion by a customer to Council.

RELATED STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Customer Feedback + Complaints Management Policy
- Unreasonable Conduct of Customers Framework
- Privacy Management Plan
- Community Strategic Plan

DRAFT

CUSTOMER SERVICE COUNCIL POLICY

APPROVAL AND REVIEW	
Responsible Division	Customer and Business Integrity
Date adopted by Council	[To be inserted by Corporate Governance]
Date/s of previous adoptions	24 November 2014, August 2012, October 2010, September 2008
Date of next review	[Not more than three years from last adoption]

DRAFT

Wollongong City Council

Draft Customer Service Charter

wollongong
city of innovation

Our commitment

At Wollongong City Council, our customers & community aren't just at the heart of what we do – you're the reason we exist. We are dedicated to delivering efficient, inclusive, and accessible customer service that reflects our organisational values and supports the delivery of our Community Strategic Plan. We strive to meet the needs of our residents, businesses, and visitors with professionalism, respect, and integrity.

We strive to understand and meet our customer needs. This commitment guides our customer service delivery across Council, ensuring every interaction reflects our unwavering focus on service. We are here for you, always focused on your needs and striving to serve you better every day.

When you contact Council, we will:

- Be respectful, courteous, and impartial in all dealings.
- Identify ourselves when communicating with customers.
- Listen attentively and provide consistent, concise and clear information.
- Keep you informed on the status of your request or enquiry and close the loop when the request or enquiry is complete.
- Protect and respect personal information.
- Ensure that we uphold Council's values and Code of Conduct.

First contact resolution

At Wollongong City Council, we believe delivering exceptional customer service is a shared responsibility across all divisions. Our commitment to First Contact Resolution (FCR) goes beyond just our Customer Service Team (CST), it is about a commitment to creating seamless customer journeys that minimise complexity and frustration, ensuring a smooth and pain-free process for our customers.

We strive to resolve enquiries and requests during the first contact whenever possible. This ensures that you receive timely and efficient service, minimising the need for follow-ups. Whilst we recognise that not all requests can be resolved at the first point of contact, our goal is to create customer journeys that are seamless and remove any barriers that might cause failure demand. This means that even if the process demands more than one touchpoint, the process is clear, consistent and straightforward from start to finish.

We aim to act with transparency, consistency, accuracy and completeness across all interactions. This collective effort supports our ambitions and ensures that customers move through their journey without unnecessary delays or complications. We all have a role to play in getting it right for our customers and we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our processes to deliver the best possible experience for our community. This focus saves our customers time and effort, allowing them to get back to their day without delays and deliver the best experience for our community.

Service standards

We aim to provide a seamless and positive experience in every interaction, including:

- **Prompt Responses:** We aim to address all interactions quickly and resolve general enquiries on first contact. If specialist help is needed, we'll direct your request to the right department and outline next steps.
- **Timely Correspondence:** We respond to all enquiries within agreed service levels. For complex enquiries, we provide periodic updates and set clear expectations.
- **Accessible Information:** We will ensure that current, accurate, and easily accessible information is available across all our platforms, including our website, social media, and other communication channels, to help you find what you need quickly and efficiently.

Our commitment to privacy

We view the protection of personal information as an integral part of our commitment towards accountability and integrity in all our activities and programs. We are committed to protecting personal and private information collected by Council in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and Council's Privacy Management Plan PDF, 320.36 KB. You can elect to remain anonymous when requesting a service or reporting an issue; however, in some instances this may mean that we are unable to complete your request or advise you on its outcome.

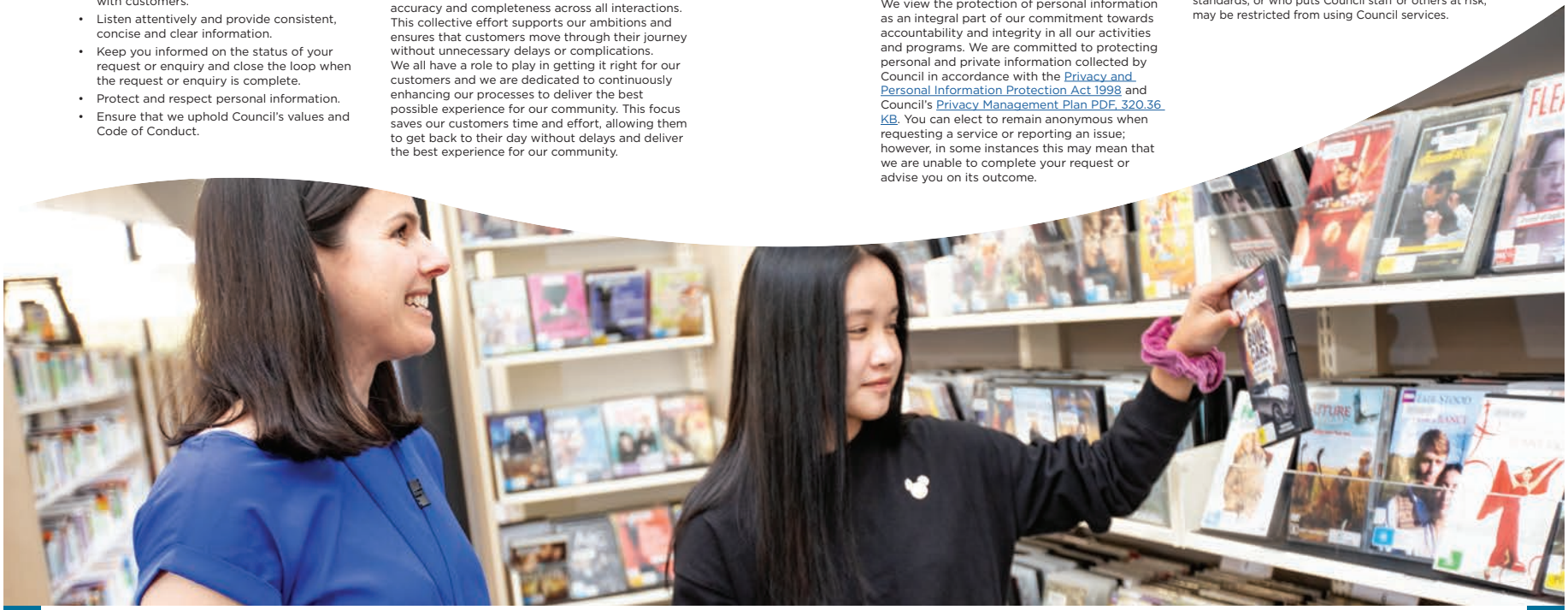
What we expect from you

Outstanding customer service is achieved through mutual respect. You can assist by:

- Treating staff with courtesy and respect.
- Respecting the rights of other customers and the community.
- Providing accurate and complete information when making wnquiries or requests.
- Working with us to resolve issues.
- Refraining from bullying, harassing or intimidating staff or any person using a Council service.
- Providing constructive and respectful feedback to help us improve our services.

Unreasonable customer behaviour

If customers do not meet the above standards of behaviour, we will follow the procedures described in our Unreasonable Conduct of Customers Framework. Any person who repeatedly fails to meet these standards, or who puts Council staff or others at risk, may be restricted from using Council services.



Accessibility and contact options

We acknowledge the diversity of our community and strive to offer quality service by recognising individual and community group needs. Accessibility will look different depending on who we are interacting with, considering factors such as cultural background, age, gender, demographic and subject matter at hand. Our goal is to provide fair, unbiased, and accessible services to all customers, including support for individuals who are non-English speakers, legally blind, have low vision, are deaf, deafblind, and/or hard of hearing.

Customers can reach us via various methods, including phone, email, and in person visits. We are committed to being nimble and adaptable, continuously exploring and evolving our service options to meet the diverse needs of our community, this includes embracing the latest technological advancements. You can always find the most current contact options on our website.

Engagement and proactive communication

We believe in proactive engagement with customers. This means not only being available when you reach out to us but also actively seeking to understand and address your needs. Our approach to interacting, communicating, and engaging with our customers is further enhanced by Council's Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan. These initiatives work in tandem to provide a holistic view of our engagement efforts, ensuring that we effectively serve our diverse customer base.

By aligning our customer service practices with these frameworks, we are better equipped to understand and meet the needs of our community, fostering a more inclusive and responsive service environment. Our commitment to accessibility and engagement ensures that all members of our community can interact with us in a way that is convenient and effective for them.

When things don't go right, or could be improved

We value your feedback, as it helps us to improve the way we provide our service to our community, and we are committed to addressing any concerns or complaints raised. If something is not right, we encourage you to contact us, so we have a chance to respond and improve. Our website provides details of how we manage compliments, complaints and feedback.

Our commitment to continuous improvement

We are committed to continuously improving our services by:

- Actively seeking and valuing feedback to understand and exceed community needs and expectations.
- Embracing innovation and technology to enhance service delivery and accessibility.
- Regularly reviewing and refining our processes to ensure they are efficient, effective, and customer focused.
- Continuously training and developing our staff to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to serve you better.
- Expanding digital self-service options to give you convenient access to information - meeting you where you are, whenever you need it.
- Proactively reaching out to you to create a seamless and proactive customer experience.

On Dharawal Country, from the mountains to the sea, we value our natural environment, we respect each other, our past and future. We will be a sustainable, connected, vibrant, and innovative city, with a diverse economy.

We are a sustainable and climate resilient city
We have well planned, connected, and liveable places
We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity
We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community

wollongong
city of innovation

Wollongong City Council
wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone (02) 4227 7111

This publication is printed on recycled paper made from 100% post-consumer waste. WCC©5008492.6.25.PF

ITEM 11 POST EXHIBITION - WOLLONGONG BOTANIC GARDEN DRAFT MASTERPLAN

The draft Botanic Garden Masterplan provides a ten-year program of projects and services to manage the place and enhance the visitor experience. The draft Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan has been endorsed by Heritage NSW and provides guidance for the management of conservation values of the significant State heritage listed site, also located within the Botanic Garden.

Both documents provide the detail required to ensure the total Botanic Garden site is managed appropriately and in accordance with the Botanic Garden Plan of Management 2020. This report presents community feedback following the public exhibition process for consideration and recommends adoption of both documents.

RECOMMENDATION

1 Council expresses its appreciation for the community feedback received while developing the Masterplan and Conservation Management Plan and during the public exhibition process, as documented in this report.

2 Council adopts the draft Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan.

3 Council adopts the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden 2025-35 Masterplan Report and Landscape Plan as amended following the public exhibition period.

4 Council receives a subsequent report following a public Expression of Interest process to determine any commercial interest in providing suitable activations for the site which align with the objectives of the Masterplan and are permissible with the Botanic Garden Plan of Management 2020.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Paul Tracey, Manager Open Space + Environmental Services
Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works

ATTACHMENTS

1 Wollongong Botanic Garden Draft Masterplan Public Exhibition Engagement Report
2 Wollongong Botanic Garden Draft 2025-35 Masterplan Report (as amended post-exhibition)
3 Wollongong Botanic Garden Draft 2025-35 Masterplan Landscape Plan (as amended post-exhibition)
4 Draft Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
EOI	Expression of Interest – open process similar to a public quotation/tender process but designed to gauge interest/capacity from the commercial sector to provide a service or product without any initial binding commitment by either party.
NF5	Neighbourhood Forum 5
KRAG	Keiraville Residents Action Group

BACKGROUND

The development of a masterplan is a long-standing Council project which has been anticipated by many stakeholders eager to progress their preferred projects and enable development of the site. There have been numerous consultations over recent years with key stakeholder groups, including a 5-year approval process for the now NSW Heritage endorsed Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan.

Council recognised the need to refresh and finalise community feedback via an exhibition process prior to considering submissions and adopting a masterplan for the site to guide projects and services for the next 10-years.

As a 50-year-old site and in line with Council's broader approach to asset management, the draft masterplan has a focus on asset renewal / repurposing / sustainability in preference to the building of new assets wherever possible.

This report details the feedback received (Attachment 1), responds to this feedback and recommends certain amendments to the exhibited draft Masterplan Report (Attachment 2) and Landscape Plan (Attachment 3) prior to adoption. The Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan is recommended for adoption without amendment (Attachment 4).

PROPOSAL

The extensive community feedback received will be used to inform future service delivery and business proposals for funding. As per Council's normal process, business proposals will be submitted to Council for projects not currently operationally funded or for consideration in future capital programs.

Several priority projects identified for short term completion (next 1-2 years) are already approved via operations or the adopted capital program and involve asset renewal/maintenance. Any projects other than those listed below will require funding via business proposals, grants or externally sourced funds.

Existing funded projects:

- Duckpond Water Quality investigation and design only is operationally funded. Implementation budget subject to future business proposal.
- Gleniffer Brae Heritage restoration works. Currently in asset maintenance program and underway.
- Kawasaki Bridge design, restoration works and reopening. Currently in asset maintenance program and underway.
- New toilet amenities at Murphy's Avenue entry precinct currently in capital program.
- Propagation and Nursery Glasshouse renewal currently in capital program.
- Operational Depot renewal currently in capital program.
- Conduct an EOI for suitable commercially funded café operation / nature-based activations is operationally funded.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Attachment 1 provides a detailed description of all community feedback received during the exhibition period. The feedback received will help inform Council's provision of services at the Botanic Garden over the next 10 years and will be supplemented with regular key stakeholder discussions and customer surveys.

In general, the draft masterplan is highly supported by submissions received. This confirms that the Botanic Garden is certainly a well-loved and popular asset for the city.

The following major themes have been considered with responses that are reflected in amendments to the masterplan where required, for Council's consideration.

Visitor Centre and Café

The highest item of feedback was the request for a dedicated Visitor Centre and Café facility located at the Murphy's Avenue carpark entrance adjacent to the Playground. The request anticipates Council funding for a multi-purpose visitor facility with café which could be integrated with an amenities block, servicing the current most popular area of the site and acting as a hub for sales and visitor experiences. This view is strongly supported by the Friends of the Botanic Garden, NF5 and KRAG.

RESPONSE: Conduct an EOI for suitable commercially funded café operation / nature-based activations (Project 4) prior to a broader design review of the entry precinct including Murphy's Avenue Carpark Entry Zone, new toilets, additional BBQ facilities and timed parking (Project 6). It is prudent to gauge any commercial investment interest in the site and its existing facilities before committing Council to investigating potential additional capital and operating expenditure in addition to the asset renewal projects currently required over the next 10 years. The preference for a visitor centre which will require a

larger built footprint on site and in a location which received feedback regarding the visual impact of a proposed amenities block requires further investigation, if supported by Council.

Providing an enhanced food and beverage offering on site is strongly supported. Council would need to consider funding sources, including the suggestion received via feedback of external and/or fundraising options to establish such a facility in addition to ongoing operating costs. It is recommended that the EOI process be undertaken as soon as possible and reported back to Council, and it should be noted the EOI will include the requirement for the provision of visitor information related to the entire Botanic Garden site.

Parking and Accessibility

Concerns over the limited availability of parking on site and in the precinct generally, and how this limits visitation to the Botanic Garden. Support for better integration of Free Shuttle bus entry on Northfields Avenue.

RESPONSE: Noted. Council will review timed parking across the site and promote active transport options including the free city loop shuttle bus pickup / layoff on Northfields Avenue (Project 1).

Cratloe Cottage

Concerns over the viability and potential use of this building by a private operator as a café as opposed to the current education function, due to its condition, layout and distance from the Murphy's Avenue / Playground precinct. This view is strongly supported by the Friends of the Botanic Garden, NF5 and KRAG. There was also some support for the idea of a café in this building due to the ambience and beautiful setting noting it is accessible and adjacent to its own carpark and entry off Madoline Street.

RESPONSE: Conduct an EOI for suitable commercially funded café operation/nature-based activations (Project 4) and report back to Council, prior to finalising future use of this asset.

It is also noted that Education Programs delivered from the Botanic Garden will not be impacted if the EOI identifies commercial operator interest in Cratloe Cottage. Facilities including the Towri Visitor Centre are purpose built to support all-weather delivery of on-site education programs.

Toilet Facilities

Mixed responses, with support for the anticipated upgrades to today's standards but also concerns over the location, visual impact and missed potential to integrate with the requested Visitor Centre / Café at the Murphy's Avenue Carpark entrance. This view is strongly supported by the Friends of the Botanic Garden, NF5 and KRAG.

RESPONSE: Conduct an EOI for suitable commercially funded café operation / nature-based activations (Project 4) prior to a broader design review of the entry precinct including Murphy's Avenue Carpark Entry Zone, new toilets, additional BBQ facilities and timed parking (Project 6). It is noted that the amenities upgrade is currently funded in the capital program, and the upgrade of the current facility is considered a priority due to its condition and current capacity.

Playground Upgrades

Well used and popular, with a request for a refresh and upgrade to the playground.

RESPONSE: The all-abilities playground whilst complying with the relevant standards is approximately 17 years old and will be programmed for renewal as part of Council's funded playground renewal program.

Kawasaki Bridge

Strong support for the proposed repair and reopening of the bridge.

RESPONSE: This project has design underway with re-opening scheduled for June 2026.

Five Islands Mercury (Woodward) Fountain

Majority request for full recommissioning of the fountain rather than just interpretation. Some acknowledgements of the need for sustainability considerations due to water and energy use.

RESPONSE: Noted. This project was nominated for funding during previous Council terms but was not supported due to the sustainability (water and energy use), capital, maintenance and operational costs. The refurbishment project can be re-nominated for future Council funding consideration. There are options for external funding to refurbish the asset, but updated design and operating costings will need to be confirmed. The Woodward family's offer of support will be collaboratively investigated with them. It is proposed to commence in-situ interpretation as a short-term masterplan objective and based on community feedback continue to have the full refurbishment of the fountain considered via Council's annual budgeting process including consideration of external funding opportunities (Project 3).

Propagation Glasshouse and Nursery Refurbishment

Strong support for the completion of these projects which represent the 'engine room' for the Botanic Garden's conservation programs and broader Urban Greening / Natural Area restoration work and volunteer programs across the city.

RESPONSE: These essential projects are currently funded in the capital program. A related operational upgrade to depot facilities to address WHS and storage requirements is also funded in the capital program.

Tourism Strategy

A new suggestion – strongly supported by the Friends of the Botanic Garden – which they felt was needed to facilitate visitation growth, matched with the facilities / services required to support same.

RESPONSE: Noted. Wollongong Botanic Garden is a key city destination and is already part of a broader Destination Wollongong strategy for visitor growth in the region. Increasing the destination offering at the Botanic Garden is considered the most important way to boost overall visitation at the Garden.

Conducting an EOI for suitable commercially funded café operation/nature-based activations (Project 4) is considered the key first step in exploring opportunities that will support the visitor economy and supplement other market offerings in the region. Council will review its deployment of marketing and promotion of the Botanic Garden and continue to work closely with Destination Wollongong to ensure an improved and coordinated approach.

Duckpond Water Quality

Strong support for de-silting and improved water quality measures including aeration.

RESPONSE: This is a priority project that has money allocated during the current 2025 financial year, to determine the most appropriate methodology and approvals required to complete the task (Project 7). This will commence on adoption of the masterplan.

Cultural Inclusion

Support for stronger local Aboriginal content in program delivery and displays.

RESPONSE: Noted and agreed. The Botanic Garden aims to strengthen traditional owner involvement in service delivery, display collections and education on site and in the annexes, particularly Djeera (Mt Keira Summit Park).

Joseph Banks Glasshouse

General acknowledgement for sustainability approach in removing heating component to glasshouse and repurpose to an alternative display function (Project 2).

RESPONSE: This is a long-term project, possibly suited to external funding sources for construction and reduced operating costs. The draft masterplan opens the possibility of reimagining the purpose and function of this asset.

Upgrade Amphitheatre event space

General support for upgrade (Project 9) but highlight the need for wet weather access of plant / equipment to service events.

RESPONSE: Noted. Improved drainage and access will be included as part of any upgrade.

Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and Gleniffer Brae

Submissions called for improved access and connectivity, tourism and activation, integration and collaboration with the Botanic Garden as a whole.

RESPONSE: Noted. The Botanic Garden and the WollCon are working closely together to address these issues and are confident that future improvements and initiatives will benefit visitors and stakeholders over the life of the masterplan. An all-weather access path physically linking the Botanic Garden to Gleniffer Brae and suitable for tour buggy use is included in the draft masterplan.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 4 “We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	**Service**
4.2 Provide a variety of quality and accessible public spaces and opportunities for sport, play, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community.	Botanic Garden and Annexes

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Botanic Garden and Nursery service underpin many sustainability outcomes across the city including Urban Greening, Natural Area restoration, environmental/waste education and hands-on community outreach projects, in addition to the primary ex-situ plant conservation function of a Botanic Garden which collects, protects, and showcases rare, endangered and uncommon plant species from around the world. Conservation is a core value of the site and the partnerships facilitated. The Botanic Garden seeks to demonstrate sustainable practices and implement efficiencies wherever possible to reduce resource use and minimise its environmental footprint.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The recommended adoption of the draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan and Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan represents a low-risk action. The outcomes of the public exhibition period and Council’s responses have been included in this report for consideration prior to adoption.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The delivery of any new works or significant upgrade identified works within the Botanic Garden Masterplan are subject to funding via Council’s Business Proposal process.

CONCLUSION

Adoption of the recommendations in this Report will allow for the progression of projects and services that will enhance the visitor experience and align with the Mission and Vision of Wollongong Botanic Garden.

As a key city destination with an aging asset base, it is important to prioritise asset renewal projects and services over the next 10 years to ensure the sustainability and usability of the place for current and future generations of visitors.

For access to the attachments in this report, please use the below link:

Item 11 - Post Exhibition - Wollongong Botanic Garden Draft Masterplan

ITEM 12 POLICY REVIEW - OUTDOOR DINING COUNCIL POLICY

The Outdoor Dining Council Policy has been revised as part of Council's ongoing policy review process. Minor amendments have been made to align the Policy with recent legislative updates and to reflect the strategic direction outlined in Council's newly adopted Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan. These updates ensure the Policy remains current, relevant, and supportive of Council's long-term vision for public space activation.

This report presents the Outdoor Dining Policy for Council's adoption and recommends additional measures to further support outdoor dining initiatives across the Local Government Area (LGA).

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopts the revised Outdoor Dining Council Policy

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Roisin OSullivan, Manager Commercial Operations + Property (Acting)
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

1 Draft - Outdoor Dining Council Policy

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning
LGA	Local Government Area

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 27 June 2022, Council resolved to adopt the current Outdoor Dining Policy, following its public exhibition from 9 August 2021 to 11 October 2021. The Policy is now due for renewal. As part of this process, Council Officers have undertaken a review and prepared a revised draft with minor amendments for Council's consideration.

Summary of Changes include:

- Reference to Council's newly adopted Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan
- Addition to Policy Requirement – Must be associated with a lawfully approved food and drink premises, with the addition of the wording "*or alternatively a lawfully approved activity or use requiring outdoor dining*."

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council adopt the revised Outdoor Dining Policy.

The Policy aims to encourage the establishment of outdoor dining wherever feasible and appropriate across the Wollongong LGA. It provides a consistent framework to ensure outdoor dining areas are of high quality, aesthetically pleasing, safe, and practical – while also addressing key concerns around public access and safety.

The Policy has been updated to reflect recent legislative changes and to align with Council's newly adopted Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, reinforcing Council's commitment to vibrant public spaces and economic resilience.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation was undertaken with the following internal stakeholders:

- Customer and Business Integrity – Governance
- Commercial Operations and Property
- Regulation and Enforcement
- Strategic Planning
- Development Assessment and Compliance
- Heritage
- City Strategy – Community Land Officer
- Community Culture and Engagement – City Centre team

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 3 – "We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity."

It specifically delivers on core business activities:

- Goal 3.3 – "Increase and attract new business investment and enterprise to Wollongong while supporting and growing existing local businesses."
- Goal 3.4 - "Continue to build Wollongong CBD as a vibrant employment precinct with an active evening economy".

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of streamlined processes for outdoor dining approvals presents an opportunity to enhance operational efficiency within Council to support local businesses.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The diligent management of the use of outdoor public spaces in line with an existing framework, such as for outdoor dining and entry into the appropriate agreements, reduces legal risk as well as legislative and regulatory risk for Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of the Outdoor Dining Policy, as its implementation can be accommodated within Council's existing operational budget for Property Services Core Services.

It is also noted that Council has resolved to extend the current waiver of outdoor dining fees until 30 June 2028, as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting local businesses and activating public spaces.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of the revised Outdoor Dining Policy reflects Council's ongoing commitment to activating public spaces for outdoor dining across the Wollongong LGA. It supports local economy, enhances community amenity, and ensures a consistent and safe approach to the use of public areas.

OUTDOOR DINING COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to encourage the establishment of outdoor dining wherever feasible and appropriate throughout the Local Government Area (LGA). The policy aims to provide a consistent LGA wide framework that ensures quality, aesthetically pleasing, safe and practical outdoor dining opportunities whilst addressing the community's concerns of maintaining access, regulating smoking and the consumption of alcohol within licensed/consent areas.

The provision of outdoor dining opportunities encourages thriving commercial, social and cultural places which increase the amenity of public spaces, improve safety by providing casual surveillance, assist business growth and enriches the city's image and lifestyle.

POLICY INTENT

The importance and benefits of utilising public spaces for commercial activities such as outdoor dining have been widespread and this policy aims to provide a clear and transparent framework and efficient pathway to encourage businesses to seek approval and utilise these public spaces as efficiently as possible.

The main objectives of this policy are to:

1. Enable the reasonable use of Public Roads including footways, parts of the road and similar areas, as well as Council owned and managed (Crown) land, for outdoor dining associated with adjacent businesses
2. Implement a clear, accessible, and transparent process to encourage businesses to apply for outdoor dining approvals
3. Support economic activity for businesses throughout the Local Government Area
4. Maximise the positive and safe use of public spaces by the community.

WOLLONGONG 2035 OBJECTIVES

This policy supports our Community Goals outlined in Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan, with interconnected objectives being:

- We are a sustainable and climate resilient city;
- We have well planned, connected and liveable places;
- We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity; and
- We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community.

This policy contributes to Community Goal 3 – 'We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity' in particular, the Core Business of Property Services, 'Increase and attract new business investment and enterprise to Wollongong while supporting and growing existing local businesses' as well as 'Continue to build Wollongong CBD as a vibrant employment precinct with an active evening economy'.

POLICY

Council's position is to permit and promote outdoor dining where appropriate, on Public Roads and Council owned and managed land subject to the following requirements:

1. Compliance with the relevant planning legislation, for example the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008, Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009, Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009, and any other relevant legislative considerations as amended from time to time;

DocSetID: 26811621

2. Must be associated with a lawfully approved food and drink premises or alternatively a lawfully approved activity or use requiring outdoor dining;
3. Must have all required approvals under the *Liquor Act 2007* to serve alcohol;
4. Must obtain and hold an outdoor dining approval and pay any associated fees.

When assessing public spaces for use as outdoor dining, Council will consider the following:

Location/site suitability: facilitating the appropriate use of footways and public places for outdoor dining activities

Safety/Accessibility: maintaining an equitable and safe thoroughfare around outdoor dining areas for all users

Amenity: facilitating improvement to the local character, street vitality, attractiveness, and economic viability

Function: ensuring the design of space, furniture, fixtures and day-to-day requirements of the outdoor dining area reflect the local area and quality required, and

Legal and Compliance: ensuring that the management of outdoor dining activities avoids nuisance, endangerment or inconvenience to neighbours and the community addressing public liability, managing risks and ensuring compliance with state legislation.

Additional considerations

- Separate approval is required to erect permanent structures in a public space, including awnings, umbrellas or shade structures that are not defined as temporary. Depending on the nature of these structures, a development application process and/or separate approvals process may be required.
- The term of an Approval will be a maximum of 7 years from the date of issue for the use of a footway of a Public Road or a maximum of 12 months for any other part of a Public Road in accordance with the *Roads Act 1993* (the Roads Act).
- The approval under the Roads Act is not transferable and Regulatory and compliance action is undertaken by Council where the business is conducting outdoor dining activities without an approval or not in accordance with an issued approval.
- The term of an approval will be a maximum of 5 years from the date of issue for other Council owned and managed Crown land in accordance with the relevant legislation.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The following instruments of legislation must be considered and are applicable to this policy (as amended from time to time):

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Crown Lands Management Act 2016*
- *Roads Act 1993*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009
- Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*
- *Liquor Act 2007*

- *Smoke Free Environment Act 2000*
- *Food Act 2003*

If any legislative changes occur that are contrary or inconsistent with this policy, the updated legislation will prevail.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed a minimum of once every term of Council, or more frequently as required.

REPORTING

Council maintains an outdoor dining register which is updated each time that an approval is issued or terminated.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Commercial Operations + Property division are responsible for the implementation of actions under this policy, in particular the Property Services Team who are responsible for assessing applications, providing the relevant approval and the ongoing management of the Outdoor Dining Approvals.

Regulation + Enforcement Division is responsible for any compliance action if required.

RELATED STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Outdoor Dining on Public Roads and Council Owned and Managed Land Management Policy
- Wollongong DCP 2009 Chapter C12 – Outdoor Restaurant and Footpath Trading Street Vending
- Wollongong CBD Night time Economy Council Policy
- For Community or Crown land any applicable Plan of Management

OUTDOOR DINING COUNCIL POLICY

APPROVAL AND REVIEW	
Responsible Division	Commercial Operations + Property
Date adopted by Council	[To be inserted by Governance]
Date/s of previous adoptions	27 June 2022, 13 October 2014, 14 October 2013
Date of next review	[Not more than three years from last adoption]

ITEM 13 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

Council meetings and Councillor Briefings have traditionally been held on all Mondays with the exception of school holiday periods. This report proposes a 2026 meeting calendar that meets all relevant legislative requirements as well as internal requirements around reporting dates for financial, investment and quarterly review reports.

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt the Ordinary Council Meeting dates as detailed in this report.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer + Business Integrity
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to meet at least ten times each financial year, each time in a different month. Council meetings have traditionally been held on a Monday with Ordinary Council meetings held every three to four weeks on average, commencing at 6.00 pm and no Council meetings held during school holiday periods (government schools).

PROPOSAL

This report recommends adopting the below set of meeting dates that meet all relevant requirements under *Local Government Act 1993* and align with annual and financial reporting requirements set out by the Office of Local Government. Council may amend the meeting cycle at any time by future resolution.

It is proposed to adopt a calendar that incorporates Council Meetings being held on a monthly basis on the 4th Monday of the month rather than a rolling 3–4-week cycle. Some meeting dates will need to vary from the 4th Monday to meet legislated reporting requirements and to allow a meeting in early February after the Christmas / New Year break. This will provide the following benefits:

- Greater clarity for public of when Council meetings will be held
- Meeting schedule will more closely align with monthly financial reporting cycles
- Aim of creating a consistent agenda size across meetings

A total of 12 Council Meetings are proposed for 2026 with the recommended dates for adoption as follows:

- Monday 2 February 2026
- Monday 23 February 2026
- Monday 23 March 2026
- Monday 27 April 2026
- Monday 25 May 2026
- Monday 29 June 2026
- Monday 27 July 2026
- Monday 24 August 2026
- Monday 21 September 2026
- Monday 26 October 2026
- Monday 23 November 2026*
- Monday 14 December 2026

* The 23 November 2026 meeting may need to be rescheduled if the date clashes with the annual LGNSW Conference.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Finance Division was consulted in the development of this calendar of meeting dates to ensure proposed dates align with reporting requirements to Council for reports such as the Delivery Program and Budget and the Audited Financial Statements.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 4 “We have a healthy, respectful and inclusive community”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Customer and Business Integrity Business Plan 2025-2026.

CONCLUSION

The recommended set of meeting dates aligns with the reporting timeframes set out by the Office of Local Government and meets relevant requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ITEM 14 TENDER T1000223 LEASE OF NORTH WOLLONGONG BEACH CAFÉ & KIOSK

This report recommends that Council declines to accept the tender submitted for the lease to operate North Wollongong Beach Café & Kiosk in accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. The report further recommends proceeding to negotiate firstly with the tenderers, or in the event of failure of negotiations with the tenderer, any other party with a view to entering into a Lease agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council decline to accept any tender received for the lease to operate and of North Beach Café & Kiosk, and resolve to enter into negotiations with the tenderers with a view to recommending to Council a preferred tenderer to enter a Lease agreement in relation to the subject matter of the tender.

2 In accordance with Section 178(4) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the reason for Council so resolving to enter into negotiations with the tenderers and not inviting fresh tenders arises from the alternate tender responses received, offering different lease terms, and the ensuing difficulties in achieving appropriate comparisons, and that a more beneficial outcome for Council will be achieved by entering into commercial property negotiations directly with the three tenderers, rather than through a traditional scored tender approach.

3 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to undertake and finalise the negotiations, firstly with the tenderers and in the event of failure of negotiations with those tenderers, any other party, following which a further report be provided at a future meeting of Council to consider the outcomes of the negotiation process for the lease of North Wollongong Beach café and kiosk.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Roisin OSullivan, Manager Commercial Operations + Property
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The North Wollongong Beach Café & Kiosk is a well-established commercial property located within the highly desirable North Wollongong Foreshore and Blue Mile precinct. The current operator has occupied the premises under a lease agreement since 2003 and has undertaken substantial improvements to the premises with Development Application (DA) approval. These enhancements include a full commercial kitchen fit out and an extension to the dining area, featuring a popular alfresco deck offering scenic views of the beach, harbour, and lighthouse.

The lease expired on 30 April 2023 and the operator has remained in occupation under holdover provisions of the original agreement.

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council initiated a Public Tender process for a new lease of the site.

The timing of the new lease has been aligned with the upcoming Stage 2 Sea Wall Project, scheduled to commence in February 2026. During this period, the Café & Kiosk will be required to close for approximately six (6) months or longer to facilitate essential building repair works and the construction of the Sea Wall.

Council's vision is to coordinate a joint Grand Opening of both the revitalised North Wollongong Beach Café & Kiosk and the completed Stage 2 Sea Wall, marking a significant milestone in the enhancement of the foreshore precinct.

Tenders were invited for this Lease by the Open and Selective tender method with a close of tenders of 10.00 am on Tuesday, 21 October 2025.

Three (3) tenders were received by the close of tenders and all tenders have been scrutinised and evaluated by a Tender Evaluation Panel constituted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and comprising representatives of the Commercial Operations and Property and the Project Delivery divisions.

The Tender Evaluation Panel evaluated all tenders in accordance with the following Evaluation criteria and weightings as set out in the formal tender documents:

Mandatory Criteria

1 Referees

2 Financial Capacity

3 Food Safety Certificate

4 Mandatory Site Inspection

5 Operating Objectives

6 Workplace Health and Safety Documentation

Evaluation Criteria

1 Proposed Annual rental Payable to Council – 30%

2 Proposed Business Plan – 30%

3 Demonstrated Experience and satisfactory performance in operating premises of similar size, scope and risk profile – 20%

4 Staff qualifications and experience – 10%

5 Demonstrated strengthening of local economic capacity – 10%

The individual tender responses have been reviewed and are noted for their complexity and ambiguity, including alternate non-conforming submissions. It is therefore recommended that a more beneficial outcome for Council will be achieved by entering into commercial property negotiations directly with the three tenderers, rather than through a traditional scored tender approach because of the differing nature of the alternate tender responses.

PROPOSAL

Following a review of tender responses, which demonstrate the three respondents have submitted alternate tender responses offering different lease terms, it is recommended that a more beneficial outcome for Council will be achieved by entering into commercial property negotiations directly with the three tender respondents, rather than through a traditional scored tender approach because of the differing nature of the alternate tender responses.

In light of a declared Conflict of Interest, the General Manager stepped away from any role or involvement in this matter, including prior to the tender and through the evaluation and reporting of the outcome.

Under section 377 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is not permitted to delegate powers to any staff member other than the General Manager. Where there is a declared conflict of interest, the appropriate course of action is for the General Manager to sub-delegate his authorities and powers in relation to this matter to a staff member of his choosing, and for that staff member to implement the decision of Council. If Council so resolves as per items 2 and 3 of the recommendation, the General Manager has made it plain that he will promptly sub-delegate to the Director, Community Services for completion.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

1 Members of the Tender Evaluation Panel

2 Nominated Referees

3 Council's Procurement and Governance divisions

4 Legal Services

5 Pursuant to Chapter 6 Division 2 Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to give public notice of the proposed Lease. The 28-day statutory advertising period closed on Thursday, 2 October 2025 with 3 submissions received with no objections. Formal responses have been provided to each submission.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 3 – "We foster a diverse economy, and we value innovation, culture, and creativity." It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Community Strategic 3.3 – "Increase and attract new business investment and enterprise to Wollongong while supporting and growing existing local businesses."

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk in accepting the recommendation of this report is considered low on the basis that the tender process has fully complied with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and the *Local Government Act 1993.*

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The following sustainability implications have been considered:

- Sustainable procurement by providing open and selective Tender method to give local companies the opportunity to provide a submission for the lease.
- Weighting in the Tender assessment provided for using local services, labour and materials.
- The Lease agreement promotes sustainable business practices including mandatory use of sustainable packaging and sourcing of products and limited wastage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Walsh and Monaghan provided market valuation advice to Council on the 29 January 2025 to assist with lease negotiations as part of the tender process.

CONCLUSION

Council should endorse the recommendations of this report.

ITEM 15 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - WHALE AT SCARBOROUGH

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY

Councillor Jess Whittaker

QUESTION

"What was the financial cost to Wollongong Council for the recovery and disposal of the whale that was drowned in the Coledale shark net and ended up on a rock platform at Scarborough? Please include all costs in relation to staff time, equipment, contractor fees, and disposal fees.

Has there been an offer from the State Government to assist with these costs?"

ANSWER

Landowners / Land managers are responsible for managing Marine carcasses that wash ashore in NSW.

Council engaged the services of a specialist salvage contractor with the experience and equipment required to safely retrieve the 4.7 tonne Juvenile Humpback Whale that came ashore at Scarborough Beach on the evening of Monday 27 October 2025.

This task not only required specialist staff and equipment but was complex and high risk in nature with the carcass shifting on a slippery rock shelf, wave movement, tidal conditions and the presence of multiple sharks in the nearby vicinity.

Service	Cost
Contractor service to service, retrieve and transport the carcass to the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park	$42,295.00
Staffing costs (overtime supervision). Remainder of staff time during regular hours.	$300.10
Fees Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park	$2,260.10
Fee exemption approved (NSW EPA Waste Levy)	-$811.77
Total Cost	**$44,043.43**

The Necropsy undertaken on the animal by the Taronga Australian Registry of Wildlife Health (the Registry) indicates the animal's likely cause of death was drowning due to entanglement from shark netting managed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

At the time of publishing this paper, the General Manager has written to the Hon. Tara Moriarty, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales seeking funds to cover Council's costs.