



## BUSINESS PAPER

# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council Meeting will commence at the conclusion of the Public Access Forum (commencing at 6:00pm) or at 6:30 pm, whichever is earlier.

If there is no Public Access forum the Council meeting will commence at 6:00 pm.

## Monday 23 February 2026

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 Owners
- 3 Civic Prayer / Civic Statement
- 4 Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors or attendance by audio visual link for Councillors
- 5 Confirmation of Minutes
- 6 Disclosures of Interests
- 7 Petitions and presentations
- 8 Call of the agenda
- 9 Lord Mayoral Minute
- 10 Urgent items
- 11 Reports to Council
- 12 Reports of committees
- 13 Items laid on the table
- 14 Notices of Motions(s)/Questions with Notice
- 15 Notice of Rescission or Alteration motions
- 16 Late Business Item
- 17 Confidential Business
- 18 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 3.36 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, 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 2/02/2026 .....	1
ITEM 1 Draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2025 .....	8
ITEM 2 Wollongong Council Submission - Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan .....	121
ITEM 3 Post Exhibition - Planning Proposal Wollongong LEP 2009 - Minor Amendments to Clauses .....	149
ITEM 4 Policy Review - Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy .....	155
ITEM 5 Approval to Seek Ministerial Consent to Grant an Agreement for Lease and a Lease - North Wollongong Beach Cafe & Kiosk .....	164
ITEM 6 Leave of Absence - Councillor Dan Hayes - 23 February 2026 .....	168
ITEM 7 Returns of Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests - February 2026 .....	169
ITEM 8 December 2025 Financials .....	170
ITEM 9 Statement of Investment - December 2025 .....	178
ITEM 10 Notice of Motion - Councillor Deidre Stuart - Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025 .....	182
ITEM 11 Notice of Motion - Councillor Jess Whittaker - Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund .....	186



## MINUTES

# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Meeting Opened at 6.06 PM

**Monday 2 February 2026**

### 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 Richard Martin

Councillor Ryan Morris  
Councillor Tiana Myers  
Councillor Thomas Quinn  
Councillor Deidre Stuart  
Councillor Jess Whittaker

### In Attendance

General Manager  
Director Infrastructure + Works, Connectivity Assets + Liveable City  
Director Planning + Environment, Future City + Neighbourhoods  
Director Corporate Services, Connected + Engaged City (Acting)  
Director Community Services, Creative + Innovative City  
Chief Financial Officer  
Manager Customer + Business Integrity  
Manager Sport + Recreation  
Manager City Strategy  
Manager Project Delivery  
Manager City Works  
Manager Open Space + Environmental Services  
Manager Community Culture + Engagement

Greg Doyle  
Joanne Page  
Linda Davis  
Jeff Reilly  
Kerry Hunt  
Brian Jenkins  
Todd Hopwood  
Mark Berriman  
Luke Musgrave  
Jeremy Morgan  
Matthew Bennett  
Paul Tracey  
Sue Savage

Note: Council resolved at Item 2 of this meeting to grant Councillor Ann Martin a Leave of Absence for 2 February 2026.

# INDEX

	PAGE NO.
ITEM 1	Public Exhibition - Ethical Conduct Investigations Policy ..... 1
ITEM 2	Leave of Absence - Councillor Ann Martin - 2 February 2026..... 2
ITEM 3	Tenders Accepted Under Delegation 16 December 2025 to 23 January 2026..... 2
ITEM 5	Tender T1000233 - Bike Tracks and Walking Trails Maintenance ..... 2
ITEM 6	Tender T1000238 - Old Port Road Culvert Rehabilitation ..... 2
ITEM 7	Returns of Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests - February 2026 ..... 3
ITEM 8	November 2025 Financials ..... 3
ITEM 9	Statement of Investment - November 2025 ..... 3
ITEM 10	Notice of Motion - Councillor Jess Whittaker - Rapid Response Shark Bite Trauma Kits ..... 3
ITEM 4	Tender T1000231 - Corrimal Community Centre (and Library) Refurbishment and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) ..... 4

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2025**

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

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025**

- 2 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Hayes that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 16 December 2025 (a copy having been circulated to Councillors) be taken as read and confirmed.

### **CONDOLENCES**

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown, acknowledged the passing of Bill Lever of Levers Art Supplies and Picture Framing on 2 November 2025, at the age of 89. Bill and his wife, Ann, have operated Levers Art Supplies since 1955, growing the business into the region's largest supplier of art materials. They are long-standing supporters of numerous charities, schools and community organisations, and were awarded Wollongong Council's 2013 Cultural Award as part of the Australia Day Awards program.

Councillor David Brown acknowledged the passing of Ben Hession, a champion of local music. Ben supported local bands that were starting out and he was a champion for local venues. He was a longtime volunteer at VOXFM community radio where he gave a lot of bands their start and taught a lot of people about being a technician or presenter on radio.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown, presented the Australian HR Institute (AHRI) award Wollongong Council received as winners of the Best Employee Experience Strategy at the AHRI Awards 2025. This award recognises Wollongong City Council's inclusive, values-driven strategy that empowers a future-ready workforce — enhancing attraction, development, and retention through leadership, technology, wellbeing, and continuous employee-led improvement.

### **CALL OF THE AGENDA**

- 3 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that the staff recommendations for Items 2 and 3, and then Items 6, 7 and 9 be adopted as a block.

### **ITEM 1 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - ETHICAL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS POLICY**

- 4 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** – RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor R Martin that -
  - 1 That the draft Ethical Conduct Investigations Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
  - 2 Following the public exhibition period the results of the public exhibition and the draft policy are to be returned to Council for consideration.

## **ITEM 2 - LEAVE OF ABSENCE - COUNCILLOR ANN MARTIN - 2 FEBRUARY 2026**

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 3)

**COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that leave of absence be granted to Councillor Ann Martin for the 2 February 2026 Council Meeting.

## **ITEM 3 - TENDERS ACCEPTED UNDER DELEGATION 16 DECEMBER 2025 TO 23 JANUARY 2026**

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 3)

**COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that the tender accepted by the General Manager under delegation be noted.

## **ITEM 4 - TENDER T1000231 - CORRIMAL COMMUNITY CENTRE (AND LIBRARY) REFURBISHMENT AND HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)**

A PROCEDURAL MOTION was MOVED by Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Quinn that Item 4 be deferred to the last item on the agenda. The PROCEDURAL MOTION on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED.

Refer minute 10 for resolution.

## **ITEM 5 - TENDER T1000233 - BIKE TRACKS AND WALKING TRAILS MAINTENANCE**

**5 COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** – RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Campbell that -

- 1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council accept the tender of Coal Coast Civil Pty Ltd for the provision of Bike Tracks and Walking Trails Maintenance in the sum of \$308,880, including GST per annum.
- 2 The contract be awarded for an initial term of 3 years, with 2 optional extensions of 1 year each, with a maximum term of 5 years. Any such extensions being exercised at the sole discretion of Council.
- 3 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.
- 4 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 6 - TENDER T1000238 - OLD PORT ROAD CULVERT REHABILITATION**

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 3)

**COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker 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 Old Port Road Culvert Rehabilitation 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.

#### **ITEM 7 - RETURNS OF DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS - FEBRUARY 2026**

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 3)

**COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that Council notes the tabling of the Returns of Disclosures of Interest as required by Part 4 of the Model Code of Conduct.

#### **ITEM 8 - NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS**

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

#### **ITEM 9 - STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - NOVEMBER 2025**

The following staff recommendation was adopted as part of the Block Adoption of Items (refer minute number 3)

**COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** - RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor D Brown seconded Councillor Docker that Council receive the Statement of Investment for November 2025.

#### **ITEM 10 - NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JESS WHITTAKER - RAPID RESPONSE SHARK BITE TRAUMA KITS**

MOVED by Councillor Whittaker seconded Councillor Docker that -

- 1 Wollongong City Council note with sadness the recent shark attacks that have occurred in NSW and express our sympathy to the victims, their families and the communities these incidents have affected.
- 2 An Information Note be provided to Councillors, as soon as possible, outlining the estimated cost of procurement, installation and maintenance of rapid response shark bite kits at all Wollongong Beaches and surf spots. The report should advise funding opportunities available through the State Government Shark Smart Program.
- 3 The General Manager write to NSW DPIE to express interest in Wollongong City Council participating in the expanded Shark Smart Program, which the NSW State Government recently announced will provide funding for an additional 150 Community Shark Bite Kits, to be placed at beaches outside of metropolitan areas.

- 7 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** – RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion (AMENDMENT) of Councillor Hayes seconded Councillor R Martin that -

- 1 Wollongong City Council note with sadness the recent shark attacks that have occurred in NSW and express our sympathy to the victims, their families, and the communities these incidents have affected.
- 2 An information note be provided to Councillors, as soon as possible, outlining the estimated cost and capacity for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of rapid response shark bite kits at all Wollongong Beaches and surf spots. The report should also advise of funding opportunities available through the State Government Shark Smart Program.

- 3 The General Manager write to NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to express interest of our continued participation in the Shark Smart Program involving drumlines, drones, shark bite kits, shark nets, the shark alert app, medical trauma training, and tagged shark listening stations

- 4 Links to the Shark Smart website and app to be added to Council's website.

Councillor Hayes' AMENDMENT on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The AMENDMENT then became the MOTION and on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **ITEM 4 - TENDER T1000231 - CORRIMAL COMMUNITY CENTRE (AND LIBRARY) REFURBISHMENT AND HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)**

The Lord Mayor called for a motion to close the meeting to consider a confidential attachment relating to Item 4 - Tender T1000231 - Corrimal Community Centre (and Library) Refurbishment and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC).

It is recommended the meeting move into closed session to the exclusion of the press and public in accordance with section 10A (2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of the information supplied in the items outweighs the public interest in openness and transparency in Council decision making by discussing the matter in open session.

- 8 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** – RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Hayes seconded Councillor Morris that Council moves into closed session to discuss details of the confidential attachment to Item 4.

The MOTION on being PUT to the VOTE was CARRIED.

The meeting moved into Closed Session, the time being 6.51 pm

#### **CLOSED COUNCIL SESSION**

- 9 **COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION** – RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY on the motion of Councillor Campbell seconded Councillor Quinn that the meeting move out of Closed Session and into Open Council.

Council resumed Open Session at 7.01 pm

#### **OPEN COUNCIL SESSION**

#### **ITEM 4 - TENDER T1000231 - CORRIMAL COMMUNITY CENTRE (AND LIBRARY) REFURBISHMENT AND HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)**

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

- 1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council accept the tender of Halbuild Pty Ltd for the provision of the Corrimal Community Centre (and Library) Refurbishment and HVAC, in the sum of \$1,528,911.37 (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.

## **THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.04 PM**

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Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Wollongong held on Monday 23 February 2026.

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Chairperson

**ITEM 1 DRAFT QUARTERLY REVIEW STATEMENT DECEMBER 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 second 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.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 Council adopt the draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2025.
- 2 The favourable proposed budget adjustments from the Capital Budget (\$3.9M) be transferred to Strategic Projects Restricted Asset.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2025

**BACKGROUND**

Council's draft Quarterly Review Statement December 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:

- Wollongong successfully hosted the 2025 World Triathlon Championships in October, attracting more than 4,500 participants from around the world.
- Important strategic documents were adopted, including the Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035, Chapter E15 – Water Sensitive Urban Design, the Wollongong Development Contributions Plan 2025 and the West Dapto Riparian Corridor Management Strategy.
- Council approved a seven-year kerbside waste and recycling contract with Remondis Australia, valued at \$141M.
- Major community events and activations were delivered across the city, including Santa's Arrival in Crown Street Mall, Wollongong, Christmas Carols in MacCabe Park, Wollongong, and the commencement of the four-month Sunset Cinema season at the Botanic Gardens.
- Council hosted the Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo, which doubled in size to more than 60 exhibitors.
- National recognition was received for organisational excellence, including awards for innovation in animal management and for delivering a best-practice employee experience.
- Community support initiatives including the City of Wollongong Giving Tree Appeal, Bikers Toy Run and the Lord Mayor's School Starters Picnic were delivered.
- Council advanced sustainability and liveability outcomes through urban greening initiatives, including Tiny Forest projects and the planting of more than 1,900 canopy trees 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 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

The September Quarterly Review resulted in a budgeted surplus Operating Result [pre capital] of \$10.6M and adjustment in the deficit Funds Result to \$19.5M.

This review proposes a positive movement in the Operating Result [pre capital] of \$1.0M resulting in a revised surplus of \$11.6M and an improvement in the deficit Funds Result to \$19.0M (movement of \$0.5M). The improved Funds Result deficit is predominately driven by increases in Operating Revenues (Rates & Annual Charges and User Fees and Charges).

The Operating Result [pre capital] includes an increase in Interest on Investments of \$1M linked to the new West Dapto Community Facilities Restricted Asset created from the property sale at Stream Hill. This additional interest earned on these funds is to be transferred to the Restricted Asset to maintain its value over time. In addition, \$3.9M of capital funding from General Income is proposed to be transferred to the Strategic Project Restricted Asset. Additional financial reporting is included in the Budget Review within the Draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2025.

## CONCLUSION

The draft Quarterly Review Statement December 2025 provides an overview of Council’s performance for the second 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

October - December 2025



*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

<b>General Manager’s Message.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>About this Report .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Reporting against the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 ...</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Summary of Progress by Goal .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>GOAL 1   WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>GOAL 2   WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>GOAL 3   WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION,     CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>GOAL 4   WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES .....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Budget Review Statement .....</b>	<b>87</b>



## General Manager's Message

This Quarterly Review Statement (October to December 2025) provides an update on our progress with implementing the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026. Service updates are grouped under 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: a sustainable city and an inclusive, connected and vibrant community.

This Delivery Program supports major new infrastructure projects and asset renewal to meet the needs of our growing community, while providing opportunities for local contractors, suppliers and businesses. This quarter, we have continued to focus on getting the basics right while balancing the delivery of significant projects.

Work progressed on upgrades to footpaths, roads and stormwater infrastructure, alongside planning for two new community centres and libraries in Helensburgh and Warrawong. These projects, together with ongoing investment in active transport options, demonstrate Council's commitment to building safe, inclusive and liveable neighbourhoods.

Highlights from this quarter include:

- Wollongong successfully hosted the 2025 World Triathlon Championships in October, attracting more than 4,500 participants from around the world.
- Important strategic documents were adopted, including the Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035, Chapter E15 - Water Sensitive Urban Design, the Wollongong Development Contributions Plan 2025, and the West Dapto Riparian Corridor Management Strategy.
- Council approved a seven-year kerbside waste and recycling contract with Remondis Australia, valued at \$141 million.
- Major community events and activations were delivered across the city, including Santa's

Arrival in Crown Street Mall, Christmas Carols in MacCabe Park and the commencement of the four-month Sunset Cinema season.

- Council hosted the Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo, which doubled in size to more than 60 exhibitors.
- National recognition was received for organisational excellence, including awards for innovation in animal management and for delivering a best-practice employee experience.
- Community support initiatives including the Giving Tree Appeal, Bikers Toy Run and the Lord Mayor's School Starters Picnic were delivered.

We remain mindful of the economic pressures facing households and the rising costs of service delivery. Council continues to manage its budget responsibly while navigating the ongoing impacts of severe weather events.

Since 2019, seven natural disasters have been declared, causing significant damage to community assets and infrastructure. Recovery work continues to influence Council's financial outlook, but we remain committed to maintaining organisational sustainability and managing resources responsibly.

Customer service also remains a key priority. We are investing in improving your experience with Council, whether you are contacting us about a service, booking a community facility or receiving information about a project in your area. We remain committed to being the best possible local government authority we can be to 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 identified in this Quarterly Review Statement. This Review will inform the Annual Report, due in November 2026.

Greg Doyle | General Manager



## About this Report

*Image: Kembla Street, Wollongong separated cycleway - dedicated cycling space*

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 December 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>









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 December Quarter

Status		Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Support Services	Overall %
<b>On-Track/ Complete</b> Action is progressing or achieved as planned		100% (17/17)	100% (24/24)	100% (22/22)	92% (49/53)	93% (13/14)	96% (125/130)
<b>Deferred</b> A decision has been made to reschedule the timing of the project or actions		0% (0/17)	0% (0/24)	0% (0/22)	2% (1/53)	7% (1/14)	1.5% (2/130)
<b>Not scheduled to commence</b> The action was not due to commence during the reporting quarter		0% (0/17)	0% (0/24)	0% (0/22)	2% (1/53)	0% (0/14)	1% (1/130)
<b>Delayed</b> Unforeseen event has changed the timing of a project or action		0% (0/17)	0% (0/24)	0% (0/22)	4% (2/53)	0% (0/14)	1.5% (2/130)

## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### December Quarter Highlights



*Cabbage Tree Creek Bushcare group installed a Tiny Forest along Cabbage Tree Creek, Fairy Meadow with 30 volunteers planting 500 native trees and plants.*



*Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown with Poem Forest shortlist poets (L-R) Isabela, Zoe, Charlie, Adon and Daisy and winner Charlie.*



*Over 3,500 plants were sold to over 352 customers at the final Greenplan plant sale of the year.*

## 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

The Wollongong Botanic Garden recorded 103,659 visitors, reflecting its ongoing role as a valued community asset. Nine Friends of the Botanic Garden volunteers contributed a combined total of 163 hours of service, supporting garden operations and activities.

The nursery produced 11,021 new plants during the quarter and distributed a total of 15,943 plants. More than 940 Greenplan customers purchased 8,378 locally sourced native plants, supporting urban greening outcomes across the city.

Routine annex inspections and scheduled maintenance works were undertaken and remain on track.



#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver Botanic Garden visitor programs, interpretation, education, events, and priority actions	On-Track 	Excursion programs are now operating as a business-as-usual offering at the Wollongong Botanic Garden, with booking numbers continuing to increase. During the spring school holidays, the Garden hosted a performance of <i>Snugglepoot</i> and <i>Cuddlepie</i> , attracting families and visitors to the site.  A range of special events were delivered during the quarter, including the Inspirational Women Rose Event held in the Rose Garden, where up-and-coming female Cadets and Trainees were recognised by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown. The Garden also received strong media exposure, with national, state and local television features aired on Sydney Weekender, Sunrise and WIN TV. In addition, the Sunset Cinema season commenced on 11 December 2025 and will run for four months.
Implement priority actions from the Botanic Garden Masterplan	On-Track 	The Draft Wollongong Botanic Garden Masterplan and Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan were adopted by Council on 17 November 2025. A Request for Proposals process to gauge interest in suitable commercial activations for the site is currently out to market, closing 29 January 2026.

## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### Botanic Garden and Annexes Continued

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage the Mount Keira Summit Park in accordance with the Plan of Management	On-Track 	Mt Keira Summit Park continues to be managed with regular weekly safety inspections and landscape maintenance works as required. A new cafe license was issued, and the potable water tank which services the cafe was replaced during the quarter.
Deliver priority actions from the Urban Greening Program	On-Track 	<p>During the quarter there were 1,922 canopy trees planted as part of the Bushcare and Natural Areas bush restoration works, including four Tiny Forests (Figtree, Fairy Meadow, Port Kembla and Farmborough Heights). There were 330 specimen trees planted in streets and open spaces.</p> <p>At Wollongong Cemetery, the Illawarra Lowlands Grassy Woodland species trial planting was installed.</p> <p>Council submitted a grant application to the State Government to accelerate the Urban Greening program. If successful, this will be reported next quarter.</p> <p>Council supported a Keira High School, North Wollongong, Tiny Forest project working in alignment with Young Mayor participants.</p>

## 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

Key actions were delivered under the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program and work progressed on the open coast Coastal Management Program, including adoption of Water Sensitive Urban Design controls and completion of coastal hazard studies.

Sustainability initiatives continued, with more than 300 residents joining the Community Renewables program and a multi-stakeholder workshop held to inform the Energy Equity Transition Plan. Environmental education and volunteering remained strong, with school holiday and excursion programs delivered at the Wollongong Botanic Garden, multiple Tiny Forest plantings across the Local Government Area involving schools, community groups and Aboriginal organisations, and biodiversity monitoring activities such as Platypus and frog surveys.


Volunteer contributions were recognised at the annual Environment and Conservation Volunteer Celebration, where more than 150 volunteers were acknowledged for planting over 38,000 native plants, removing more than 58 tonnes of waste, and contributing almost 14,000 hours of service during the calendar year.

#### 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 	<p>Implementation of the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program (CMP) continued, with Council adopting Chapter E15 - Water Sensitive Urban Design in November 2025 and launching supporting online guidance for developers.</p> <p>Grant applications were submitted to support water quality monitoring, foreshore protection works at Windang and future investigations required for long-term coastal protection.</p> <p>Council facilitated interagency collaboration with State agencies and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to progress CMP actions, including progressing foreshore protection works at Windang. This has been supported by updated bathymetric surveys and specialist coastal engineering advice.</p> <p>Joint advocacy with Shellharbour City Council continued to progress long-term management options for the Lake Illawarra entrance. Councils are waiting for a response from the State Government for them to commence a Strategic Business Case process.</p> <p>Community initiatives remained strong, with ongoing Rise and Shine clean-up activities, the launch of an Expression of Interest process for the Marine Estate Champions initiative, and continued partnership with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to identify and assess Aboriginal cultural values across the catchment.</p>



## 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	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>School holiday and school excursion programs continued at the Wollongong Botanic Garden, alongside community events including the Poem Forest winners announcement and Children's Week activities at Koonawarra. Environmental volunteering remained strong, with multiple Tiny Forest projects delivered across the Local Government Area in partnership with community groups, schools and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, resulting in more than 2,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses planted to support shade, biodiversity and creek restoration.</p> <p>Citizen science and environmental education activities were delivered, including platypus monitoring following eDNA testing and Frog ID Week events.</p> <p>Council recognised the contribution of volunteers across Bushcare, Dunecare, Fiready and Rise and Shine programs at the annual Volunteer Recognition event, acknowledging more than 13,900 volunteer hours contributed during the year. Rise and Shine clean-up activities continued around Lake Illawarra, supported by community participation and sponsorship.</p> <p>National Recycling Week initiatives focused on reducing contamination in yellow-lid bins, supported by radio promotion, pop-ups and the staged transition of Community Recycling Stations.</p>


## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 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 	<p>A key highlight this quarter was the successful delivery of Round 1 of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Community Renewables Program, with more than 300 households and businesses signing up. The program supports the Community Strategic Plan and delivers an endorsed action of Council's Climate Change Mitigation Plan.</p> <p>Progress continued on Council's energy transition initiatives, including a review of the Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure on Council land policy, planning for new public charging sites, and completion of an electrical capacity assessment to support expanded solar and battery installations on key Council buildings.</p> <p>Council met its Global Covenant of Mayors commitments through annual climate and energy equity reporting and facilitated a multi-stakeholder workshop to inform development of an Energy Equity Plan. Grant applications were submitted with Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation, the University of Wollongong and under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program to support energy outreach, community energy hubs and local energy storage investigations.</p> <p>Reviews of Ecologically Sustainable Development controls continued, with Chapters D13 (City Centre) and B4 (Town and Village Centre) progressed to align with Council's climate commitments. Community engagement was supported through the Go Electric campaign and Climate Change Week activities delivered through Council libraries.</p>
Prepare and deliver the Wollongong Coastal Management Program	On-Track 	<p>Work continued on Stage 2 of the Coastal Management Program for the Wollongong coastline during the quarter. The coastal hazard studies were completed in the previous quarter, with the associated risk assessment now well progressed and nearing completion. Reporting on these studies is expected to be presented to Council in the next quarter.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Cultural Values and Risk Assessment commenced during the quarter, informed by the findings of the coastal hazard studies. Mapping of coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest was completed, providing an important evidence base for future coastal management planning.</p>

## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### Environmental Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Update and deploy the Urban Greening Strategy Action Plan 2025-2029	On-Track 	During the quarter work commenced on the scope for an Action Plan review/update.

## 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 continued to deliver core stormwater services this quarter, with a focus on essential maintenance and renewal to maintain network performance and address localised drainage issues. Designs were completed and handed over for construction for the Shark Beach Carpark culvert outlet scour repairs and a minor upgrade at Wentworth Street, Port Kembla, improving site resilience and outcomes for nearby residents.


Progress also continued on several complex stormwater projects requiring detailed investigation and stakeholder coordination, including pipe reconstruction works at Hayward Street, Kanahooka, and Thames Street, West Wollongong. Headwall reconstruction works at Barellan Avenue, Dapto also progressed during the quarter.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and implement the Floodplain Risk Management Plans	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Council continued to progress the development and implementation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans across the Local Government Area, supporting reduced flood risk and improved community resilience through evidence-based planning and consultation.</p> <p>During the quarter, community engagement was completed for the Wollongong City and Hewitts Creek Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans. Feedback received through these engagement activities will be consolidated into formal engagement reports to inform the finalisation of both studies and plans, ensuring community input is reflected in the outcomes.</p> <p>A New South Wales State Government grant variation was approved for the Lake Illawarra Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, securing funding for a detailed floor level survey. This work will strengthen flood modelling and damage assessments, supporting the development of future flood mitigation strategies.</p>

## 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 	<p>Council progressed the planning and design of new stormwater infrastructure this quarter, reaching a key milestone with the handover of design plans for construction of the Ursula Road, Bulli, Flood Mitigation Scheme - Stage 1. Identified in the Combined Catchments of Whartons, Collins and Farrahars Creeks, Russell Vale, Bellambi Gully and Bellambi Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (2014), the project represents a significant step toward delivering long-term flood resilience for the Bellambi community.</p> <p>Progress also continued on other priority stormwater projects, including the drainage upgrade at Beach Road, Stanwell Park.</p> <p>Works during the quarter focused on hydraulic modelling to assess network capacity, refinement of the design to address site-specific constraints, and progression of environmental review processes to ensure compliance with coastal hazard requirements.</p>

## 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 through the existing natural areas restoration tender panel, with Work Health and Safety and environmental inductions completed for contractors and works. Ongoing support was provided to 50 Bushcare and Dunecare groups across the Local Government Area, including best practice workshops, bird-watching walks and a Volunteer Recognition Event. An external audit of volunteer management procedures was also completed to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

#### 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 	The 2025-2026 Asset Protection Zone maintenance program was confirmed during the quarter. Asset Protection Zones are being maintained per Rural Fire Service standards. Hazard reduction burns were completed by Fire Rescue NSW during December 2025 at Thirroul.

## 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

Assessment of the Domestic Waste Services tender was completed and reported to Council, with the new contract considered at the Council meeting on 16 December 2025. Council approved a seven-year contract with Remondis Australia, valued at \$141 million to deliver kerbside waste and recycling collection services to more than 89,000 residential rateable properties in accordance with the Local Government Act.




The finalisation of this significant procurement secures the continued delivery of a core Council service that underpins public health, environmental sustainability and community amenity, while providing long-term service certainty for residents across the city.

#### 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 	The quarter included radio ads, social media posts and in-person events to support National Recycling Week and asbestos awareness as well as promotion for Council's drop-off events and Food Organics Garden Organics services.
Continue to develop and implement the landfill gas management system at Whytes Gully	On-Track 	Landfill gas capture continued at Whytes Gully this quarter, with an average of 203,624 cubic metres of biogas captured per month, resulting in the abatement of approximately 1,686 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This level of abatement is comparable to planting more than 27,800 trees each month.

## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### Waste Management Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
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 	The community was provided with multiple drop-off opportunities this quarter to support waste diversion, including events for soft plastics, green waste and cardboard. These initiatives complemented the ongoing diversion options available at the Community Recycling Centre.
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 	During the quarter, approximately five pallets of polystyrene were processed through the Community Recycling Centre, diverting more than 1,000 cubic metres of expanded polystyrene from landfill—equivalent to over 30 shipping containers of material.

## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
1.1 Number of visitors to Wollongong Botanic Garden	360,000 per annum	175,758 (YTD)	200,090 (YTD)
1.2 Residents' average satisfaction score with Botanic Garden	Maintain	4.60*	4.60#
1.3 Number of participants in environmental education programs	4,000 per annum	2,027 (YTD)	4,669 <sup>1</sup> (YTD)
1.4 Number of participants in environmental programs	Increase	9,392 (YTD)	14,396 <sup>1</sup> (YTD)
1.5 Number of engagements in environmental programs	At least 85,000 per annum	New Measure	104,583 (YTD)
1.6 Residents' average satisfaction score with environmental programs and education	Increase	3.40*	3.30#
1.7 Percentage reduction in Council's greenhouse gas emissions	100% by 2030	13% reduction since 2021	22% <sup>2</sup> reduction since 2021
1.8 Number of hours worked by volunteers in Bushcare, Dunecare and FiReady sites	Increase	7,180 (YTD)	5,361 (YTD)
1.9 Number of participants in Council tree planting activities	Increase	New Measure	9,177 (YTD)
1.10 Ratio of trees planted versus trees removed on public land	2 : 1 minimum	Not available	15: 1 (YTD average)

\* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

<sup>1</sup> Transitioned to a new service delivery model

<sup>2</sup> Data from 2024-25

## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
1.11 Residents' average satisfaction score with protection of our natural environment	Increase	3.30*	3.40 #
1.12 Number of participants in waste education programs (formal and online)	Increase	New measure	32,935 (YTD)
1.13 Percentage of residential waste diverted from landfill	Increase	49% (annual result)	53% (annual result)
1.14 Percentage of contamination in FOGO bin	Less than 10% (contract figure)	2%^	1.6%
1.15 Percentage of contamination in recycling bin	Less than 10% (contract figure)	14%^	10.8%
1.16 Percentage of material diverted from landfill via recycling and FOGO kerbside bins	Increase	54% (YTD average)	54% (YTD average)
1.17 Residents' average satisfaction score with Domestic Waste Collection service (i.e. red bin)	Maintain	4.40*	4.30 #
1.18 Residents' average satisfaction score with Recycling Waste collection service (i.e. yellow bin)	Maintain	4.30*	4.20 #

\* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

^ 2021 figure.

## GOAL 1 | WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT CITY

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
1.19 Residents' average satisfaction score with Green Waste (including FOGO collection service i.e. green bin)	Maintain	4.40*	4.30 #
1.20 Residents' average satisfaction score with public bin collection	Maintain	4.00*	3.90 #
1.21 Residents' average satisfaction score with waste disposal depot facilities	Maintain	3.80*	4.00#
1.22 Residents' average satisfaction score with street cleaning	Maintain	3.60*	3.40 #

\* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

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](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

### December Quarter Highlights



*Council received the Excellence in Innovation in Animal Management award from the Australian Institute of Animal Management with Project Director of Animal Care and Impounding Services Daniel Kennedy (right) accepting the Award on behalf of Wollongong City Council.*



*Council awarded the lease for operation of the beachside restaurant at Stuart Park to the Grounds of Alexandria Pty Ltd.*

## 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


Council continued to assess a diverse range of development applications, with a strong focus on process improvement to enhance assessment timeframes and customer service. This included progressing the implementation of recommendations arising from the customer experience review and working towards enhanced processes for large and complex proposals. Pre-lodgement advice was provided to a range of stakeholders to support informed and efficient application outcomes.

Council also continued to provide services as a Principal Certifying Authority for buildings and subdivisions, offering an alternative to private sector certification. The Design Review Panel supported design excellence across the city by providing advice on five matters during the quarter.


Development activity during the quarter included the lodgement and determination of applications across hotel accommodation, childcare, aged care and medical uses.

This comprised the lodgement of one development application for a modification to approved hotel accommodation to increase the number of rooms from 107 to 140. Two applications for childcare centres were lodged and separately four applications for childcare centres were determined with a combined capacity for 410 places once constructed. A modification for the refurbishment of an aged care facility was determined that will add 48 beds back into the regional supply of aged care places once completed. A development application for a change of use to a medical centre was lodged and two applications for a medical centre and health consulting rooms were determined.



#### 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 	The final recommendation action involving an online Design Review Panel form on Council's website was completed. A post-implementation survey to external customers was also prepared and is planned to be released to external customers for a three-week period during the March 2026 quarter. The survey will seek feedback on the enhancements undertaken on Council's website and written communications on Development Application related matters.
Administer the Design Review Panel in relation to key sites	On-Track	Council continues to work with the Design Review Panel to achieve design excellence in the assessment and

## GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

or significant development		determination of Development Applications. The Panel provided advice on five matters during the quarter.
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### Development Assessment Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
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 considered 17 matters and determined 15 during the quarter.
In conjunction with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, administer the Southern Regional Planning Panel	On-Track 	Council continued to work with the Southern Regional Planning Panel to progress the assessment and determination of development applications during the quarter. The Panel determined four matters and was briefed on a further four matters, supporting timely decision-making and coordinated regional planning outcomes.

## 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 continued to meet its core emergency management responsibilities, supporting both the Local Emergency Management Committee and the Local Rescue Committee to undertake their core functions.

Council provided support to NSW Ambulance and NSW Rural Fire Service during heatwave conditions and extreme fire danger rating days that occurred during the quarter.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and deploy a Disaster Adaptation pilot and collaborate with the NSW Government on implementation	On-Track 	Council is contributing to the regionally based Disaster Adaptation Plan, coordinated by the NSW Reconstruction Authority with support from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation. A regional Project Control Group has been established, with early contributions underway and a project scope and delivery plan to be developed in the coming months.
Partner with the State Emergency Service to upgrade Wollongong Unit facilities at Montague Street	On-Track 	NSW State Emergency Services are refining the submitted proposed scope of works to Council for the upgrade of the Montague Street, North Wollongong facility.
Continue to advocate for policy reform and funding from the State and Federal Governments to support disaster recovery and future resilience	On-Track 	<p>Council continued to progress its disaster resilience and preparedness agenda this quarter through a range of regional and strategic initiatives. Work commenced on a new regional Disaster Adaptation Plan, providing a coordinated framework for advocacy, resilience building and disaster risk reduction funding. The plan will also include locally focused actions and outcomes relevant to Wollongong.</p> <p>In parallel, a review of the Illawarra Emergency Management Committee arrangements across Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama has commenced, with a particular focus on strengthening recovery coordination.</p> <p>Council also sought feedback on its recent Disaster Ready Fund Round Three application to inform and strengthen future funding submissions.</p>

## 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

During the quarter, a number of key planning instruments and strategies progressed. The Hill 60 Port Kembla Plan of Management for Crown Land was endorsed for finalisation, and the Wollongong Development Contributions Plan 2025 was adopted. The Draft Wollongong Forts Conservation Management Plan was placed on public exhibition, along with the Flinders Street, North Wollongong Urban Design Framework.





Council also adopted Development Control Plan Chapter E15 – Water Sensitive Urban Design. Several strategic planning proposals were endorsed for exhibition, including the Draft Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme and Planning Proposal, the Wollongong City Centre Planning Proposal and associated draft Development Control Plan chapter, and the Centres and Industrial Lands Planning Proposal and draft Development Control Plan chapter.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement key priorities of the Wollongong Housing Strategy 2023	On-Track 	Work continued on reviewing medium-density development controls in well-located precincts across the Local Government Area, with the aim of facilitating increased housing supply close to transport, services and employment. In parallel, Council monitored State housing policy initiatives, including Housing Delivery Authority determinations, and engaged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on relevant State-led assessment processes.
Partner with external agencies on regionally significant precinct planning projects	On-Track 	Work continued on a number of regionally significant precinct planning projects in collaboration with State agencies and key stakeholders. These included progression of the Wollongong Health Precinct Master Plan with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and NSW Health, and continued involvement in planning for BlueScope's Port Kembla Transformational Lands precinct following State approval of the rezoning.  Early work also commenced on the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2026 led by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, alongside ongoing engagement on the Gwynneville Planning Proposal and the proposed Bellambi Point renewal with Homes NSW. Council also continued to engage with Transport for NSW on regionally significant transport projects affecting the Wollongong Local Government Area.

## 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 	Implementation of the Wollongong City Centre Urban Design Framework progressed during the quarter, with Council endorsing a Planning Proposal, Draft Development Control Plan Chapter D13 and Development Contributions Plan amendments at the Council Meeting on 27 October 2025. As part of this decision, Council approved an amendment to include an incentive for the development of a cinema within the E2 Commercial Centre Zone, which has now been incorporated into the Planning Proposal.  The amended Planning Proposal has been referred to the New South Wales Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for Gateway Determination. Subject to Gateway approval, the documents will be placed on public exhibition.
Undertake studies to inform the periodic review of the West Dapto Development Contribution Plan	On-Track 	Following Council's adoption of the West Dapto Riparian Corridor Management Strategy at the 17 November 2025 meeting, staff commenced preparation of the West Dapto Water Management Master Plan. This master plan is a key informing study for the next review of the West Dapto Development Contributions Plan. Work has also progressed on the West Dapto Infrastructure and Development Strategy. Both projects will be priority areas for delivery through the remainder of the 2025-2026 financial year.
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. It is anticipated a draft and final Strategy will be prepared during the 2026 calendar year.

## 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

Wollongong Memorial Gardens staff commenced a program to inspect all 28,000 monuments across Council cemeteries to assess structural integrity. This work aligns with the recently implemented Cemetery Interment Scheme, which requires monuments to be inspected every five years. Inspections are being undertaken by trained staff, with corrective actions initiated where monuments are identified as unsafe.

Three public commemorative services were held during the quarter, including Remembrance Day, a baby remembrance service and the annual Christmas service. These services continue to be well attended and positively received by the community.

Staff also workshopped actions arising from the recent all-staff survey, resulting in the development and implementation of a Memorial Gardens Action Plan aimed at improving staff engagement and strengthening alignment with Council's strategic objectives.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Manage the commercial operations of the Wollongong Memorial Gardens and cemeteries	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>An approved Development Application was received for works at the entrance to Helensburgh Cemetery. The approved works include the removal of the existing pergola to enable improvements that will provide a more accessible, welcoming and functional entry for visitors.</p> <p>Ground-penetrating radar investigations commenced at Bulli Cemetery to support future burial planning. This work assists staff to identify potential sites within older sections of the cemetery that may be suitable for reuse, with any identified locations subject to further investigation before being made available to the community.</p> <p>Council also continued to explore funding options to progress the Aboriginal burial section and a new access road to extend the Macedonian section at Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, supporting culturally appropriate burial options and future capacity planning.</p>

## 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 a range of significant property matters this quarter, including new leases for two prominent hospitality sites at North Wollongong – the Beach Café and Kiosk and the Beachside Restaurant at Stuart Park – as well as land acquisitions, easements and a road closure and sale in Kembla Grange, Bulli and North Wollongong.

Several major property transactions were completed, including the sale of land at Stream Hill, Unanderra and West Wollongong. Strategic acquisitions were also finalised at Otford to support future planning objectives, along with the purchase of 267 Keira Street, Wollongong to enable the long-term expansion of MacCabe Park, Wollongong.

Easements were granted to facilitate renewable energy infrastructure, including community battery installations in Dapto. Council's city centre car parks continued to perform strongly, maintaining consistently high occupancy rates 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 continued to focus on improving business initiatives during the quarter, including streamlining the OneCouncil Property system through the implementation of a new portfolio dashboard and digital task management.  An external real estate marketing platform was utilised to promote properties for lease, expanding market reach and engagement. To further support leasing outcomes, a high-quality marketing images and drone footage were produced for use in property marketing campaigns.

## 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 429 abandoned vehicles, 28 hoarding or squalor cases, 41 footpath obstructions, 46 overgrown properties, 624 parking incidents, 50 aggressive dog reports, 36 barking dog complaints, 145 stray animals and 259 reports of illegal dumping. Council continues to promote compliance through education where possible, supported by enforcement action where required.

Development and environmental compliance programs were delivered, managing more than 380 customer service requests relating to potential breaches of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and the Protection of the Environment Operations Act. Investigations addressed unauthorised building works, water pollution incidents, non-compliant activities and land uses, vegetation removal and stormwater management issues. Where appropriate, regulatory action was taken through fines, notices and orders.

The swimming pool safety barrier program continued, with officers completing 49 compliance certificate applications and responding to 65 customer service requests. Planning progressed for a community education campaign, including social media and radio messaging promoting compliant pool fencing and child supervision, to be rolled out in January and February 2026. Additional information will accompany the March 2026 quarter rates notice, with educational posters displayed at Council swimming pools, facilities and pool supply shops. The Swimming Pool Safety Booklet was also distributed to childcare centres across the Wollongong Local Government Area.




Council's Animal Care and Impounding Service continued to support the community by managing lost, stray and surrendered animals. During the quarter, 220 cats and 100 dogs were impounded, with 93 animals adopted, 196 placed into foster care and 65 transferred to rehoming organisations following their impoundment period. To strengthen collaboration, Council commenced regular quarterly meetings with local rescue and rehoming organisations. The service also received national recognition, winning the Excellence in Innovation in Animal Management Award from the Australian Institute of Animal Management in November 2025.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Complete feasibility studies to inform future companion animal care and rehoming operations	On-Track 	Council continues to progress a feasibility study to inform potential long-term options for the delivery of Council's Animal Care and Impounding service. Data analysis and information gathering to support this work are underway, with the report and evaluation on track to be completed next quarter.

## GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

### Regulatory Compliance Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Carry out proactive surveillance and inspection program of known dumping hot spots	On-Track 	A total of 110 investigations of illegal dumping incidents were conducted during the quarter, with two verbal clean up directions issued, and five Penalty Infringement Notices issued totalling \$75,500.
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 	<p>The Building Sites Compliance Program was delivered during the December quarter, with staff undertaking inspections across the Wollongong Local Government Area to ensure building sites complied with environmental and development requirements. The program focuses on erosion and sediment control, waste management, approved hours of operation and overall site compliance to minimise environmental impacts.</p> <p>During the quarter, staff completed more than 190 site inspections. As a result, 12 fines were issued for breaches of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, the Roads Act and the Protection of the Environment Operations Act. Officers also issued more than 65 verbal warnings and engaged with Private Principal Certifiers to raise concerns and seek corrective action where required.</p> <p>To support ongoing education and industry engagement, officers attended a Master Builders Association industry night and delivered a presentation outlining building site compliance requirements and best practice environmental protection measures.</p>
Maintain a proactive compliance program for companion animals in public places, including beaches, foreshore areas, and parks	On-Track 	Council staff conducted 249 patrols of beaches and foreshore areas, and 131 patrols of parks, to monitor dog and owner behaviour. Educational engagement remained a key focus, with 90 verbal warnings or discussions held with dog owners during beach patrols and 16 during park patrols. A total of 100 penalty notices were issued for Companion Animal offences.

## 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 program continued this quarter, with onsite audits undertaken in collaboration with school principals and parent groups. Work also progressed on a comprehensive, costed action list to respond to a Councillor Notice of Motion and support advocacy with Transport for NSW and the NSW Department of Education.

Grant preparation remained a focus, with applications progressed for the Australian Government Black Spot Program and Get NSW Active Program, and the outcome of a 2024 Safer Local Roads application still pending.


The Transport Team processed more than 215 heavy vehicle access requests and continued liaison with Transport for NSW and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on the rollout of the Heavy Vehicle Automated Access Program, which will streamline future approvals.

Council continued its involvement in the NSW Roads Act Review through participation in the Peer Reference Group, submissions and industry workshops, advocating for more modern and efficient approaches to road and street management.

Three Local Traffic Forum meetings were held during the quarter, with matters referred to NSW Police for monitoring where appropriate. Process improvements were implemented, and revised guidelines are being prepared to reflect recent legislative changes.





The Transport Team also responded to more than 140 customer, Councillor and Member of Parliament requests, with common themes including e-bike management, speeding, hooning and demand for safer, calmer streets. Ongoing engagement with Transport for NSW continued across a range of major regional projects, supporting access to traffic data to inform future planning and modelling.

#### 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 	The Safer Routes to School working group continued to engage with school principals and Parents and Citizens associations, with five school meetings held, four reports finalised, seven draft reports issued to schools for comment and a further 19 investigations were underway. An online survey was introduced to streamline feedback from schools and support more timely completion of reports. Council also submitted three funding applications to the Australian Government Black Spot Program to improve pedestrian safety around schools. In addition, funding was secured for three projects under the Road Safety Program – School Zone Infrastructure stream, which will deliver safer pedestrian crossings and improved bus stop accessibility, with delivery planned for 2026.

## GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

### Transport Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and implement the Integrated Transport Strategy	On-Track 	The Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan was adopted by Council on 15 December 2025, supporting the adopted Transport Strategy. The Plan will inform future planning, prioritisation and decision-making processes.
Review the management of road signage as part of the Service Optimisation Program	On-Track 	The Service Optimisation for end-to-end Road Signage has been updated to include other regulatory signage across the network. This review is currently underway, with data analysis and stakeholder consultation complete and recommendations now being developed.
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 between Bourke Street and Squires Way, North Wollongong, has been completed. Design work for the connecting section between the Bourke Street Shared Path (from North Wollongong Station) and Virginia Street is nearing completion, with community consultation planned for early 2026. Council is preparing an application to the Get NSW Active 2026-2027 program to seek construction funding for this project and will continue to work closely with Transport for NSW to progress this important east-west active transport corridor.
Implement actions from the Wollongong Cycling Strategy 2030	On-Track 	<p>Council's Cycling Network Plan was published on Council's website in December 2025. The Plan sets out a ten-year forward program to guide the investigation and prioritisation of new cycleways, identify the strategic cycling network, and support advocacy and future grant funding opportunities. The Plan includes route investigations, standard design principles, indicative cost information and consideration of existing road environments to inform future options.</p> <p>Council staff continued to scope cycling projects within the Infrastructure Delivery Program, engaging with the community and progressing grant-funded initiatives including the Grand Pacific Walk at Austinmer and Coledale, works at Military Road, Port Kembla, and new bicycle parking. The Throsby Drive cycleway was completed during the quarter, delivering a key connection to the Wollongong City Centre.</p> <p>A targeted stakeholder workshop was held in November 2025 to inform the Lake Illawarra Shared Path Plan. Feedback will be used to prepare a public-facing document and implementation approach to improve cycling connectivity around the lake for residents and visitors.</p> <p>Wollongong's cycling network was also showcased during the World Triathlon event, reinforcing Council's ongoing commitment to Wollongong as a recognised Bike City.</p>

## GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
2.1 Number of undetermined development applications	250	265	220
2.2 Percentage of undetermined development applications over 90 days	20%	17%	14.1%
2.3 Average net determination days for development applications	100	New measure	98
2.4 Residents' average satisfaction score with planning controls for development in your local area/town centre	Increase	2.80*	2.80#
2.5 Occupancy rate of commercial buildings	90%	98% (YTD average)	98% (YTD average)
2.6 Percentage of regulatory programs/patrols undertaken versus programmed/statutory	100%	New measure	100% (YTD average)
2.7 Percentage of residents aware of Council's animal care and impounding service	Increase	New measure	53%#
2.8 Residents' average satisfaction score with domestic animal control in public places	Minimum score of 3.75	3.50*	3.40#
2.9 Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of local roads	Increase	2.80*	2.80#
2.10 Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of footpaths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.10#
2.11 Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of cycleways	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.60#
2.12 Residents' average satisfaction score with maintenance of shared use paths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.40#

\* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

## GOAL 2 | WE HAVE WELL PLANNED, CONNECTED, AND LIVEABLE PLACES

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
2.13 Residents' average satisfaction score with availability of footpaths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.30 <sup>#</sup>
2.14 Residents' average satisfaction score with availability of cycleways	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.60 <sup>#</sup>
2.15 Residents' average satisfaction score with availability of shared paths	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.40 <sup>#</sup>
2.16 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)
2.17 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.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

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](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

### December Quarter Highlights



2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals Parade of Nations opening ceremony with over 70 nations, close to 5000 athletes with Men's World Series Winner Matt Hauser.



Crowds enjoying the atmosphere at the Council's Christmas Carols in MacCabe Park, Wollongong.



The Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo was held on 31 October (Photographer is Smith Media).

## 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


Creative Wollongong programs continued to support local artists and creative practitioners, with multiple Council-funded projects progressing through the Small Cultural Grants program and the Creative Wollongong Short Film Competition. Planning also commenced for key initiatives including Making Waves, the Creative Wollongong Short Film Festival and Creative Dialogues.

The Wollongong Art Gallery delivered a strong exhibition program, including *Fever and Recollection*, showcasing First Nations artists. The relaunched Wollongong Art Prize attracted more than 500 attendees to the opening event, where South Australian artist Sam Gold was awarded the \$25,000 acquisitive prize.

Creative Wollongong communications continued through the Facebook page and newsletter, promoting opportunities for artists and audiences. Creative Wollongong Studio Artists in Residence also met during the quarter to network and plan a public open day and exhibition scheduled for early 2026.

Several Council-supported projects achieved positive external recognition, including the short film *Spirals*, which was selected as one of 25 projects nationally to receive a Creative Australia MATCH Lab grant, supporting further development and audience engagement.

#### 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 	<p>Council continued its participation in the Night-Time Economy Councils' Committee, a collaborative network of New South Wales councils working to support vibrant, safe and sustainable night-time economies through information sharing and coordinated advocacy.</p> <p>Council worked closely with six business collectives across the Wollongong Local Government Area that received funding through the NSW Office of the 24-Hour Commissioner's Uptown District Acceleration Program. This included progressing a positive parking communications campaign in partnership with the three Central Business District Uptown groups — Keira Collective, Globe Lane and Lower Crown Quarter.</p> <p>Council also maintained representation on the NSW 24-Hour Commissioner's Advisory Council, including participation in the Transport and Mobility Community of Practice under the NSW 24-Hour Economy Strategy.</p>

## 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 	<p>Funding from Multicultural NSW for the 2025 <i>Culture Mix</i> multicultural festival was successfully acquitted during the quarter. Final attendance was confirmed at 22,000 people, and evaluation activities were completed, incorporating community satisfaction feedback, internal evaluations, media and communications outcomes, and budget review. The event was delivered within budget and aligned with forecast outcomes.</p> <p>Following the announcement of funding in late November, Council supported and submitted an application to Multicultural NSW in December for delivery of the <i>Culture Mix</i> festival in 2026.</p>
Implement actions from the Cultural Plan – Creative Wollongong 2024-2033	On-Track 	<p>During the quarter, evaluation of the 2025 Culture Mix festival was completed, alongside forward planning for key creative initiatives including <i>Making Waves</i>, the Creative Wollongong Film Festival and Creative Dialogues. The inaugural <i>Making Waves</i> program attracted strong participation from families and arts-curious community members, showcasing local talent such as Circus Monoxide, The Arcadians and Earth, Wind and Choir.</p> <p>Artists in Residence progressed planning for a 2026 open studio event, while a number of Small Cultural Grant recipients launched projects that received positive community and media responses. Entries continued to be received for the Creative Wollongong Short Film Competition, with filming commencing on several commissioned works.</p> <p><i>Making Waves</i> pop-up events at Thirroul Beach, North Wollongong Beach and Port Kembla Pool engaged the community through activities including outdoor painting, environmental sculpture, community choir performances, aqua-aerobics and dance events.</p>
Implement the funding agreement with Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Limited	On-Track 	<p>In November 2025, the final performance of the 2025 season was staged at the Town Hall by the Strangeways Ensemble, Merrigong's permanent company of neurodiverse actors and musicians. Their production <i>The Seven</i> was an ambitious and highly successful show, outselling all previous Strangeways productions.</p> <p>Merrigong's 2026 Season was also launched during the quarter to a full house, generating strong early ticket sales and enthusiasm from audiences. The year concluded with 27 local dance schools taking part in end-of-year performances, showcasing the exceptional talent of young performers from across Wollongong.</p>

## 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
<p>Implement the 'Animating Wollongong: Public Art Strategy 2022-2032'</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Work progressed on major public art commissions associated with the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library, Helensburgh Community Centre and Library, and MM Beach, Port Kembla. The Public Art Specialist continued to work closely with internal project teams to progress scope development and community engagement planning, with early coordination undertaken for the Helensburgh project. The scope of works and engagement approach were agreed, and all projects are progressing as planned. Professional capability was also strengthened through continued participation in the statewide Public Art Working Group.</p> <p>The Public Art Maintenance Program advanced with a focus on strengthening documentation, maintenance processes, scheduling and asset management, including updated Safe Work Method Statements and Risk Assessments. Urgent repairs and routine maintenance were completed during the quarter, including restoration works to the Hayley Welsh mural at the Administration Building car park following vandalism. Systems supporting asset tracking and maintenance scheduling were further refined.</p> <p>Procurement for the Magari artwork progressed, with a fabricator selected in early December following a Request for Quotation process. The project remains on track for installation before the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Public Art Advisory Panel was reconvened during the quarter, with five new members appointed. The panel brings a diverse range of expertise across architecture, academia, artistic practice and town planning, with its first meeting scheduled for February 2026.</p>

## 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
<p>Implement priorities from Framing our Future: Wollongong Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2020-2025</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>This quarter capped off a strong calendar year of delivery across the Gallery’s strategic priorities, including Place, Program and Collection, Visitor Experience, Profile and Partnerships. Seven exhibitions were delivered, attracting 8,464 visitors, alongside 45 education and public programs engaging a total of 1,698 participants. This included 13 public programs and 32 education programs and booked tours, which engaged 688 participants.</p> <p>Marketing activity supported strong audience reach and visibility, with media releases issued for major milestones, e-newsletters distributed to more than 1,300 subscribers, and website content attracting 30,887 unique visits. Social media engagement remained high, reaching 142,000 people on Facebook and 84,800 on Instagram, with the Art Prize finalist announcement a key highlight of the quarter.</p> <p>Collection development continued with the acquisition of seven works by artists including Jessica Martin, Patrick Pound, Rob Howe, Matthew Grayson and Judy Bourke. In addition, nine works were accepted as gifts from collectors, including pieces by Anne Ferran, Monika Tichacek, Nancy Borlase, Tuk Caldwell, Mazie Karen Turner and Emma White.</p>

## 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 Wollongong Mall Special Rate.


#### Quarterly Progress Update

City Centre Management continued to deliver core operations, supporting activation, business engagement and strategic marketing across the Wollongong central business district. Council worked closely with local businesses and the three Wollongong CBD Uptown Groups to collaborate on marketing initiatives and place-making opportunities.

Local businesses were promoted through a Christmas digital marketing campaign, Ultimate Gift Guide for Every Vibe, highlighting the diversity of the Wollongong CBD retail and hospitality offer. Key activations delivered during the quarter included the Christmas 2025 program, the *Live@Lunch* series and 2025 National Basketball League champions, Illawarra Hawks' "Walk to the WEC" event.


The Wollongong Live Music Report was developed as part of the Live and Local Strategic Initiative, supporting the growth of the city's night-time and live music economy. Council also continued its representation on the Night-Time Economy Councils' Committee and the Place Networking Group, collaborating with peer councils across New South Wales.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver an integrated marketing campaign that reflects the 'city experience'	On-Track 	An integrated marketing campaign was delivered this quarter to position the Wollongong CBD as a vibrant destination, with a strong focus on seasonal experiences and local businesses. Marketing activity centred on coordinated digital promotion, including social media, website content and paid advertising, to amplify awareness of city centre events and attractions.  During the quarter, the Wollongong CBD website recorded approximately 34,000 page views and 7,000 outbound clicks, while social media achieved a combined reach of more than 116,000 across Facebook and Instagram, supporting visitation and economic activity in the city centre.

## 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 	<p>A comprehensive Christmas activation program was delivered across the Wollongong CBD, creating a strong seasonal draw for residents and visitors. This included installation of the eight-metre Christmas tree and decorative lighting enhancements in Crown Street Mall, Wollongong, supported by a festive entertainment program featuring roving performers and themed live music.</p> <p>Key events included Santa's Arrival, which attracted 3,668 attendees and showcased local young performers, including Street Beatz. The <i>Live@Lunch</i> program continued twice weekly, while December recorded a peak number of stallholders at the Crown Street Mall Produce and Creative Traders Market, with more than 60 stalls operating mid-December 2025, reinforcing the CBD's role as a key economic and social hub.</p>
Implement a range of activation initiatives across the City Centre Precincts	On-Track 	<p>Council delivered and progressed a range of activation initiatives across city centre precincts, responding to strong community demand for inclusive and family-friendly events. The Bikers Toy Run charity event again attracted high levels of participation, with additional safety measures implemented to manage crowds during extreme heat conditions.</p> <p>Forward planning also advanced during the quarter, with the Lunar New Year performance program finalised and preparations underway for a roller-skating and skateboarding activation scheduled for January 2026. Ongoing discussions continued with shopping centre operator Haben to coordinate future Easter and school holiday activations.</p>
Develop and implement Placemaking projects	On-Track 	<p>Placemaking initiatives continued to enhance the use and vibrancy of key public spaces within the Wollongong CBD. The <i>Live@Lunch</i> music program was expanded to additional performance locations in the Lower Crown Street precinct, supporting increased activity beyond the core mall area.</p> <p>Engagement with businesses participating in the CBD Uptown Program progressed, with ongoing discussions focused on identifying and shaping future placemaking opportunities that support business visibility, community use and place identity.</p>

## 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

Building on the success of the 2019-2029 Economic Development Strategy, Council adopted a new Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035 on 15 December 2025, following a public exhibition period that invited community and stakeholder feedback. The Strategy provides a clear roadmap for economic prosperity over the coming decade, setting a vision for Wollongong as a diverse and resilient economy that fosters innovation and growth, attracts investment, and supports a thriving business community. It establishes a target of 20,500 net new jobs by 2035 and identifies five priority areas, ten momentum-building projects and 52 actions to guide collaboration with business and industry, entrepreneurs, investors, education providers and government partners.

Council hosted its fifth annual 'Doing Business with Council' event, engaging with 120 suppliers and providing insights into upcoming projects, procurement opportunities and ways to strengthen tender submissions.



Business engagement activity continued through *Invest Wollongong*, with Council facilitating 17 business and investor enquiries ranging from general support and information requests to assistance with larger, ongoing investment projects. Council's monthly business e-newsletter also maintained strong engagement, with an average open rate of 40 per cent and distribution to more than 28,000 business contacts across the Wollongong Local Government Area.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029	Complete 	The mid-term review of the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029 confirmed that all three strategic objectives had been achieved, including the creation of 10,500 new jobs four years ahead of schedule. Council adopted a new Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035 on 15 December 2025.  Council also hosted the Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Expo on 31 October 2025, which continues to grow, with more than 60 businesses exhibiting this year—almost double the number of participants in the previous year.  Economic conditions in the region remained strong, with the 'Q3 2025 RLB Crane Index' recording 16 cranes across the local skyline, the highest result since Wollongong joined the index in 2019, reflecting sustained levels of construction and investment activity.



## 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 	<i>Invest Wollongong</i> continued to raise awareness of Wollongong as a premier business destination through its 'always on' marketing approach. A key highlight this quarter was the hosting of Wollongong's first <i>DevOpsDays</i> tech conference, part of a global series, which attracted more than 100 industry leaders to the city over two days, with the majority travelling from outside the region.  Local success stories were also promoted through the #MadelnWollongong campaign, with Peopelcare featured as an example of a Wollongong-based organisation operating nationally and internationally from the city.  Digital engagement remained strong, with the <i>Invest Wollongong</i> website attracting around 7,000 unique visitors during the quarter, 98 per cent of whom were located outside Wollongong. Online marketing activity generated approximately 1.4 million impressions, 116 prospectus downloads and 131 new LinkedIn followers, demonstrating continued growth in reach and interest.
Collaborate with external agencies on regional economic development and tourism initiatives	On-Track 	Following the launch of the 2025 Cruise Wollongong Prospectus in partnership with Destination Wollongong and the Cruise Wollongong Taskforce, Council continued to advocate with government, industry and the community to position Wollongong as a compelling destination for cruise visitation and to support the long-term future of the cruise industry in New South Wales.  The Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown, continued to lead regional advocacy through the LG8 partnership, comprising councils from the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and South West Sydney. This collaboration focuses on shared priorities including connectivity, productivity, housing and job creation, with particular emphasis on strengthening the economic role of the region and improving transport connections between Port Kembla and the future 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 completed a 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 development of a new Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035, which was endorsed by Council on 15 December following a public exhibition process.
Develop and deploy an updated funding agreement with Destination Wollongong	On-Track 	Following Council's resolution at the 17 November 2025 meeting, Council has commenced preparation of a new 2026-2031 funding agreement with Destination Wollongong to support destination marketing, major events and visitor economy initiatives.

## 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

During October 2025, the city successfully hosted the World Triathlon Championships, attracting more than 4,500 participants from around the world and delivering significant international exposure for Wollongong.

Community and cultural initiatives during the quarter included an online cultural exchange with Sister City Kawasaki, Japan and delivery of the 2025 City of Wollongong Giving Tree Appeal, supporting vulnerable members of the community and featuring the Bikers Toy Run on 6 December. Major events delivered included the Thirroul Open Street Festival, Carols in MacCabe Park and New Year's Eve celebrations.

Legislative changes to the Cultural State Environmental Planning Policy were introduced by the State Government, removing the requirement for development application approvals for events. This reform is expected to streamline processes and enable increased activation of public land, with implementation scheduled before the end of 2025.

Filming activity increased during the quarter, with 14 filming permits issued as of 5 December 2025.

Public messaging was supported across a wide range of Council initiatives, including the launch of the 2025-2026 summer swim campaign and pool voucher program, the Marine Estate Champions community program, the World Triathlon, the Wollongong Art Prize, the Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy and proposed skatepark locations. Key creative outputs included Botanic Garden and World Triathlon wayfinding signage, audio-visual coverage of the World Triathlon, drone footage of the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library construction, and graphic design collateral for the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre's 2026 Season and the Destination Wollongong 2026 Visitor Guide.

Community engagement continued through monthly *Let's Talk* events held in Port Kembla, Corrimal and Windang, providing opportunities for residents to learn about Council projects and services. A campaign was also delivered to encourage community members to join Council's Register of Interest, supporting more targeted engagement into the future.


#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and deliver an organisational Brand Strategy	On-Track 	Findings of the brand perceptions research are being shared, interpreted and applied to developing Council's brand and messaging strategy. Improvements to aligning Council's brand in action continues with a refresh for Youth Services, Council's homepage design and signage updates, positioning campaigns and messaging including Go Electric, E-news subscriptions and 'Splash into Summer'.

## 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
<p>Deliver a diverse range of community engagement opportunities to receive feedback and guide Council's services</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Opportunities for community input were provided across a wide range of projects during the quarter, including proposed locations for the Wollongong City Centre and Northern Suburbs skateparks, the Gorrell Street 'Park', safer connections at Austinmer Train Station, the Economic Development Strategy, the Wollongong Flood Risk Management Study and Plan, the Flinders Street Precinct Urban Design Framework, the Play Strategy, the Aquatics and Indoor Sports Strategy, and the Beach Services and Sports Strategy.</p> <p>Several plans and policies were also placed on public exhibition, including the Flagstaff Hill and Smiths Hill Forts Conservation Management Plan, Code of Council Meeting Practice, Public Interest Disclosures Policy, and Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy.</p> <p>Targeted engagement was undertaken with local Aboriginal communities on a number of initiatives, including the Dogs on Beaches and Parks Policy, Flinders Street Precinct Urban Design Framework, Helensburgh Community Centre and Library, Southern Suburbs Library and Community Centre public artworks, proposed naming of a Central Library room, the Play Strategy, and Windang foreshore management.</p>
<p>Deliver civic activities which recognise and celebrate the city's people</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>During October 2025, Council hosted an exchange with Tauranga City Council, New Zealand, strengthening relationships through knowledge sharing and cultural exchange activities.</p> <p>An online cultural exchange was also delivered as part of the Kawasaki Junior Art and Culture Prize, bringing together Wollongong Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown, students from The Illawarra Grammar School, and Wollongong's Sister City of Kawasaki, Japan and representatives from Kawasaki City and Kawasaki Shinkin Bank.</p> <p>Community connection initiatives continued with the City of Wollongong Giving Tree Appeal commencing on 3 November 2025, supporting local families in need during the Christmas period. The Bikers Toy Run was held in the City Centre on 6 December 2025, attracting strong community participation.</p> <p>Major events delivered during the quarter included the Open Street Festival Thirroul, held on 29 and 30 November with funding from the Transport for NSW Open Streets Program and in partnership with the Thirroul Arts and Entertainment District and Thirroul Music Festival. The festival featured a mix of local and national artists. Council also delivered Christmas Carols in MacCabe Park, Wollongong on 11 December 2025.</p>

## 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
<p>Host six major events reflecting priority sectors and contribute to the acquisition and management of signature events</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Destination Wollongong supported seven major events, including the 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals. Most of the supported events were from the sports and great outdoors sectors, reflecting current trends. Three of the seven events were broadcast internationally, further expanding Wollongong's international reach. The event breakdown is: World Triathlon Championship Finals, Origin Diamonds Test Match, Down Under Championships, Australian Junior Surfing Titles, Over 60s Veterans Cricket National Championships, Thirroul Music Festival and Spartan Stadion.</p>
<p>Prepare and implement a Major Events Strategy</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>An inception meeting was held with Council stakeholders and Destination Wollongong to establish the project scope. A draft scope has been circulated, and work has commenced to progress development of the document.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Changes to the Cultural State Environmental Planning Policy released this quarter have significantly streamlined event approvals, with events held on public land owned or managed by Council now exempt from development application requirements. This reform replaces the need for amendments to Council's Local Environmental Plan to enable events as exempt development.</p> <p>Work progressed on implementing the new event approval system, including the release of an updated Event Application Form and the rollout of a revised event assessment and referral process across the organisation. Implementation of event-enabling infrastructure also advanced, with several power board upgrades completed and two new power boards installed at nominated street locations. A pilot event under the new framework is scheduled for 22 March 2026.</p>

## 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

Council's tourist parks focused on preparing for the peak summer season through targeted site readiness activities. This included comprehensive deep cleaning of facilities and preparatory works across high-use areas to ensure sites are well maintained ahead of periods when maintenance windows are limited.

These activities form part of Council's established annual operating cycle and are continually refined in response to customer feedback. This proactive approach has consistently supported strong customer experiences, with satisfaction levels remaining above 90 per cent over many years.

#### 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 successful hosting of the 2025 World Triathlon Championships generated increased visitation to the region, with strong demand for accommodation across Council's tourist parks. Occupancy peaked in October 2025, with 89 per cent of cabins across Bulli, Corrimal and Windang Tourist Parks occupied for the full event week, compared with 67 per cent during the same period last year.  In preparation for the peak season, work continued to strengthen the digital presence of the tourist parks, including the establishment of new Facebook and Instagram channels. These platforms are progressively building an audience and will support broader promotion of the parks to local and visiting markets, contributing to service optimisation and financial sustainability.

## GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
3.1 Number of Crown Street Mall inbound people movements via public domain entrances	Increase	1,016,650 (YTD)	1,671,895 (YTD)
3.2 Residents' average satisfaction score with graffiti prevention and removal	Maintain	3.40*	3.30 #
3.3 Number of visitors to the Wollongong Art Gallery	Increase	22,487 (YTD)	25,432 (YTD)
3.4 Residents' average satisfaction score with Wollongong Art Gallery exhibitions	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.80#
3.5 Number of visitors to the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall	Increase	66,287 (YTD)	65,887 (YTD)
3.6 Residents' average satisfaction score with Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Town Hall	Maintain	4.30*	4.30#
3.7 Number of visits to Wollongong City Council's website	Increase	New measure	1,417,457 (YTD)
3.8 Residents' average agreement score with the statement 'it is easy to find information on Council's website'	Increase	3.60*	3.60 #
3.9 Percentage of residents using Council e-newsletter, social media channels and website to get information	Increase	New measure	Annual measure (data available June 2026)
3.10 Percentage growth in audiences using Council-owned channels (e.g. e-newsletter, social media, website) to get information	Increase	New measure	8.4% (YTD average)
3.11 Percentage of residents participating in Council community engagement activities	Increase	47%*	37% #

\* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

## GOAL 3 | WE FOSTER A DIVERSE ECONOMY, AND WE VALUE INNOVATION, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
3.12 Residents' average satisfaction score with Council informing the community about its services and facilities	Minimum score of 3.75	3.10*	3.30#
3.13 Number of new business enquiries/ engagements	120 per annum	New measure	36 (YTD)
3.14 Number of jobs located within the Wollongong Local Government Area	Increase	102,957 <sup>1</sup>	Annual measure (data available June 2026)
3.15 Occupancy rate of tourist park powered sites	Greater than 50%	46% (YTD average)	47% (YTD average)
3.16 Occupancy rate of tourist park cabins	Greater than 65%	64% (YTD average)	63% (YTD average)
3.17 Percentage of tourists satisfied with Council's tourist parks (Bulli, Corrimal and Windang)	Greater than 85%	New measure	91% (YTD average)

\*Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2025. (2023/24 data).

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](#)

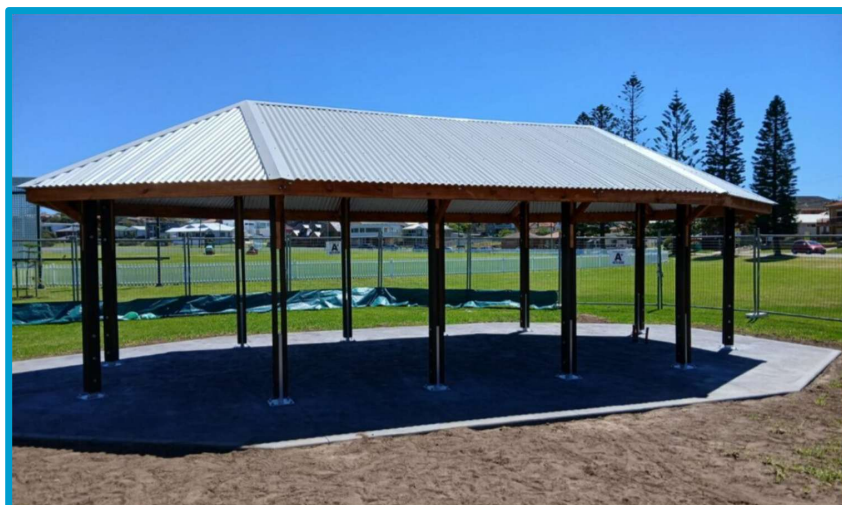
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## GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### December Quarter Highlights



*Story time with the Lord Mayor of Wollongong Councillor Tania Brown was amongst the many activities at the Lord Mayor's School Starters Picnic at MacCabe Park, Wollongong.*



*The newly constructed shelter at King George Park, Port Kembla.*

## 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 successfully transitioned all Social Support Services to new providers, Warrigal and Community Gateway, completing the final stage of Council's transition away from direct aged care service delivery.

Council continues to support older people and people with disability through delivery of actions under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, engagement on the development of the new plan, and a range of community programs and initiatives, including Seniors Festival, Tech Savvy Seniors and ongoing advocacy.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Support the delivery of programs providing social connection for older people and their carers	Complete 	Social support services previously delivered by Council for older people and their carers were transitioned to local aged care service providers from 1 December 2025.
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 local aged care providers by 30 November 2025. Transition tasks were undertaken, including engagement with all clients and volunteers. The new providers commenced on 1 December 2025.

## 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

All patrolled beaches and community pools extended operating hours at the end of October to accommodate the high season, and these extended hours will continue through to March 2026. Peak season for beaches began on Saturday, 21 December, with additional lifeguard coverage implemented during this period.

At our community pools, the Trial Summer School Holiday Voucher Program for children aged 5-16 years will recommence at Corrimal and Dapto Pools. Pre-registration for vouchers began in November 2025, and marketing materials have been widely distributed to various user groups, including families from refugee backgrounds, to encourage participation and improve access.


Minor operational issues were experienced at Continental Pool, North Wollongong, and Port Kembla Pool, Port Kembla, during the quarter associated with routine draining and refilling processes. These matters are being actively managed, with works undertaken to minimise impacts and ensure facilities remain available to the community.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Develop and deploy the Beach Services and Surf Sports Strategy	On-Track 	Development of the Draft Beach Services and Surf Sports Strategy commenced in October 2025. Community and stakeholder engagement (Stage 2) is scheduled to begin in December 2025 and continue through January 2026, with the strategy planned for public exhibition by mid-2026.
Implement funded actions from the Beach and Foreshore Access Strategy 2019-2028	On-Track 	Procurement is being finalised with the preferred tenderer for Stage 2 of the North Beach Sea Wall Project, North Wollongong, which will enhance overall site accessibility. The project remains on-track to commence construction during 2026.  Austinmer Surf Life Saving Club, Austinmer, is currently undertaking facility upgrades, which include improvements to amenities to provide accessible toilet facilities. Works are anticipated to be completed during January 2026.
Work with the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club to explore storage options	On-Track 	Council is working with North Wollongong Surf Club to explore the possibility of utilising open space at Guest Park, Fairy Meadow, to provide adequate storage. This option has been provided to the Surf Club and awaiting approvals.

## 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 & Aquatic Centre in Cleveland to service the Southern Suburbs	On-Track 	Council has commenced development of a draft Aquatic and Indoor Sports Strategy that will guide the future provision of Aquatics and Indoor Sports facilities for the West Dapto and Southern Suburbs area. The Strategy is anticipated to be completed by mid-2026, this action is reliant on the actions from the Strategy being considered and prioritised.
Develop and deploy the Aquatic and Indoor Sport Strategy	On-Track 	Development of the draft Aquatic and Indoor Sports Strategy commenced in October 2025. Community and stakeholder engagement (Stage 2) began in December 2025 and will continue through January 2026, with the strategy planned for public exhibition by mid-2026.
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 	Works continued at Helensburgh Memorial Pool during the quarter, with upgrades focused on extending the life of the facility and improving visitor amenity. Corrosion protection works have been completed to help preserve the pool structure, and refurbishment of toilets and change facilities is well advanced, with tiling now finished.  Accessibility upgrades have been completed in the picnic area and to support the future installation of a Changing Places lift. Installation of new pool plant is underway to ensure a safe and hygienic swimming environment. Improvements to shade areas have also progressed, with structures repainted, new shade cloth installed and additional umbrellas to be installed.
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, renewal of the Corrimal Pool concourse, heating system replacement at Dapto Pool, and new infrastructure at Continental Pool. Accessibility has also been improved through the provision of mobile disability lifting devices at five community pools.  The Helensburgh Memorial Pool project is scheduled for completion by January 2026 and will provide an improved swimming experience for all users, including those with accessibility requirements. Development of a new Aquatic Facilities and Indoor Sports Strategy is underway and progressing through community and stakeholder engagement, and will guide investment over the next 20 years, including planning for the proposed West Dapto Leisure and Community Recreation 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 facility participation and venue hire remained strong during the quarter, with nine new regular hirers welcomed and five fee waivers processed. A wide range of cultural and community events were hosted across Council facilities, reflecting continued strong and diverse community use.

Progress continued on major community infrastructure projects. Design work commenced on the Helensburgh Community Centre and Library at Walker Street, Helensburgh, with concept designs to be shared with the community in early 2026. Construction also progressed on the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library at 1 Greene Street, Warrawong, with ground improvement works nearing completion and piling underway. The project's Stakeholder Reference Group met regularly during the quarter to provide input and guidance.

Improvements across district and local community facilities continued, including planning and design for refurbishments at Corrimal, Dapto Ribbonwood and Thirroul District Community Centres and Libraries, as well as upgrade works at a number of community halls, preschools and senior citizen facilities across the city. Seventeen inspections of licensed community facilities were undertaken, and 12 work applications were approved to support facility improvements by licensees.




The transition of Stanwell Park Children's Centre to Big Fat Smile progressed, with the new service scheduled to commence in January 2026. Council also continued implementation of the Places for the Future - Social Infrastructure Future Directions Plan 2023-2036, alongside ongoing work on Stages 1 and 2 of the Darkes Sporting and Community Hub, including development of concept designs for a new integrated neighbourhood community 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 continues on the new Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library at Warrawong, with ground improvement works being finalised and piling commenced at the end of November 2025.  The Stakeholder group had three productive meetings during the quarter and is continuing to build relationships amongst the tenants.

## GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### Community Facilities Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Plan and deliver a new Community Centre and Library to meet the needs of the community in Helensburgh and surrounding suburbs	On-Track 	<p>Work continued on the Helensburgh Community Centre and Library during the quarter, with design development progressing well. A series of design workshops were undertaken with Council and NSW Public Works to refine the proposed building design.</p> <p>Additional bushfire requirements were confirmed through consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service, and the project website was updated to reflect current progress. The project remains on track for the designs to be shared with the community in early 2026.</p>
Deliver 'Places for People' Forward Directions Plan 2023-2036 (Implementation Plan)	On-Track 	<p>Implementation of the 'Places for People' Forward Directions Plan 2023-2036 continued, with the majority of identified projects either underway or completed. The Plan provides a strategic framework to guide the planning, maintenance and renewal of community facilities across the Local Government Area.</p>
Progress planning and renewal of community facilities across the portfolio	On-Track 	<p>Work continued on the planning and renewal of community facilities across the portfolio during the quarter. Progress included the appointment of a contractor for the Western Suburbs Preschool kitchen at Cordeaux Heights, with works scheduled to commence early in the new year, and detailed design underway for roof replacement works at Balgownie Community Centre. Design development continued for Figtree Community Hall and Wongawilli Community Hall.</p> <p>Planning approvals progressed for several projects, with development approval and construction certification obtained for Stage 2 of the Port Kembla Community Hall refurbishment, which is expected to go to tender in 2026, and development approval granted for Otford Community Centre, with construction certification anticipated in late December and tendering planned for early 2026.</p> <p>Works were completed at Coledale Community Centre, while concept design commenced for roof and floor upgrades at Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre. At Helensburgh Community Centre, design work was completed for the installation of a new door to the main hall, with construction planned to commence in early 2026.</p>

## 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

A range of homelessness initiatives were delivered during the quarter, including hosting a Homelessness Sector Round Table, participating in the Rough Sleepers Working Group, and working in partnership with Wollongong Homeless Hub, Housing Services and St Vincent de Paul to support people sleeping rough. Homelessness information posters were installed across Council facilities and identified hotspot locations, and planning commenced for a community planting day involving people with lived experience of homelessness to support social inclusion.

In partnership with the University of Sydney, Council undertook engagement to inform the design of accessible and inclusive playgrounds for children who are blind or have low vision. The Warrawong Collective was also convened, bringing together key service providers to collaborate on improving outcomes for the Warrawong community.





Community safety initiatives included audits at Port Kembla Senior Citizens Centre, Stuart Park, Gentles Avenue, Mount Brown, Lake Avenue, Cringila, Karrara Bridge and Dapto Square, along with a community safety pop-up held with NSW Police at Kanahooka Point.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Review and deliver the 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan	On-Track 	<p>Initiatives during the quarter included delivery of capacity-building youth services at Bundaleer Estate, Warrawong, and Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre, employment readiness programs, and creative collaborations such as the Through Our Lens exhibition with Wollongong Flexible School.</p> <p>Local Studies preserved and shared Aboriginal stories online, while Wollongong Library hosted culturally significant programs including a Native Garden and Bush Medicine Talk with Auslan interpretation. Tech Savvy workshops for Elders and outreach programs supported digital inclusion, and leisure centres strengthened community ties by supporting Indigenous businesses through vending partnerships.</p> <p>Cultural awareness was embedded across Council operations, with Acknowledgement of Country consistently delivered at key meetings, public programs and events, and prominently displayed within library spaces. Libraries also expanded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation through collections, cataloguing practices, artwork and culturally inclusive play spaces. External engagement continued through promotion of First Nations authors, school and group tours, and progress on projects such as Hill 60 Stories.</p> <p>The Illawarra Indigenous Business Expo was held at the Novotel on 31 October 2025, led by Aboriginal-owned business Sacred Country Consulting with Council support. The event hosted 60 stallholders and attracted approximately 500 attendees, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business and entrepreneurship.</p>



## 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 	<p>The Lord Mayor's School Starters Picnic was held on 26 October 2025 in partnership with Big Fat Smile, supporting families and children as they prepared for the school year.</p> <p>The Living Books program was delivered at Smiths Hill High School, Wollongong, with an end-of-year celebration recognising the contribution of volunteer "books". Council also coordinated meetings between refugee support services and employment agencies, with a particular focus on supporting the Karenni community, and hosted the Afrikan Workers Forum to identify key needs and next steps.</p> <p>To mark the International Day of Older Persons, a short video featuring the Old Boys Club was launched. Council also continued its involvement with Food Fairness Illawarra, attending meetings and distributing the Low Cost and Free Meals pamphlet to support community access to food services.</p>
Implement strategies to embed Child Safe standards	On-Track 	<p>Council staff participated in the Local Government Child Safe Working Group. Child Safe Self-assessments were undertaken to inform future priorities for action.</p> <p>A Child Safe training module continues to be rolled out across the organisation.</p>
Deliver the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020 2025	On-Track 	<p>The first meeting of the Community Advisory Group was held, with eight community members appointed to guide development of Council's next Disability Inclusion Action Plan.</p> <p>Council hosted a workshop with representatives from the social enterprise sector following the 2025 Social Enterprise World Forum, supporting collaboration and knowledge sharing. Practical inclusion initiatives continued, including the development of social stories to support participation in Leisure Centres, Libraries and Wollongong Art Gallery activities.</p> <p>Council also made a submission on proposed changes to the Disability Discrimination Act and developed an Accessible and Inclusive Public Domain Technical Manual. The manual provides guidance to ensure a consistent approach to creating inclusive and accessible streetscapes, parks, civic spaces, beaches and foreshores.</p> <p>To mark the International Day of People with Disability, Council delivered an activity with children who are blind or have low vision to inform the design of accessible and inclusive playgrounds.</p>
Initiate opportunities and projects to support the community	On-Track 	<p>The Afrikan Workers Forum was held. The Forum served as a platform to address community needs, challenges, and to explore partnership opportunities.</p> <p>A meeting between refugee services and job agencies was also facilitated.</p>

## 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 	<p>Council received a bronze award for the Safer Cities project at the 2025 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards.</p> <p>The first Graffiti Prevention Round Table was convened during the quarter, bringing together key external stakeholders and Council staff to share strategies and strengthen collaboration. The <i>Graff Off</i> program continued in partnership with Lake Illawarra Local Area Command, engaging young offenders in positive diversionary activities.</p> <p>Partnerships with the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence supported delivery of key events, including the <i>Reclaim the Night</i> march and initiatives marking the 16 Days of Activism against gendered violence, such as a domestic violence service provider networking event, a rose vigil in MacCabe Park and participation in the Unite2500 orange lighting campaign.</p> <p>Council continued to play a leadership role across community safety networks, chairing the Community Safety Interagency meeting and maintaining representation on the Wollongong Liquor Accord and the Local Government Community Safety Network.</p>

## 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


Council endorsed the 2024-2025 Annual Report, including the audited financial statements, and adopted the September 2025 Quarterly Review Statement at its meeting on 17 November 2025.

Project management training continued during the quarter to build organisational capability, with further sessions scheduled across the remainder of the 2025-2026 financial year.

Analysis of the results from the biennial Community Satisfaction Survey continued, with findings shared across the organisation to support service planning and delivery. A number of internal employee surveys were also supported during the quarter.

Performance measurement and reporting remained a focus. Support also continued across the organisation to embed a new performance measurement framework, which commenced from 1 July 2025.


#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Coordinate Council's Service Optimisation Program	On-Track 	<p>Council's Service Optimisation Program continues to make strong progress in enhancing service delivery across key areas.</p> <p>The first Service Optimisation initiative focusing on the Development Assessment customer interface has seen significant advancement, with most recommendations successfully implemented during the 2024-2025 financial year. Remaining recommendations currently in-progress are on-track for completion in the 2025- 2026 financial year.</p> <p>Customer Service is progressing a staged approach. The Customer Service - Rates review was completed, and recommendations are being implemented using a phased approach. The Customer Service - Pits and Drains review has been completed and recommendations are being finalised.</p> <p>The second stage of Customer Service Optimisation commenced during the quarter, with the scope for graffiti management being finalised and data analysis in progress.</p> <p>The scope of service optimisation for end-to-end Road Signage has been updated to include other regulatory signage across the network. This review is currently underway, with stakeholder consultation in progress and data analysis being completed.</p>

## 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 planning process is currently underway. This action remains on track, with adoption by Council scheduled for 29 June 2026 in line with legislative requirements.

## 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

Customer service continues to be embedded as a core part of Council's operations, supported by the updated Customer Service Policy and Charter. These updates establish clear service standards and align with Council's broader customer experience objectives. Work this quarter also clarified the distinction between customer service (direct interactions) and customer experience (the end-to-end journey), providing a foundation for the development of the forthcoming Customer Experience Strategy and a more consistent, customer-first approach across the organisation.

#### 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 	During the quarter, the Customer Requests interface was updated and a review of the online portal dashboard commenced to improve accessibility and overall user experience. Collaboration with Communications and Community Development was strengthened, Easy Read and Diversity and Inclusion training was delivered, and inclusion was identified as a key focus area for the development of the forthcoming Customer Experience Strategy.
Review the customer service journey across targeted, high priority operations as part of the Service Optimisation Program and identify opportunities for improvement	On-Track 	High-priority customer service journeys continued to be reviewed as part of the Service Optimisation Program, with insights informing key actions for the forthcoming Customer Experience Strategy. In the interim, incremental improvements are being implemented across high-traffic customer journeys to enhance the overall experience.  Recommendations from the Customer Service - Rates review are being implemented using a phased approach. The Customer Service - Pits and Drains review has been completed and recommendations are being finalised.
Prepare and implement customer experience strategy	On-Track 	Development of the Customer Experience Strategy commenced, with early drafting and engagement activities underway, including data analysis, desktop reviews and stakeholder interviews to support an evidence-based approach.

## 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

Lakeside and Beaton Park continued to deliver a broad range of programs and services to the community. Engagement with users of the Group Exercise Program was undertaken during the quarter, with 230 responses received. Results showed that 71 per cent of respondents were very satisfied with the program, and 88 per cent indicated they were very likely to recommend Council's services to others.

The Learn to Swim Program continued to perform strongly at Beaton Park, with an average of 1,940 sessions delivered per week, compared to 1,592 sessions during the same period last year.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Undertake detailed design planning for the Beaton Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre	On-Track 	A feasibility assessment of the adopted Beaton Park Master Plan continued during the quarter. Stakeholder feedback sessions were held to identify future requirements and inform the development of concept plans. Further refinements will be made following consultation, ahead of options being presented to Council for consideration in 2026.
Review and implement industry leading technologies to provide cost effective and efficient and seamless experience for customers	On-Track 	Council is finalising the scope and preparing tender documentation for a new online booking system to streamline community access to facilities and services and reduce administrative effort.

## 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



Library services delivered a wide range of initiatives during the quarter focused on accessibility, participation and learning. Key activities included improvements to collection accessibility and maintenance, the introduction of new citizen science resources, delivery of seasonal programs such as the Santa Letter initiative, and partnerships supporting exhibitions, community programs and student work experience opportunities.

A diverse program of events and activities was delivered across library locations, engaging people of all ages and abilities through creative, educational and social programs. These included programs supporting people living with dementia and their carers, children and families, young people, and culturally themed events, alongside collaborations with community organisations and local arts partners. Several programs received external recognition, including awards from state and national library organisations.

Library usage remained strong, with physical loans tracking towards 240,000 for the quarter and on course to exceed one million loans for the 2025 calendar year. Online borrowing also continued to grow, with usage tracking towards 90,000 loans for the quarter.

Customer feedback results remained consistently high, with 97 per cent overall satisfaction reported. Survey responses indicated strong outcomes for learning, inclusion and community connection, reinforcing libraries as trusted, welcoming spaces that support lifelong learning and social participation.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver tailored library programs to facilitate access and participation of people with disability	On-Track 	Inclusive library programs continued during the quarter, including a Native Garden and Bush Medicine talk at Wollongong Library with Auslan interpretation in October. In November, Wollongong Library hosted a Social Night for people living with disability, while Dapto Library welcomed a group of adults from Greenacres for a supported library tour.  Ongoing inclusive programs also continued across the service, including Quiet Hour held weekly at all libraries and the monthly Vision Impaired Yarners group at Wollongong Library, which engaged 24 participants over the quarter.
Deliver library programs that recognise, reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of our community	On-Track 	The English Conversation Class continued at Warrawong Library, with around 50 participants attending over the quarter. Three Tech Savvy Seniors sessions were delivered in Arabic during October in partnership with the Multicultural Communities Council Illawarra, engaging 15 participants.  A beginner <i>Let's Try... Tai Chi</i> session was also delivered in November and was well received, with participants providing positive feedback on the pace, inclusiveness and quality of the session, and expressing interest in attending future classes.

## 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, seven outdoor fitness stations, nine 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

Development of a new 20-year Play Strategy commenced this quarter, with community engagement underway and scheduled to close in late January 2026. The Strategy will guide the renewal of play spaces and identify actions to improve the quality, accessibility and diversity of play experiences across the city.



The winter sports season concluded during the quarter with finals completed, and the summer hire period commenced. Wollongong hosted several major sporting events, including the Over 60's Australian Cricket Masters Championships, which utilised eight fields across the Wollongong Local Government Area, and the Over 40's Cricket State Championships, held in early December across 15 cricket fields. Work is also underway to improve the experience for sports clubs when applying for funding and requesting landowner consent from Council.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement Landscape Masterplan recommendations for Hill 60 Reserve, Port Kembla	On-Track 	Council staff continued detailed design work for the Headland Precinct lower car park during the quarter, with designs on track to be completed and handed over for construction in June 2026.
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 shows urban canopy cover at 27.5 per cent across the city, representing a 3.6 per cent increase since the commencement of the Urban Greening Program in 2018. As at 27 November 2025, a total of 330 trees had been planted and 155 trees removed since 1 July 2025, maintaining Council's minimum planting ratio of two trees planted for every tree removed.
Implement the Landscape Masterplan for Stuart and Galvin Parks, North Wollongong.	On-Track 	Work commenced on the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report during the quarter. An archaeological survey was completed in consultation with relevant external stakeholders, and an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application is currently being progressed to support future test pit investigations. The outcomes of these studies will inform the staging and delivery of works associated with the masterplan.

## 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 adopted Masterplans including: Figtree Oval Recreational Masterplan; King George V Oval; Port Kembla; and Cringila Hills Recreation Masterplan	On-Track 	Works progressed across multiple open space and sports facility projects during the quarter. At King George V Park, Port Kembla, a new shelter incorporating two seating settings and a barbecue was constructed, with associated pathway works nearing completion, and design development continued for the shared path along Military Road, Port Kembla. At Figtree Oval, works continued on the redevelopment of the sportsfield amenities building, which is partially grant funded, with further site investigations planned ahead of progressing to tender.
Progress the development of the Lang Park Masterplan	Delayed 	A draft scope for the Lang Park Masterplan has been prepared and is under review. Timing for progression to procurement has been adjusted to accommodate the delivery of other long-term strategic planning projects currently underway. Subject to timing, procurement of a consultant is expected to commence later in the 2025-2026 financial year and extend into 2026-2027.
Progress the planning and development of a Wollongong City Centre Skate Park	On-Track 	A report was presented to Council on 27 October 2025 identifying the preferred site for a City Centre Skate Park. Engagement was undertaken with the community on this site, with a further report presented to Council on 15 December 2025 to finalise the site within MacCabe Park, Wollongong. The design process will commence in 2026.
Deliver complementary infrastructure to support increased visitation and activation resulting from the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Network	On-Track 	Council continues planning additional supporting infrastructure in Kembla Heights and Balgownie, following completion of new car parking to support increased visitation associated with the Mount Kembla Trails.
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. Transport for NSW provided an update this quarter, however further investigations are planned to identify appropriate improvements for traffic flow and connection.  Consultation and design for Bulli Showground will recommence in 2026.

## GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### Parks and Sports Fields Continued


#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 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 has continued to explore opportunities to position Wollongong as a potential home base for a future Australian Baseball League team. While there are no immediate plans to expand beyond existing teams, Council continues to work with State and National bodies to identify future opportunities for home base or training camp options in the future, as well as a range of competitions.
Identify and collaborate with sporting clubs and associations on future planning priorities	On-Track 	Council staff attended and presented at the Football South Coast Planning and Grants session, with all local football clubs represented. Staff also participated in the Illawarra Rugby League Planning Day, providing an update on current Council projects and working with the association to identify and plan future improvements across the grounds they use.
Deliver funded and sportsfield irrigation and drainage infrastructure projects	On-Track 	Works are progressing on the delivery of drainage works at JJ Kelly Park, Wollongong and St James Sportsfields, Coledale. Works are nearing completion, with the grounds available to use for winter 2026.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Figtree Oval, Figtree	Delayed 	Draft concept plans have been developed in consultation with sporting organisations. Further investigations into the existing amenities are underway to inform final cost estimates, after which the project will proceed to market for procurement.
Install funded sportsfield lighting at priority locations in accordance with the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027	On-Track 	The tender for the Towradgi Sportsfield floodlighting project was awarded, with works scheduled to commence in early January 2026. The Ocean Park, Woonona floodlighting project is currently out to tender and is due to close on 26 January 2026.
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 	Works are continuing at Lakelands Oval, Dapto, which will provide a long term home to the Illawarra Stingrays and Dapto Phoenix football clubs. The construction of a new amenities building is underway with works to be completed in early 2026.

## 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 	This activity is scheduled to commence during the March 2026 quarter.
Adopt a set of minimum standards for the design and construction of new sports amenity buildings	On-Track 	Background and investigation works are being prepared for a presentation to the Sports Reference Group meeting in early 2026 for consideration and adoption.
Deliver amenities upgrade at Thomas Gibson Park, Thirroul	On-Track 	Works are continuing to progress, with the majority of the external structure now constructed. Works will continue into the new year, and is scheduled for completion during the March 2026 quarter, ready for the winter season.
Implement the Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027	On-Track 	<p>Council continued delivery of the Sportsground and Sporting Facilities Strategy through a number of key actions. This included continuing with the Sports Facilities Reference Group and implementation of the Sports Grants Program. This program will distribute up to \$400,000 during 2025-2026 for infrastructure projects across the Local Government Area.</p> <p>Council staff met with the NSW Office of Sport to support the development of a new planning tool that will help Council plan and develop our sporting facilities and infrastructure across the Local Government Area.</p> <p>MacCabe Park, Wollongong and WF Jackson Park, Thirroul will be home to the city's newest skate parks. On 15 December 2025, Council endorsed the two preferred locations following significant community feedback. This marks a major milestone for the future skate parks, allowing both projects to progress to the next phase of planning and design.</p>

## GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### Parks and Sports Fields Continued

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
<p>Implement recommendations of the Public Toilet Strategy 2019-2029 to improve accessibility</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Accessibility improvements to public toilet infrastructure continue to be delivered through Council's Infrastructure Delivery Program. When public amenities and toilet facilities are renewed or replaced, facilities are upgraded to contemporary standards, including accessibility requirements under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and Disability Discrimination Act.</p> <p>Council will commence a review of the Public Toilet Strategy during 2026-2027 to ensure it remains aligned with Council's adopted Asset Management Plan and future service priorities/planning.</p>
<p>Prepare the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct Plan</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>The project plan was refined during the quarter to focus on public domain improvements and sport and recreation needs within the Bellambi Precinct. Draft coastal hazard mapping has been incorporated into the base mapping to inform future planning, and feedback has been received from adjoining agency landowners regarding vehicle access arrangements.</p>

## 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



A range of public health and safety services were delivered during the December quarter, including inspections of onsite wastewater systems, skin penetration and beauty premises, and cooling towers. Officers conducted 49 inspections of skin penetration and beauty businesses and inspected 10 cooling towers, while responding to customer service requests in a timely manner.

The onsite wastewater management program continued, with more than 65 system inspections completed across the Wollongong Local Government Area. During the quarter, 28 approvals were issued to install onsite wastewater systems.

School zone parking compliance remained a focus to improve the safety of school children. Officers undertook more than 160 patrols at primary schools, resulting in 59 fines for illegal and unsafe parking.

Regulation of abandoned and unattended vehicles also continued, with more than 420 customer requests received and 50 fines issued under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Inspect all medium and high-risk retail food premises annually	On-Track 	The food safety program continued during the quarter, with inspections undertaken to ensure food businesses complied with the requirements of the Food Act. This work forms part of Council's ongoing partnership with the NSW Food Authority to protect public health.  Staff carried out more than 660 inspections across fixed, temporary and mobile food businesses throughout the Wollongong Local Government Area. To support compliance, two Prohibition Notices and 17 Improvement Notices were issued under the Food Act.  Staff also responded to 72 customer service requests relating to food businesses, ensuring issues were addressed in a timely manner.
Maintain inspection programs for public swimming pools, places of shared accommodation and, mortuaries	On-Track 	Staff continued carrying out inspection programs for public swimming pools, spas and places of shared accommodation to check compliance with the Public Health Act. Six inspections of public swimming pools were completed, along with six inspections of shared accommodation premises. Inspections of sex industry premises have been scheduled and will be completed during the March 2026 quarter.

## 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 range of opportunities were provided to capture the voices of young people regarding the skate parks engagements and how to access information post new social media bans.

Various Council teams have presented to the Youth Forum on Council plans and opportunities. The Tiny Forest Project was delivered at Keira High School, North Wollongong.

Various local high schools, alternative education schools and Technical and Further Education sites were visited and information was share about Youth Services activities, programs and events.

Sector support was provided including coordination of the Wollongong Youth Network and funding was provided for the Neighbourhood Youth Work Program.


#### 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 range of youth development opportunities were delivered, including Bellambi Connect, Dapto Connect, Bundaleer Connect, Teenz Connect, Dungeons and Dragons, Be Proud + Empowered, Rainbow League, Sweet + Savory, work readiness and wellbeing workshops. School holiday workshops included film making, creative and art workshops and Adulting 101 sessions. Thrills N Skills, a bike riding and safety awareness program, was delivered for four weeks to young people from Bayview Education Centre at Warrawong High School, Warrawong.

## GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### Youth Services Continued

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
<p>Provide opportunities for young people to develop skills, experience, and exposure in creative industries</p>	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>The Legal Wall, a designated public space where community members are encouraged to create and share street-style artwork, continued to be actively used as an evolving public art feature during the quarter, including through a facilitated workshop with a Flagstaff social group. Creative programs for young people were delivered throughout the quarter, including Crafts + Chat, which provided supported opportunities to explore creative outlets with Youth Services' Artist in Residence.</p> <p>A series of mural workshops were facilitated with students from Five Islands Secondary College, Port Kembla, resulting in a collaborative artwork reflecting their local area. Music-based engagement activities were also delivered, including Music for the Mind, Friday Night Live in November 2025 and Jamble Bells, supported by Team Ignite.</p> <p>The Through Our Lens - My Safe Space exhibition was launched during the quarter, showcasing photographs contributed by young people from the Flexi Learning Centre.</p>

## GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
4.1 Number of visitors to Council commercial heated pools (Beaton Park, Corrimal, Dapto)	At least 180,000 per annum	126,251 <sup>1</sup> (YTD)	195,158 <sup>2</sup> (YTD)
4.2 Residents' average satisfaction score with Council commercial heated pools (Beaton Park, Corrimal, Dapto)	Maintain	4.10*	4.10 <sup>#</sup>
4.3 Residents' average satisfaction score with public swimming pools (free) (Continental, Port Kembla, Berkeley, Unanderra, Thirroul, Helensburgh)	Maintain	4.10*	4.10 <sup>#</sup>
4.4 Residents' average satisfaction score with patrolled beaches	Maintain	4.50*	4.40 <sup>#</sup>
4.5 Residents' average satisfaction score with tidal rock pools	Maintain	4.20*	4.30 <sup>#</sup>
4.6 Residents' average satisfaction score with lifeguard services	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	4.40 <sup>#</sup>
4.7 Number of hours Council managed district centres are used (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Increase	18,025 (YTD)	17,184 (YTD)
4.8 Number of visitors to Council managed district centres (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Increase	109,587 (YTD)	106,767 (YTD)
4.9 Residents' average satisfaction score with managed district centres (Thirroul, Corrimal and Dapto)	Maintain	4.30*	4.10 <sup>#</sup>
4.10 Residents' average satisfaction score with customer service centre	Maintain	3.90*	3.70 <sup>#</sup>
4.11 Percentage of customer enquiries resolved at the first point of contact	Increase	New measure	72% (YTD average)

\*Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

<sup>#</sup> Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

<sup>1</sup> Data includes Corrimal and Dapto (excludes Beaton Park).

<sup>2</sup> 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	December 2024	December 2025
4.12 Percentage of customer requests actioned within 10 working days	80%	New measure	77% (YTD average)
4.13 Residents' average satisfaction score with leisure centres (Beaton Park, Lakeside)	Maintain	3.90*	4.00 #
4.14 Number of visitors to Council libraries	Increase	108,807 <sup>1</sup> (YTD)	267,032 (YTD)
4.15 Number of active library members	Increase	New measure	3,812
4.16 Number of physical and digital loans	4.36 per capita per annum	3.03 per capita 682,360 (YTD)	2.29 per capita 505,554 (YTD)
4.17 Number of participants in library learning programs	Increase	28,072 (YTD)	32,455 (YTD)
4.18 Number of library learning programs	Increase	1,346 (YTD)	1,541 (YTD)
4.19 Residents' average satisfaction score with libraries	Maintain	4.40*	4.30 #
4.20 Residents' average satisfaction score with library services	Maintain	4.20*	4.30 #
4.21 Residents' average satisfaction score with parks and open spaces	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	4.20#
4.22 Residents' average satisfaction score with sports fields and facilities	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.90 #
4.23 Residents' average satisfaction score with children's playgrounds	Increase	3.90*	3.90#
4.24 Residents' average satisfaction score with Russell Vale Golf Course	Maintain	4.20*	3.90 #

\*Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

<sup>1</sup> Result for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024 as data unavailable for 1 July to 30 September 2024 due to a system outage.

## GOAL 4 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
4.25 Residents' average satisfaction score with condition/cleanliness of public toilets	Minimum score of 3.75	3.00*	3.00 #
4.26 Residents' average satisfaction score with the location/availability of public toilets	Minimum score of 3.75	New measure	3.10 #
4.27 Number of participants in programs and activities delivered to young people through the youth centre	24,000 per annum	14,892 (YTD)	13,611 (YTD)

\* Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

*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](https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf)*

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### December Quarter Highlights



*Councillor Linda Campbell elected Deputy Lord Mayor of Wollongong for another year. Pictured with Lord Mayor Councillor Tania Brown.*



*Council staff receiving the award for the Best Employee Experience Strategy at the Australian Human Resource Institute Awards 2025.*



*New staff are welcomed by General Manager Greg Doyle at Corporate Induction held in November.*

## 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 advance key workforce initiatives that underpin strategic human resource functions and the delivery of quality services to the community. This quarter, progress has included strengthening leadership capability through targeted development programs and expanding employee wellbeing initiatives to support a resilient and engaged workforce. Work is also underway to enhance digital systems, improving efficiency and accessibility for staff. These actions align with the Workforce Management Strategy 2025-2029 and contribute to building organisational capability and delivering positive outcomes for both employees and the community.




Council was awarded the Australian Human Resources Institute Award for Best Employee Experience Strategy. Nominated alongside other passionate organisations across Australia, Council was recognised for our inclusive, values-driven approach that empowers a future-ready workforce.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Deliver Council’s Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan	On-Track 	<p>Council continued to advance its Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan during the quarter, embedding diversity, equity and inclusion across workforce practices. Key initiatives included supporting the onboarding of two Aboriginal Cultural Inclusion Officers and delivering an outdoor staff day to promote wellbeing and connection. Workplace adjustment resources were launched, alongside the rollout of Child Safe eLearning and delivery of Easy Read training to strengthen accessibility capability.</p> <p>Engagement with the Australian Human Rights Commission progressed through Council’s participation in the <i>Equality @ Work</i> pilot, while inclusive leadership capability was further strengthened through a Leaders Connect session featuring a ‘listen and learn’ discussion with employees sharing lived experience as people with disability and carers. <i>Inclusion @ Work Week</i> was recognised through promotion of cultural learning initiatives and workplace adjustment tools, and the Parents at Work hub page was launched to support employees balancing parenthood and career responsibilities.</p> <p>International Day of People with Disability was marked with a staff barbecue and a “You Can’t Ask That” panel discussion, supporting the People with Disability and Carers Peer Collective and reinforcing Council’s ongoing commitment to an inclusive and equitable workplace.</p>

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### Employee Services Continued

Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update		
Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Workforce Management Strategy 2025-2029	On-Track 	Key actions this quarter include launching workplace adjustment resources, rolling out Child Safe eLearning, and delivering <i>Inclusion @ Work Week</i> initiatives. Leadership capability uplift remains a priority through Leaders Connect and Deep Dive sessions, while onboarding and learning pathways projects advance alongside expanded eLearning offerings. Preventative health initiatives and psychosocial hazard procedures are underway, reinforcing Council's commitment to a safe, inclusive, and capable workforce.
Refresh Council's Talent Strategies	On-Track 	Council continued to strengthen recruitment practices during the quarter to attract a diverse and skilled workforce. All recruitment activity was guided by tailored Talent Strategy Briefs to ensure role-specific, inclusive and targeted approaches, with strategic recruitment planning applied consistently across divisions. Enhancements to candidate experience and accessibility were embedded throughout recruitment processes, supported by streamlined and broader-reaching advertising, which contributed to a significant increase in the volume of job applications received.  Key outcomes this quarter included recruitment for the 2026 Cadet, Apprentice and Trainee program and the onboarding of Ocean and Pool Lifeguards for the 2025-2026 season. Work also progressed on inclusive attraction strategies, including the ongoing development of the Vocational Education and Training program and cultural inclusion initiatives.
Deliver Safety and Wellbeing Programs	On-Track 	Progress continued on establishing the Strategic Safety Team, including a review of existing work health and safety procedures requiring action and development of two key draft operational procedures—Managing Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace and Noise Management—which will progress to consultation during the March 2026 quarter. Mandatory work health and safety accreditations were delivered through the Training Block program, and Infrastructure and Works staff participated in a Wellbeing Day in November 2025 focused on physical, mental and social health.  Implementation of the Occupational Violence Program continued, with champions in high-risk work areas undertaking training and division-specific training developed. Risk assessments were reviewed across Civil, Trades, Workshops, Parks, Waste, Whytes Gully, Botanic Gardens and Environmental Conservation work areas. Work health and safety training was delivered across outdoor work areas, with a focus on the management system, risk assessments, systems of work, critical risks and controls. Audit activity this quarter prioritised traffic management and powered mobile plant.

## 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 maintained consistent delivery of internal and external services throughout the quarter. The audit of the Annual Financial Statements was finalised, with the Statements approved by Council and presented to the community.

The first quarterly review of the annual and 10-year budgets was completed and monthly financial and investment reports continued to be provided to Council and the community.

Over 73,000 rates instalment notices were issued in accordance with the Revenue Policy and second quarter instalment receipts aligned closely with forecasts.

Council's accounts continued to be paid promptly, exceeding targets for payment within designated payment terms.

#### 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. The working groups have continued to meet on a regular basis. Work is underway on a number of the recommendations.

## 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

A range of essential corporate support services were provided to the organisation, 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 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 continued to administer the existing funding agreement and received a quarterly performance report from Destination Wollongong during the period. Preparation of a new 2026-2031 funding agreement has commenced to support destination marketing, major events and broader visitor economy initiatives.
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 lead advocacy on a range initiatives and to seek funding support on key projects. This includes formation of the LG8 region to advocate on behalf of Illawarra Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and South West Sydney (Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly) Council's. This collaboration focuses on shared priorities including connectivity, productivity, housing and job creation, with particular emphasis on strengthening the economic role of the region and improving transport connections between Port Kembla and the future Western Sydney Airport.

## 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

Information Management and Technology continued to support staff and the community during the quarter, including responding to Government Information (Public Access) requests, delivering ongoing improvements to the enterprise-wide OneCouncil environment, strengthening cyber security controls, and processing requests for Closed-Circuit Television footage.

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Cyber Security Strategy	On-Track 	Work continued this quarter on Phase 1 of Council's cyber security uplift program, which focuses on meeting the Australian Signals Directorate's Essential Eight baseline standard. This phase strengthens fundamental protections to reduce the risk of cyber incidents, protect Council systems and information, and support the safe delivery of services to the community. Implementation is progressing as planned and is on track for completion in February 2026.
Pilot and expand the use of robust SMART technologies across Council	On-Track 	An update on the Smart Parking initiative was presented to Councillors, outlining how technology can be used to better understand parking demand, improve customer experience and support more efficient management of parking assets. A proof-of-concept trial is scheduled to commence in the 2026 to test the technology in a live environment and inform any future expansion.
Implement the Operational Security Strategy	On-Track 	Actions within the Operational Security Strategy are either completed or well progressed. An updated Operational Security Strategy will be developed during 2026.

## 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

Work commenced on the development of an updated Infrastructure Delivery Program covering the period 2026-2027 to 2029-2030. The program will be informed by Council's adopted Asset Management Plans to ensure investment priorities align with asset condition, risk and long-term service needs.

Asset data collection was completed for open space and recreation assets, as well as swimming pool assets, to support upcoming infrastructure asset revaluations scheduled to commence in the third quarter of the 2025-2026 financial year. This work will help ensure Council's asset information remains current and robust.

Council continued to pursue external funding opportunities to support delivery of the Infrastructure Delivery Program. During the quarter, a funding application was submitted to the Australian Government's Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program seeking a \$10 million contribution toward the Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library project at Warrawong.


#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Update Council's Asset Management Plan to maintain optimum investment in Council's asset portfolio	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>An Asset Management Improvement Program has been documented within Council's Asset Management Plan, which was adopted on 30 June 2025. Several priority actions under this program are now underway, with initial implementation largely being progressed through the Open Space and Pool Infrastructure revaluation project.</p> <p>Asset data collection has been completed for open space and recreation assets, as well as swimming pool assets, to support infrastructure asset revaluations scheduled to commence in the third quarter of the 2025-2026 financial year.</p> <p>To strengthen governance and oversight, an Asset Management Steering Committee will be established in the third quarter of 2025-2026. The committee will guide future updates to the Asset Management Plan and support the prioritisation and resourcing of actions within the Asset Management Improvement Program.</p>

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### Infrastructure Strategy and Support Continued

#### Operational Plan 2025 - 2026 Update

Actions	Status	Comment
Implement the Asset Management Improvement Program	<p>On-Track</p> 	<p>Council has finalised a maturity assessment of its asset management practices to complement the Asset Management Improvement Program established through the Asset Management Plan 2025-2035.</p> <p>A consolidated actions register has been developed, drawing together actions from both the Asset Management Plan and the maturity assessment to provide a clear, prioritised roadmap for improvement.</p> <p>An Asset Management Steering Committee will be established during the March 2026 to guide future updates to the Asset Management Plan and oversee the prioritisation and resourcing of improvement actions.</p>

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### Measuring Success

Measure	Target/Desired Trend	December 2024	December 2025
S.1 Average days to pay creditors	7 days	7.1 (YTD average)	7.9 (YTD average)
S.2 Residents' average satisfaction score with Wollongong City Council's overall performance	Increase	3.50*	3.40 #
S.3 Formal Government Information Public Access applications processed within 20 days	100%	100%	100%

\*Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023.

# Data from Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.

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:

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[https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf](https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/286004/Delivery-Program-2025-2029-Measures-Dictionary.pdf)

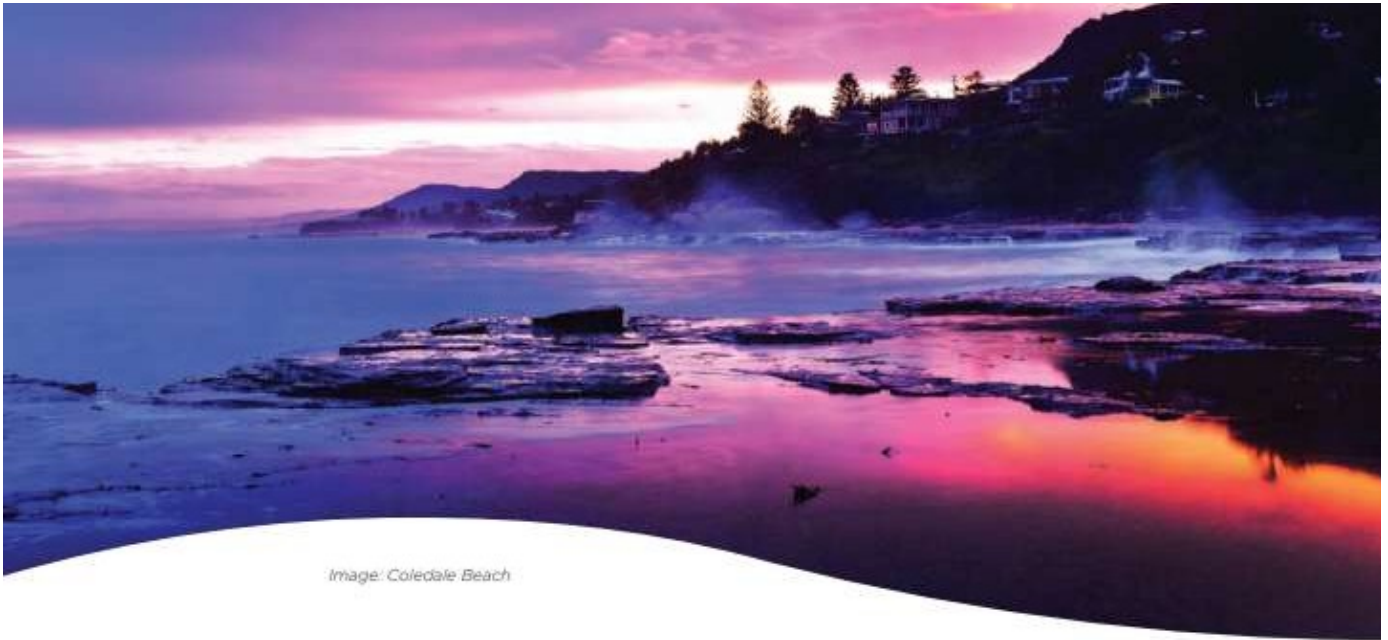


Image: Coledale Beach

## Budget Review Statement

*December 2025*

### Introduction

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 General Manager Approved Tenders, and
- 7 Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer

Appendix 1 – Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

Appendix 2 – Quarterly Budget Review Statement (legislative reporting format)

### **Income and Expense Statement**

This Budget Review includes proposed estimates of income and expenses for 2025-2026 financial year. The Income and Expenses Statement can be found in Table 1.

*Commentary:* The September Quarterly Review resulted in a budgeted surplus Operating Result [pre capital] of \$10.6M and adjustment in the deficit Funds Result to \$19.5M.

This review proposes a positive movement in the Operating Result [pre capital] of \$1.0M resulting in a revised surplus of \$11.6M and an improvement in the deficit Funds Result to \$19.0M (movement of \$0.5M). The improved Funds Result deficit is predominately driven by increases in Operating Revenues (Rates & Annual Charges and User Fees and Charges) as outlined in the Summary of Variations table below.

The Operating Result [pre capital] includes an increase in Interest on Investments \$1M linked to the new West Dapto Community Facilities Restricted Asset created from the property sale at Stream Hill. This additional interest earned on these funds is to be transferred to the Restricted Asset to maintain its value over time. In addition, \$3.9M of capital funding from General Income is proposed to be transferred to the Strategic Project Restricted Asset. These transfers, along with the others mentioned earlier, do not affect the overall Funds Result.

A table of variations is included in the report below.

### **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:* Council approved a Capital Budget for 2025-2026 of \$139.4M. In the December Quarterly Review, there is a proposed reduction in the Capital Expenditure budget of \$12.6M, reducing the Capital Expenditure to \$126.2M. The reduction in Capital Expenditure has been offset with a reduction in Capital Revenues of \$8.7M. As a result, there is \$3.9M in General Income unallocated within the Capital Delivery Program that will be moved into the Strategic Project restricted asset for future allocation.

A summary of the details of reportable changes to the 2025-2026 Capital Program Budget is attached in Appendix 1.

**Table 1**

<b>Wollongong City Council December Quarter 2025 Income and Expense Statement</b>					
	<b>2025/2026 Original Budget \$'000</b>	<b>2025/2026 Current Budget \$'000</b>	<b>Proposed v Current Variance \$'000</b>	<b>2025/2026 Proposed Budget \$'000</b>	<b>2025/2026 Actual YTD \$'000</b>
<b>Income From Continuing Operations</b>					
Rates and Annual Charges	258,973	259,666	166	259,833	127,933
User Charges and Fees	40,870	40,957	288	41,245	20,412
Interest and Investment Revenues	6,240	11,104	1,150	12,255	5,658
Other Revenues	6,334	6,317	63	6,380	2,880
Rental Income	7,553	7,685	126	7,811	3,471
Grants & Contributions - Operating	28,960	19,455	64	19,518	10,541
Grants & Contributions - Capital - New Assets	41,136	41,219	2,250	43,469	9,483
Grants & Contributions - Capital - Existing Assets	29,080	29,808	40	29,848	10,791
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets	0	28,516	0	28,516	20,178
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>419,147</b>	<b>444,728</b>	<b>4,147</b>	<b>448,875</b>	<b>211,349</b>
<b>Expenses From Continuing Operations</b>					
Employee Costs	169,238	172,588	2,199	174,787	85,975
Borrowing Costs	1,028	1,125	0	1,125	458
Materials & Services	103,104	96,915	(1,617)	95,299	42,872
Other Expenses	26,217	24,493	23	24,516	13,316
Depreciation, Amortisation + Impairment	88,185	88,185	299	88,484	40,894
Labour Internal Charges	(23,041)	(17,695)	(76)	(17,771)	(8,923)
Non-Labour Internal Charges	(2,497)	(2,530)	1	(2,529)	(1,066)
<b>Total Expenses From Continuing Operations</b>	<b>362,235</b>	<b>363,080</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>363,910</b>	<b>173,526</b>
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>56,912</b>	<b>81,648</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>84,965</b>	<b>37,823</b>
<b>Operating Result [pre capital]</b>	<b>(13,304)</b>	<b>10,621</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>11,648</b>	<b>17,549</b>
<b>Funding Statement</b>					
Net Operating Result for the Year	56,912	81,648	3,317	84,965	37,823
Add back :					
- Non-cash Operating Transactions	108,577	80,475	454	80,929	30,712
- Restricted cash used for operations	11,963	13,175	189	13,364	5,110
- Income transferred to Restricted Assets - Operating	(6,445)	(16,373)	(1,184)	(17,557)	(6,889)
- Income transferred to Restricted Assets - New Assets	(50,087)	(87,558)	(6,230)	(93,788)	(48,339)
- Payment of Right of Use Leases	(514)	(514)	0	(514)	(149)
- Payment of Accrued Leave Entitlements	(16,354)	(18,404)	0	(18,404)	(9,476)
Borrowings repaid	0	0	0	0	0
Advances (made by) / repaid to Council	0	0	(240)	(240)	(292)
<b>Funds Available from Operations</b>	<b>104,052</b>	<b>52,448</b>	<b>(3,693)</b>	<b>48,754</b>	<b>8,500</b>
Income transferred to Restricted Assets - Existing Assets	(9,080)	(9,080)	(0)	(9,080)	(4,540)
Proceeds from sale of assets	5,610	30,399	0	30,399	23,914
Restricted Assets used for Asset Replacement	1,399	5,610	2,265	7,875	4,967
Funds Available for Asset Replacement	(35,770)	(13,166)	(860)	(14,025)	(9,239)
<b>Operational Funds Available for Capital Budget</b>	<b>66,211</b>	<b>66,211</b>	<b>(2,289)</b>	<b>63,922</b>	<b>23,603</b>
<b>Capital Budget Statement</b>					
Assets Acquired - Replacement	(66,437)	(66,437)	2,515	(63,922)	(23,603)
Assets Acquired - New, Upgraded & Expanded Assets	(72,728)	(72,728)	10,144	(62,584)	(30,455)
Payment from Tip Rehabilitation Provision	(250)	(250)	(0)	(250)	(121)
Contributed Assets	(5,871)	(5,871)	0	(5,871)	0
Funded From :-					
- Funds Available for Asset Replacement	66,211	66,211	(2,289)	63,922	23,603
- Available Funds Applied to New, Upgraded & Expanded Assets	35,770	13,166	860	14,025	9,239
- Internally Restricted Cash	8,898	12,142	(2,023)	10,120	4,838
- Borrowings	0	0	0	0	0
- Grants for New Assets	6,017	5,527	(8,540)	(3,013)	2,622
- Developer Contributions	22,345	22,100	(361)	21,739	9,926
- Other Externally Restricted Cash	400	764	180	944	764
- Other Capital Contributions	5,871	5,897	0	5,897	53
<b>TOTAL FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>(19,480)</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>(18,994)</b>	<b>(3,134)</b>

## Summary of Variations

Budget variations being recommended include the following material items:

Variations	Net by Type \$000's
<p><b>Rates &amp; Annual Charges</b></p> <p>The proposed adjustment relates to a reduction in Council pension rebates, offset by a reduction in the pension subsidy received. These adjustments align with actuals and were made recurrently.</p>	166
<p><b>User Fees and Charges</b></p> <p>The increase in User Fees and Charges is mainly associated with non-recurrent increases in Memorial Gardens &amp; Cemeteries (\$262K) in the current year, and exhibition income at the Wollongong Art Gallery (\$26K).</p>	288
<p><b>Interest and Investment Revenues</b></p> <p>As noted in the September Quarterly Review, the sale of a West Dapto property in the December Quarter has resulted in a \$24M increase in cash and investments (transferred to a restricted asset) that will be generating additional interest income over the coming six months. This interest is transferred to the West Dapto Community Facilities restricted assets in line with the original intent of this restricted asset.</p>	1,150
<p><b>Other Revenues &amp; Rental Income</b></p> <p>The increase is due to additional recovery in legal costs associated with rating income (\$55K), as well as increases in commercial property income (\$134K) across various Council assets.</p>	189
<p><b>Grants &amp; Contributions (Operating)</b></p> <p>The increase is due to an increase in Bushfire Management activities (\$54K) and Central Lending Services in Library &amp; Facilities (\$10K).</p>	64
<p><b>Grants &amp; Contributions (Existing Assets)</b></p> <p>The increase is due to the recognition of Asset Management grants within the Sports fields service.</p>	40
<p><b>Employee Costs</b></p> <p>The increase in Employee Costs is primarily in relation to an increase of \$2.2M in the superannuation budgets to ensure sufficient budgets for the remainder of the year.</p>	2,199
<p><b>Materials, Services &amp; Other Expenses</b></p> <p>The decrease in Materials, Services &amp; Other Expenses is associated with the reallocation of budget into Employee Costs as part of the superannuation adjustment noted above \$(2.2M).</p> <p>This is partly offset by the introduction of funded projects (\$350K), increase in debt recovery costs relating to rating income (\$55K), postage in the rates area (\$40K), Valuer General cost escalation (\$26K), and Bushfire Management costs (\$58K) associated with an Operating Grant noted above.</p>	(1,593)
<p><b>Depreciation</b></p> <p>Depreciation has been increased to reflect year to date changes in the asset register.</p>	299
<p><b>Internal Charges</b></p> <p>The adjustment to the Internal Charges budget is mainly associated with a correction to labour allocation budgets and desktop computing changes that were identified during the Quarterly Review.</p>	(76)
<p><b>Operating Result [pre capital] Variation</b></p>	<b>1,027</b>
<p><b>Grants &amp; Contributions (Capital)</b></p> <p>The increase in Capital Grants &amp; Contributions mainly relates to the introduction of funding associated with Developer Contributions (\$2.0M) and Sports fields (\$250K).</p>	2,250

Variations	Net by Type \$000's
<b>Non-cash Operating Transactions</b>	(454)
Non-cash Operating Transactions is mainly related to the Depreciation (\$299K) and Direct Labour on-costs (\$155K).	
<b>Restricted Cash used for Operations</b>	189
The increase in restricted cash used for operations mainly relates to an increase in the West Dapto Centres Master planning (\$23K), Lake Illawarra Water Quality & Ecological Health Monitoring (\$6K), Lake Illawarra Community Engagement and Participation Program (\$71K) and Lake Illawarra GPT Audit (\$15K), and Asset Protection Zone Funding (\$55K).	
<b>Income transferred to Restricted Assets – Operating</b>	(1,184)
This adjustment mainly relates to an increase in the transfer of investment interest to restricted assets (\$1.1M) and the transfer of the net improvement in Interest on Investments income to restricted asset for the same value.	
<b>Income transferred to Restricted Assets – New Assets</b>	(6,230)
This adjustment primarily relates to the transfer of revenue associated with Southern Suburbs (\$2.0M) and a transfer from the Capital Program funding of (\$3.9M) to the Strategic Project restricted asset .	
<b>Advances (made by)/repaid to Council</b>	(240)
Council issued a three year loan to Illawarra Hockey for the value of \$292K in November 2025. The budget adjustment reflects the payment to Illawarra Hockey, and collection of principle repayments in the current year.	
<b>Funds Available from Operations</b>	<b>(3,693)</b>
<b>Capital Program</b>	(12,668)
Further details on movements within the Capital Program are detailed in Appendix 2.	
<b>Capital Funding</b>	8,439
Further details on movements within the Capital Program including funding are detailed in Appendix 2.  The net improvement in Capital Funding (\$3.9M) 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.	
<b>Funds Result</b>	<b>(496)</b>

### 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 \$0.5M compared to the Adopted Budget mainly associated with the improvement in the Funds Result, therefore, the Available Funds forecast increased from \$16.8M to \$17.3M.

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**

<b>Wollongong City Council</b>				
<b>26 December 2025</b>				
<b>Cash, Investments and Available Funds</b>				
	<b>Actual 2024/25</b>	<b>Adopted Budget 2025/26</b>	<b>Revised Budget 2025/26</b>	<b>Actuals YTD December 2025/26</b>
	<b>\$M</b>	<b>\$M</b>	<b>\$M</b>	<b>\$M</b>
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>214.5</b>	<b>243.1</b>	<b>243.6</b>	<b>256.0</b>
Less Restrictions:				
External	103.2	114.9	114.9	111.5
Internal	67.6	103.6	103.6	96.9
CivicRisk Investment	3.7			3.7
Total Restrictions	174.5	218.6	218.6	212.1
<b>Available Cash</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>43.9</b>
Adjusted for :				
Payables	(27.5)	(30.1)	(30.1)	(17.0)
Receivables	30.2	32.5	32.5	8.0
Other	3.8	(10.1)	(10.1)	8.4
Net Payables & Receivables	6.5	(7.7)	(7.7)	(0.6)
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>43.3</b>

All investments held at 26 December 2025 were invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. Bank reconciliations have been completed as at 26 December 2025. Year to date cash and investments are reconciled with funds invested and cash at bank.

Table 3

<b>WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Cash Flows and Investments</b>		
<b>as at 26 December 2025</b>		
	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
	<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>\$ '000</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Rates & Annual Charges	147,224	247,522
User Charges & Fees	17,503	39,909
Interest & Interest Received	4,500	9,061
Grants & Contributions	34,732	97,659
Bonds, deposits and retention amounts received	166	167
Other	14,516	31,727
<b>Payments</b>		
Employee Benefits & On-costs	(77,441)	(153,952)
Materials & Contracts	(49,601)	(126,741)
Borrowing Costs	(62)	(141)
Other	(12,749)	(22,192)
<b>Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>78,790</b>	<b>123,019</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Sale of Investments	21,222	50,649
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	29,814	2,068
<b>Payments:</b>		
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	(67,101)	(89,795)
Deferred Debtors & Advances Made	(292)	-
<b>Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>(98,430)</b>	<b>(117,306)</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>		
<b>Payments:</b>		
Repayment of Borrowings & Advances	-	(657)
Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities	(87)	(370)
<b>Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities</b>	<b>(87)</b>	<b>(1,027)</b>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(19,728)	4,686
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	49,586	44,900
plus: Investments on hand - end of year	226,117	164,301
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date</b>	<b>255,976</b>	<b>213,887</b>

Table 4

<b>WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Cash Flows and Investments</b>		
<b>as at 26 December 2025</b>		
	<b>YTD Actual 2025/26 \$ '000</b>	<b>Actual 2024/25 \$ '000</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date</b>	<b>255,976</b>	213,887
<b><u>Attributable to:</u></b>		
External Restrictions (refer below)	<b>111,525</b>	103,184
Internal Restrictions (refer below)	<b>96,945</b>	67,583
Unrestricted	<b>47,506</b>	43,121
	<b>255,976</b>	213,887
<b>External Restrictions</b>		
Developer Contributions	<b>73,021</b>	73,967
RMS Contributions	<b>663</b>	402
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	<b>19,547</b>	13,381
Special Rates Levy Wollongong Mall	<b>1,142</b>	1,062
Special Rates Levy Wollongong City Centre	<b>94</b>	94
Unexpended Loans	<b>997</b>	973
Domestic Waste Management	<b>8,853</b>	6,033
Private Subsidies	<b>3,151</b>	2,898
Housing Affordability	<b>3,155</b>	3,120
Stormwater Management Service Charge	<b>902</b>	1,254
<b>Total External Restrictions</b>	<b>111,525</b>	103,184
<b>Internal Restrictions</b>		
Property Investment Fund	<b>5,608</b>	5,532
Strategic Projects	<b>40,605</b>	31,700
Sports Priority Program	<b>984</b>	856
Car Parking Strategy	<b>1,587</b>	1,372
MacCabe Park Development	<b>(75)</b>	2,190
Darcy Wentworth Park	<b>18</b>	18
Garbage Disposal Facility	<b>3,963</b>	5,982
West Dapto Development	<b>43,581</b>	19,259
Natural Areas	<b>173</b>	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	<b>501</b>	501
<b>Total Internal Restrictions</b>	<b>96,945</b>	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 December 2025 applied to the existing Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Plan and Resource Strategy and the Long Term Financial Plan.

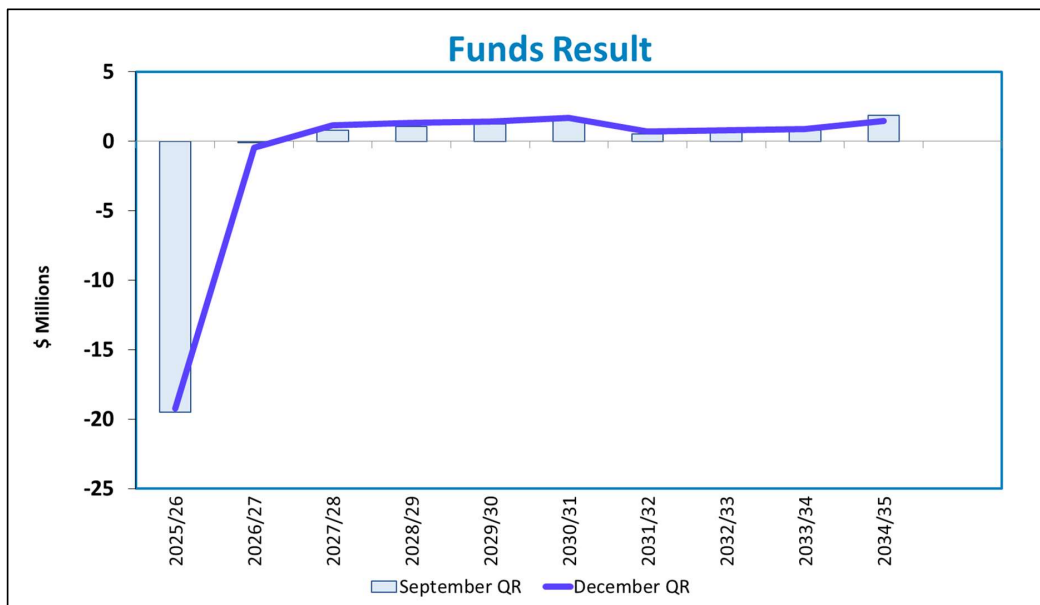
#### Indicator 1 – Total Funds Result

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 was decreased in the September Quarterly Review 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. The increase in the December Quarterly Review is equal to the Funds result change noted above.

Across the Long Term Financial Model, the Funds Result has had a minor improvement mainly associated with the increase in Rates Revenue.

Graph 1

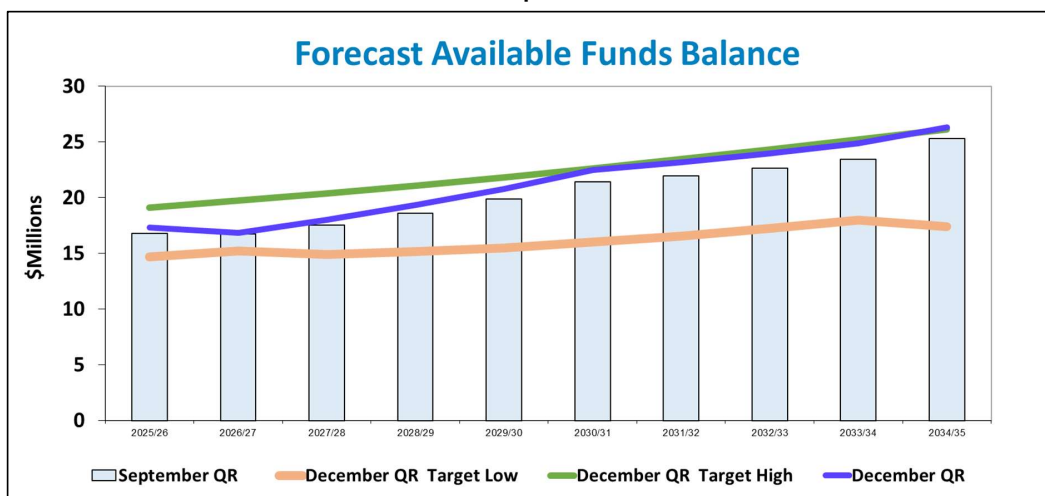


### Indicator 2 - Available Funds

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 December 2025 is between \$14.7M and \$17.3M (lower range) and between \$19.1M and \$26.1M (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

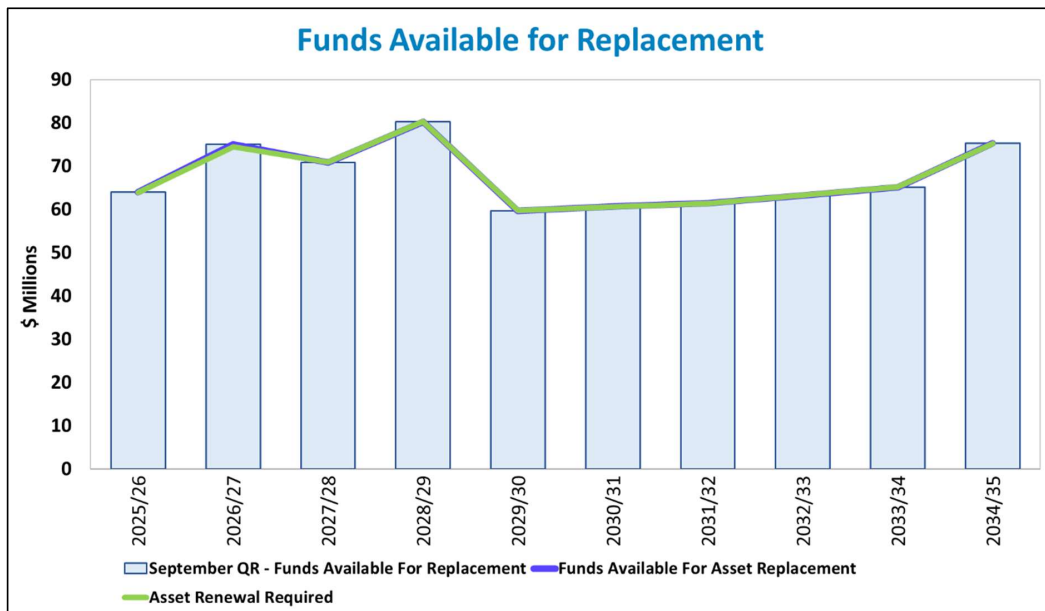


### Indicator 3 – Asset Management Replacement Ratio

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



### General Manager Approved Tenders

The following tenders were approved by the General Manager during the December Quarter of 2025-2026:

Tender Number	Description	Party	Date Awarded	Value (inc)	Cumulative value of all contracts - 12 Months
T1000232	Towradgi Park Sportsfield Lighting	REES Electrical Pty Ltd	5-Dec-25	\$ 312,400.00	0
T1000219	Western Suburbs Preschool - Upgrade of Kitchen and Associated Works	Halbuild Pty Ltd	21-Oct-25	\$ 277,299.94	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 26 December 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 – Capital Project Reports by Asset Class

CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT							
as at the period ended 26 December 2025							
ASSET CLASS PROGRAMME	\$'000		\$'000		YTD EXPENDITURE	\$'000	
	CURRENT BUDGET		WORKING BUDGET			VARIATION	
	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING		EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING
<b>Roads And Related Assets</b>							
Traffic Facilities	2,287	(1,802)	3,332	(1,873)	624	1,045	(71)
Public Transport Facilities	170	0	123	0	29	(47)	0
Roadworks	18,720	(8,113)	17,899	(5,439)	7,586	(821)	2,673
Bridges, Boardwalks and Jetties	3,795	(360)	1,980	(360)	804	(1,815)	0
<b>TOTAL Roads And Related Assets</b>	<b>24,972</b>	<b>(10,274)</b>	<b>23,335</b>	<b>(7,672)</b>	<b>9,043</b>	<b>(1,637)</b>	<b>2,602</b>
<b>West Dapto</b>							
West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion	23,126	(23,126)	19,414	(19,414)	10,125	(3,712)	3,712
<b>TOTAL West Dapto</b>	<b>23,126</b>	<b>(23,126)</b>	<b>19,414</b>	<b>(19,414)</b>	<b>10,125</b>	<b>(3,712)</b>	<b>3,712</b>
<b>Footpaths And Cycleways</b>							
Footpaths	7,668	(5,158)	8,168	(4,703)	3,410	501	454
Shared Paths	4,340	(1,900)	5,216	(2,925)	2,002	876	(1,025)
Commercial Centre Upgrades - Footpaths and Cycleways	30	0	281	0	261	251	0
<b>TOTAL Footpaths And Cycleways</b>	<b>12,038</b>	<b>(7,058)</b>	<b>13,665</b>	<b>(7,628)</b>	<b>5,672</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>(571)</b>
<b>Carparks</b>							
Carpark Construction/Formalising	835	(100)	1,025	(77)	590	190	23
Carpark Reconstruction or Upgrading	390	0	358	0	109	(32)	0
<b>TOTAL Carparks</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>(77)</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Stormwater And Floodplain Management</b>							
Floodplain Management	2,527	(1,960)	1,768	(1,398)	842	(760)	563
Stormwater Management	6,330	(3,000)	7,558	(1,705)	2,353	1,228	1,295
Stormwater Treatment Devices	820	(400)	820	(400)	846	(0)	0
<b>TOTAL Stormwater And Floodplain Mar</b>	<b>9,677</b>	<b>(5,360)</b>	<b>10,146</b>	<b>(3,502)</b>	<b>4,040</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1,858</b>
<b>Buildings</b>							
Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall)	1,160	0	845	0	93	(315)	0
Administration Buildings	1,560	0	1,284	0	109	(276)	0
Community Buildings	34,120	(16,469)	27,426	(13,969)	9,091	(6,694)	2,500
Public Facilities (Shelters, Toilets etc.)	10	0	10	0	12	(0)	0
<b>TOTAL Buildings</b>	<b>36,850</b>	<b>(16,469)</b>	<b>29,566</b>	<b>(13,969)</b>	<b>9,305</b>	<b>(7,284)</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Commercial Operations</b>							
Tourist Park - Upgrades and Renewal	935	0	320	0	16	(615)	0
Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries - Upgrades and Renew	1,120	0	480	0	156	(640)	0
Leisure Centres & RVGC	400	0	400	0	127	0	0
<b>TOTAL Commercial Operations</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>(1,255)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Parks Gardens And Sportfields</b>							
Play Facilities	1,905	(675)	1,602	(275)	394	(303)	400
Recreation Facilities	350	(240)	344	(240)	327	(6)	0
Sporting Facilities	1,340	(1,274)	1,558	(1,024)	435	218	250
<b>TOTAL Parks Gardens And Sportfields</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>(2,189)</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>(1,539)</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>(92)</b>	<b>650</b>

CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT							
as at the period ended 26 December 2025							
ASSET CLASS PROGRAMME	\$'000		\$'000		YTD EXPENDITURE	\$'000	
	CURRENT BUDGET		WORKING BUDGET			VARIATION	
	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING	EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING		EXPENDITURE	OTHER FUNDING
<b>Beaches And Pools</b>							
Treated Water Pools	5,584	(3,086)	4,643	(3,156)	2,433	(941)	(70)
<b>TOTAL Beaches And Pools</b>	<b>5,584</b>	<b>(3,086)</b>	<b>4,643</b>	<b>(3,156)</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>(941)</b>	<b>(70)</b>
<b>Waste Facilities</b>							
Whytes Gully New Cells	5,610	(5,610)	7,875	(7,875)	5,872	2,265	(2,265)
<b>TOTAL Waste Facilities</b>	<b>5,610</b>	<b>(5,610)</b>	<b>7,875</b>	<b>(7,875)</b>	<b>5,872</b>	<b>2,265</b>	<b>(2,265)</b>
<b>Fleet</b>							
Motor Vehicles	1,190	(617)	1,190	(617)	535	(0)	(0)
<b>TOTAL Fleet</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>(617)</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>(617)</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Plant And Equipment</b>							
Mobile Plant (trucks, backhoes etc.)	200	0	200	0	62	(0)	0
Fixed Equipment	3,228	(782)	3,228	(782)	443	(0)	0
<b>TOTAL Plant And Equipment</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>(782)</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>(782)</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Information Technology</b>							
Information Technology	1,400	0	1,425	0	699	25	0
<b>TOTAL Information Technology</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Library Books</b>							
Library Books	1,404	0	1,404	0	979	(0)	0
<b>TOTAL Library Books</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Public Art</b>							
Art Gallery Acquisitions	107	0	107	0	106	0	0
<b>TOTAL Public Art</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Land Acquisitions</b>							
Land Acquisitions	2,704	(2,704)	2,705	(2,705)	2,709	1	(1)
<b>TOTAL Land Acquisitions</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>(2,704)</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>(2,705)</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Non-Project Allocations</b>							
Capital Project Contingency	4,051	0	2,010	0	0	(2,041)	0
<b>TOTAL Non-Project Allocations</b>	<b>4,051</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,041)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Not Applicable</b>							
Not Applicable	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL Not Applicable</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>139,415</b>	<b>(77,375)</b>	<b>126,997</b>	<b>(68,937)</b>	<b>54,178</b>	<b>(12,419)</b>	<b>8,439</b>

Budget variations being recommended include the following capital items:

<b>Variations - Capital</b>	<b>Net by Type \$ 000's</b>
<p><b>Traffic Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of additional TfNSW grant funding (School Zone Infrastructure) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nolan Street Traffic Calming</li> <li>○ Jacaranda Avenue Traffic Calming</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The above was introduced during the September Quarterly Review and offset by a \$1M negative bulk that was created through the introduction of the Wollongong Foreshore Legacy Project. The bulk was removed during the December Quarterly Review creating a \$1M change in program.</li> </ul>	1,045
<p><b>Roadworks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects completed early, with unspent contingency and/or provisional sums being returned funds to Capital Contingency include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ High Street; Junction Road to Fletcher Street</li> <li>○ Bundah Place; Lakeview Parade to Purry Burry Avenue</li> <li>○ Lady Penrhyn Drive; Berkeley Road to Prince of Wales Ave (South)</li> <li>○ Yuill Avenue; Angel Street to Tarrawanna Road</li> <li>○ Old Station Road; Foster Street to The Crescent</li> <li>○ The Esplanade; Lawrence Hargrave Drive to Arthur Street</li> <li>○ Cambridge Road; Fowlers Road to Lakelands Drive</li> <li>○ Mountbatten Street; End to End</li> <li>○ Albert Street; Hurt Parade to Nudjia Road</li> <li>○ Wollingurry Street; Haywards Bay Drive to End</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rephase budget to accelerate projects from 2026-2027 to 2025-2026 due to pavement condition, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aristo Crescent; Jobson Avenue to End</li> <li>○ Madden Street; Devenish Street to Buckland Street</li> <li>○ Eager Street; Albert Street to Rothery Road</li> <li>○ Garden Avenue; #21 to Murray Park Road</li> <li>○ Balfour Street; Alexander Street to #32</li> <li>○ Burke Road; Burrell Crescent (Nth) to Mount Brown Road</li> <li>○ Cater Street; Lawrence Hargrave Drive to Morrison Avenue</li> <li>○ Garratt Avenue; Lombard Avenue to Hopewood Crescent</li> <li>○ Linda Place; End to Tristan Avenue</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rephase projects from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bong Bong Road; Osborne Street to Rail Crossing – delay in approval from Sydney Trains.</li> <li>○ Parkinson Street; Osbourne Street to End – awaiting completion of adjacent development works being undertaken by Developer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rephase Natural Disaster Funding from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 due to delays in approvals from Sydney Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 16 Tunnel Road, Helensburgh</li> <li>○ Vera Street/Old Station Road, Helensburgh Embankment Scour</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remove grant funding incorrectly allocated to Cordeaux Road at Harry Graham Drive.</li> </ul>	(821)
<p><b>West Dapto Infrastructure Expansion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rephasing of West Dapto Developer Contributions &amp; grant funding sources for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cleveland Road Upgrade Stage 1 – Project on track to be completed in Q3 2025-2026, with unspent contingency being returned to capital contingency.</li> <li>○ Stage 1 Darkes Town Centre Sporting and Community Hub budget re-phased across 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. Project remains on track for delivery in 2026-2027 as programmed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stage 1A - West Dapto Road Upgrade re-phased from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 due delays from utility authorities completing timely utility relocations (Endeavour Energy). Project remains on-track for delivery in 2026-2027 as programmed.</li> </ul>	(3,712)

<b>Variations - Capital</b>	<b>Net by Type \$ 000's</b>
<b>Footpaths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rephase of budget from 2025-2026 to 2027-2028 for Bong Bong Road, Station Street intersection due to delays in approvals from Sydney Trains.</li> <li>Introduction of additional Disaster Recovery Funding (AGRN1119) for 65 Cordeaux Road, Kembla Heights.</li> <li>Rephasing of Disaster Recovery Funding (AGRN1119) from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Achilles Avenue Road Embankment Scour Repairs – delayed start but remains on-track for completion in 2026-2027.</li> </ul>	955
<b>Shared Paths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of construction funding for the Transport Integrated Placemaking (TIP) funding for the Murray Road, Duff Parade to Cawley Street project as construction planned to commence in Q4 of 2025-2026.</li> <li>Rephase budget from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for North Cycleway - Ursula Road to Farrell Road due to progression of Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.</li> </ul>	(149)
<b>Commercial Centre Upgrades - Footpaths and Cycleways</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of new project - WCC Events Board install - Globe Lane.</li> </ul>	251
<b>Carpark Construction/Formalising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove Strategic Project Funding (SPRA) for the Kembla Heights Village Carpark project as completed under budget.</li> </ul>	213
<b>Carpark Reconstruction or Upgrading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of remaining budget for Pop Errington Park Carpark project as completed under budget.</li> </ul>	(32)
<b>Floodplain Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce Stormwater Levy funding for projects below to replace general revenue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorial Drive Debris Control Structure</li> <li>The Avenue, Debris Control Structure</li> </ul> </li> <li>Rephase project budget (including grant funding from the NSW Floodplain Management Program) from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Ursula Road Flood Mitigation (Stage 1). Project will now commence in 2025-2026 and be completed in 2026-2027 – delayed due to time take to acquire easement on private property (resolution of Council to purchase easement secured on 15 December 2025).</li> </ul>	(197)
<b>Stormwater Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rephase budget for stormwater projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 The Drive - Brick Arch Culvert renewal project as it was completed under budget</li> <li>56 Benny Avenue, Pipe from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 due to design delay (consultant performance)</li> <li>67 Thirroul Road, Pipe from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 due to design delay (consultant performance)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Update Disaster Recovery Funding (AGRN1119) for projects to match approved funding amounts from the NSW Reconstruction Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1A Winton Place,</li> <li>Edgewood Estate, Detention Basin Scour Protection Repairs</li> <li>27 Chalmers Street - Creek Embankment Repair</li> </ul> </li> <li>Introduction of new pipe reline projects identified as high priority due to identified pipe condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>78 George Avenue pipe reline</li> <li>39 Midgley Street pipe reline</li> </ul> </li> <li>Increase budget for projects below due to increases in project estimates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 Prince Edward Drive pipe reconstruction</li> <li>59 Armagh Parade pipe reline</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2,523

<b>Variations - Capital</b>	<b>Net by Type \$ 000's</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 38 Cowper Street pipe reline</li> <li>○ 2 Newcastle Street pipe reline</li> <li>○ Barina Park Detention Basin repairs</li> <li>● 17 Whelan Avenue creek Embankment and weir rehabilitation</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cultural Centres (IPAC, Gallery, Townhall)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rephase budget from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Art Gallery and Town Hall Air Conditioning and Roof. Project remains on track for completion in 2026-2027 as programmed.</li> </ul>	(315)
<p><b>Community Buildings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rephase budget from 2026-2027 to 2025-2026 Helensburgh Community Centre and Library project to fund design costs as design has progressed earlier than planned.</li> <li>● Rephase budget for Figtree Oval Amenities across 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 based on updated project program. Project remains on track for completion in 2026-2027 as programmed.</li> <li>● Rephase projects budgets across 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 for multiple projects based on updated project programs (all remain on track for completion as programmed in the adopted IDP on 30 June 2025).</li> <li>● Otford Community Centre Refurbishment</li> <li>● Corrimal Tourist Park Lights and Poles</li> <li>● Corrimal Community Centre Hall Refurbishment</li> <li>● Ribbonwood Centre Lift Refurbishment</li> <li>● Rephase Strategic Projects Reserve (SPRA) funding allocated to Southern Suburbs Community Centre and Library from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 and replace with revenue for 2025-2026. Project remains on track for completion as programmed.</li> <li>● Rephase part budget and program from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Wongawilli Hall Refurbishment due to consultation with Wongawilli RFS regarding utilities upgrades. Project has progressed to tender. Tenders close on 17 February 2026. Construction is planned to commence in late 2025-2026, with planned completion in early 2026-2027 (exact timing to be confirmed with successful tenderer).</li> <li>● Rephase part budget and program from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Port Kembla Community Centre (Stage 2). Construction Certificate received later than anticipated. Procurement for project planned in February 2026, with construction planned to commence in late 2025-2026. Project will now be completed in 2026-2027 (exact timing to be confirmed once successful tenderer selected).</li> <li>● Rephase part budget and program from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Balgownie Village Community Centre - Kitchen &amp; Access due to unexpected structural defects being identified during the design investigation.</li> <li>● Rephase budget and program from 2025-2026 to future years for projects below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bulli Tourist Park Light and Poles due to progression of Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.</li> <li>● New Multipurpose Facility, Beaton Park – design delayed until masterplan is completed.</li> <li>● Integral Park Sewer project has been delayed due to design consultant performance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	(4,194)
<p><b>Play Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rephase budget from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Wollongong City Centre Skate Park which remains on track to be completed in 2026-2027 as programmed.</li> </ul>	97
<p><b>Sporting Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce Office of Sports Grant Funding for new project – New Sportsfield Lighting - Ocean Park</li> <li>● Rephase Developer Contribution funding from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027, with Project timing remaining on track for delivery as programmed.</li> <li>● Towradgi Park Sportsfield Lighting due to Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.</li> <li>● Berkeley Sportsfield Lighting.</li> </ul>	468

<b>Variations - Capital</b>	<b>Net by Type \$ 000's</b>
<b>Administration Buildings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce new project - Admin Building - EV charger Expansion.</li> <li>Rephase budget from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027 for Admin Building Air Conditioning based on contractor's program. Project remains on track for completion in 2026-2027 as programmed.</li> </ul>	(276)
<b>Memorial Gardens and Cemeteries - Upgrades and Renewal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rephase budget across 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 for Wollongong Lawn Cemetery, Condolence Room &amp; Amenities due to delays in finalising approvals.</li> </ul>	(640)
<b>Tourist Park - Upgrades and Renewal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rephase budget across 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 for Tourist Park Cabins (2025-2026) and Tourist Park Accessible Cabins. Projects will go to tender in March 2026 to deliver cabins over a three year period. Project timing remains on track for completion as programmed.</li> </ul>	(615)
<b>Treated Water Pools</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce additional Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund (MSCFF) for Helensburgh Pool Upgrade.</li> <li>Introduce Changing Places funding for Helensburgh Pool Upgrade.</li> <li>Remove budget from Helensburgh Pool Upgrade as latent conditions discovered during construction did not require the full contingency allocated and provisional items were not fully expended.</li> </ul>	(1,011)
<b>Whytes Gully New Cell</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce additional Waste Reserve funding for New Cell Stage 2B-2, Whytes Gully to correct a budgeting error when IDP 2025-2026 to 2028-2029 was prepared.</li> </ul>	2,454
<b>Contingency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movements in expenditure and funding allocated against Contingency.</li> <li>Reallocation of Strategic Project restricted asset of \$3.9M for allocation into future capital expenditure programs.</li> </ul>	(2,041)
<b>Variation</b>	<b>(12,668)</b>

### Appendix 2 – Quarterly Budget Review Statements

**Note:** The schedules below are templates provided by the Office of Local Government that display a fixed reporting date of 31 December 2025 for the December Quarterly Review. This is unable to be altered by councils. However, the financial data presented in this report reflects Council's monthly reporting cycle that concluded on 26 December 2026. As a result, the dates shown on the templates differ from the reporting period of the underlying financial information.

QBRs FINANCIAL OVERVIEW											
Wollongong City Council											
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/25											
DESCRIPTION	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Review	Review	Review	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	2025/26	
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Q 1 \$000's	Q 2 \$000's	Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	
Net Operating Result before grants and contribution provided for capital purposes	General Fund	-55,711	-13,304	23,926	0	0	10,622	1,326	11,948	25,252	17,548
	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	23,926	0	0	10,622	0	10,622	23,926	0
Operating Result from continuing operations (with capital grants and contributions) excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	Consolidated										
		87,858	145,097	24,737	0	0	169,834	0	169,834	24,737	0
Borrowings	Total borrowings						0		0	0	
	External restrictions	103,184	105,259	9,615	0	0	114,874	10,384	125,258	19,999	111,525
	Internal Allocations	67,583	107,811	17,364	0	0	125,175	-16,920	108,255	444	96,944
	Unallocated	43,120	-213,070	-26,979	0	0	-240,049	6,536	-233,513	-20,443	47,507
	<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Inv</b>	<b>213,887</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>255,976</b>
Capital	Capital Funding	101,760	145,286	0	0	0	145,286	-12,429	132,857	-12,429	54,178
	Capital Expenditure	101,760	145,286	0	0	0	145,286	-12,428	132,858	-12,428	54,178
	<b>Net Capital</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>

	Opening Balance	Total Cash Contributions Received	Total Interest Earned	Total Expended	Total Internal Borrowings (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
	As at 1 July 2025 \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's
Developer Contribution		73,967	7,465	1,799	10,210	0	73,021
Total Developer Contributions		73,967	7,465	1,799	10,210	0	73,021

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement

Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025

Consolidated Fund

Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual	Budget	Review	Review	Review	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	2025/26
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Q 1 \$000's	Q 2 \$000's	Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>INCOME</b>										
Rates and Annual Charges	247,516	258,973	693			259,666		259,666	693	
User Charges and Fees	40,074	40,870	87			40,957		40,957	87	
Other Revenue	6,748	6,334	-17			6,317		6,317	-17	
Grants and Contributions - Operating	31,646	28,960	-9,506			19,454		19,454	-9,506	
Grants and Contributions - Capital	45,473	70,216	811			71,027		71,027	811	
Interest and Investment Income	9,756	6,240	4,865			11,105		11,105	4,865	
Other Income	9,430	7,553	133			7,686		7,686	133	
Net gain from disposal of assets			28,516			28,516		28,516	28,516	
<b>Total Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>390,643</b>	<b>419,146</b>	<b>25,582</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>444,728</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>444,728</b>	<b>25,582</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee benefits and on-costs	153,272	146,197	8,695			154,892		154,892	8,695	
Materials & Services	110,545	100,607	-6,222			94,385		94,385	-6,222	
Borrowing Costs	1,144	1,028	96			1,124		1,124	96	
Other Expenses	31,548	26,217	-1,724			24,493		24,493	-1,724	
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets	6,276	0	0			0		0	0	
<b>Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>302,785</b>	<b>274,049</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>274,894</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>274,894</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>87,858</b>	<b>145,097</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169,834</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169,834</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>0</b>
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	98,096	88,185	0			88,185		88,185	0	
<b>Operating result from continuing Operations</b>	<b>-10,238</b>	<b>56,912</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,649</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,649</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>-55,711</b>	<b>-13,304</b>	<b>23,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,622</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,622</b>	<b>23,926</b>	<b>0</b>

**Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement**  
**Wollongong City Council**  
**Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025**  
**General Fund**

Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual	Budget	Review	Review	Review	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Q 1 \$000's	Q 2 \$000's	Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>INCOME</b>										
Rates and Annual Charges	247,516	258,973	693			259,666	166	259,832	859	127,933
User Charges and Fees	40,074	40,870	87			40,957	288	41,245	375	20,412
Other Revenue	6,748	6,334	-17			6,317	63	6,380	46	2,880
Grants and Contributions - Operating	31,646	28,960	-9,506			19,454	64	19,518	-9,442	10,541
Grants and Contributions - Capital	45,473	70,216	811			71,027	2,290	73,317	3,101	20,274
Interest and Investment Income	9,756	6,240	4,865			11,105	1,150	12,255	6,015	5,658
Other Income	9,430	7,553	133			7,686	126	7,812	259	3,471
Net gain from disposal of assets	0	0	28,516			28,516	0	28,516	28,516	20,178
<b>Total Income from continuing operations</b>	<b>390,643</b>	<b>419,146</b>	<b>25,582</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>444,728</b>	<b>4,147</b>	<b>448,875</b>	<b>29,729</b>	<b>211,348</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee benefits and on-costs	153,272	146,197	8,695			154,892	2,123	157,015	10,818	77,052
Materials & Services	110,545	100,607	-6,222			94,385	-1,616	92,769	-7,838	41,807
Borrowing Costs	1,144	1,028	96			1,124	0	1,124	96	458
Other Expenses	31,548	26,217	-1,724			24,493	23	24,516	-1,701	13,316
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets	6,276	0				0		0	0	0
<b>Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>302,785</b>	<b>274,049</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>274,894</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>275,425</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>132,632</b>
<b>Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets</b>	<b>87,858</b>	<b>145,097</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169,834</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>173,450</b>	<b>28,353</b>	<b>78,716</b>
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	98,096	88,185	0			88,185		88,185	0	40,894
<b>Operating result from continuing Operations</b>	<b>-10,238</b>	<b>56,912</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,649</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>85,265</b>	<b>28,353</b>	<b>37,822</b>
<b>Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>-55,711</b>	<b>-13,304</b>	<b>23,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,622</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>11,948</b>	<b>25,252</b>	<b>17,548</b>

### Capital Budget Review Statement

#### Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025

Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual	Budget	Review	Review	Review	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	2025/26
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Q 1 \$000's	Q 2 \$000's	Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>CAPITAL FUNDING</b>										
Rates & other untied funding	57,598	65,665	-3,625			62,040	-3,990	58,050	-7,615	20,174
Capital Grants & Contributions	31,394	63,314	17			63,331	-8,860	54,471	-8,843	23,392
Reserves - External Restrictions	93	400	364			764	180	944	544	764
Reserves - Internally Allocated	10,608	14,508	3,244			17,752	242	17,994	3,486	9,805
New Loans						0		0	0	
Proceeds from sale of assets	2,067	1,399				1,399	0	1,399	0	43
Other						0		0	0	
<b>Total Capital Funding</b>	<b>101,760</b>	<b>145,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>145,286</b>	<b>-12,429</b>	<b>132,857</b>	<b>-12,429</b>	<b>54,178</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>										
WIP						0		0	0	
New Assets	36,440	78,599				78,599	-2,515	76,084	-2,515	23,603
Asset Renewal	65,320	66,437				66,437	-9,914	56,523	-9,914	30,455
Other		250				250		250	0	121
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>101,760</b>	<b>145,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>145,286</b>	<b>-12,428</b>	<b>132,858</b>	<b>-12,428</b>	<b>54,178</b>
<b>Net Capital Funding - Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-0</b>

### Cash and Investments Budget Review Statement

#### Wollongong City Council

Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025

Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual	Budget	Review	Review	Review	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	Q 1 \$000's	Q 2 \$000's	Q 3 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents &amp; Inves</b>	213,887					0		0	0	255,976
<b>EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED</b>										
Water Fund						0		0	0	
Sewer Fund						0		0	0	
Developer contributions - General	73,967	73,895	8,498			82,393	1,867	84,260	10,365	73,021
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	-307			8,289	670	8,959	363	8,853
Stormwater management	1,254	639	-272			367	-218	149	-490	902
Other	21,528	22,129	1,696			23,825	8,065	31,890	9,761	28,749
<b>Total Externally Restricted</b>	<b>103,184</b>	<b>105,259</b>	<b>9,615</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>114,874</b>	<b>10,384</b>	<b>125,258</b>	<b>19,999</b>	<b>111,525</b>
<b>Cash, cash equivalents &amp; investments not subject to external restrictions</b>	<b>110,703</b>	<b>-105,259</b>	<b>-9,615</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-114,874</b>	<b>-10,384</b>	<b>-125,258</b>	<b>-19,999</b>	<b>144,451</b>
<b>INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS</b>										
Employee entitlements						0		0	0	
Strategic Projects	31,700	21,485	14,809			36,294	6,034	42,328	20,843	40,604
						0		0	0	
						0		0	0	
						0		0	0	
Other	35,883	86,326	2,555			88,881	-22,954	65,927	-20,399	56,340
<b>Total Internally Allocated</b>	<b>67,583</b>	<b>107,811</b>	<b>17,364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,175</b>	<b>-16,920</b>	<b>108,255</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>96,944</b>
<b>Unallocated</b>	<b>43,120</b>	<b>-213,070</b>	<b>-26,979</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-240,049</b>	<b>6,536</b>	<b>-233,513</b>	<b>-20,443</b>	<b>47,507</b>

Developer Contributions Summary																					
Wollongong City Council																					
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025																					
Purpose	Opening Balance As at 1 July 2025 \$000's	Developer Contributions Received									Interest Earned Q1 \$000's	Interest Earned Q2 \$000's	Interest Earned Q3 \$000's	Monetary Amounts Expended Q1 \$000's	Monetary Amounts Expended Q2 \$000's	Monetary Amounts Expended Q3 \$000's	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q1 \$000's	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q2 \$000's	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q3 \$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
		Cash Q1 \$000's	Cash Q2 \$000's	Cash Q3 \$000's	Non-Cash Land Q1 \$000's	Non-Cash Land Q2 \$000's	Non-Cash Land Q3 \$000's	Non-Cash Other Q1 \$000's	Non-Cash Other Q2 \$000's	Non-Cash Other Q3 \$000's											
Drainage	18,188	89	139								259	190								18,865	
Roads	-5,292	544	1,012								-84	-79		2,154	3,679					-9,732	
Traffic facilities																				0	
Parking																				0	
Open space	7,302	131	292								104	78			10					7,897	
Community facilities	1,604	2	4								23	17								1,650	
Other	-1,393	439	19								-18	-11		68	112					-1,144	
<b>Total \$7.11 Under plans</b>	<b>20,409</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,537</b>	<b>0</b>
\$7.11 Not under plans	401	0	0								6	4								411	
\$7.12 Levies	46,616	2,470	1,867								679	493		354	3,806					47,965	
\$7.4 Planning agreements	6,541	223	233								73	65		18	9					7,108	
\$64 Contributions																				0	
Other																				0	
<b>Total Developer Contributions</b>	<b>73,967</b>	<b>3,899</b>	<b>3,567</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>7,615</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73,021</b>	<b>0</b>

### Glossary and Naming Conventions

Term	Definition or Explanation
<b>Current Budget</b>	Current Budget, as revised and adopted by Council.
<b>Original Budget</b>	Adopted Budget as at the adoption of the Operational Plan in June (adoption of Attachment 1 - Budget).
<b>Proposed Budget</b>	Revised budget proposed before Council at the current quarterly budget review. Once adopted by Council, this will become 'Current Budget'

**ITEM 2 WOLLONGONG COUNCIL SUBMISSION - DRAFT ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN STRATEGIC REGIONAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PLAN**

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has released the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan for public exhibition, setting a 20-year, outcome-focused transport vision for the Region and outlining more than 45 actions and 28 initiatives across roads, public transport, walking and cycling, freight access and land use integration. The exhibition was open until Monday 9 February 2026, and TfNSW invited submissions via the online portal and by email.

This report seeks endorsement of a submission on behalf of Wollongong City Council (Council) to TfNSW on the Draft Plan to ensure it reflects the significance of the Wollongong LGA; both within our Region and the State; and delivers on the vision and actions identified within Council’s Our Wollongong: Community Strategic Plan and Wollongong Transport Strategy. TfNSW has granted Council an extension until 28 February 2026 to enable adequate time for review and reporting of the submission to Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Delegation be issued to the General Manager to finalise and make minor editorial edits to the attached draft submission on the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan and forward the submission to Transport for NSW.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Nathan McBriarty, Manager Infrastructure Strategy + Planning  
 Authorised by: Paul Tracey, Director Infrastructure + Works (Acting)

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Wollongong Council Submission on the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan

**ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT**

Abbreviation	Meaning
Draft Plan	Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
TfNSW	Transport for NSW

**BACKGROUND**

Transport for NSW has released the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan for public exhibition, setting a 20-year, outcomes-focused transport vision for the region and outlining more than 45 actions and 28 initiatives across roads, public transport, walking and cycling, freight access and land use integration.

The Draft Plan is a key supporting document within the NSW Government’s Strategies and Plan, and builds on the TfNSW [“Connecting NSW Strategy”](#).

This Draft Plan is one of nine strategic regional integrated transport plans to be delivered across regional NSW. Rather than a ‘one size fits all’ approach, the Draft Plan evaluates the transport needs of the Illawarra Shoalhaven’s distinctive local government areas to support the specific needs of communities across the region. The Draft Plan replaces the previous Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan with a greater focus on outcomes, aligning closely with the government’s priorities. It serves as TfNSW coordinated response to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure’s Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041.

The Draft Plan builds on the achievements of the 2021 Illawarra Regional Transport Plan that has facilitated the planning and delivery of several significant state projects across the region. The 2021 Illawarra Regional Transport Plan included 58 actions. Some have been delivered, such as the 30km/hr

speed limit in Helensburgh and the Transport Access Program at Bellambi, Dapto, Towradgi and Unanderra and others are underway such as the Mount Ousley Interchange and the roll out of the New Intercity Fleet. Within Council's submission, we have requested a report to be published which provides a status update (completed, underway, not started, carried over) on all the actions from the 2021 Plan.

The Draft Plan provides a region-wide framework for future transport priorities and investment decision-making across multiple modes, including roads, public transport, active transport and freight. The plan's multi-model scope and 20-year horizon make it a key input to Council's transport advocacy, infrastructure planning and land use integration objectives.

The Draft Plan is structured as follows:

<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>Across all nine SRITPs, Transport have seven universal objectives. Each objective will have a regional context to inform the vision for the future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting with Country</li> <li>• Access to transport for all</li> <li>• A safe transport network</li> <li>• Resilient networks</li> <li>• Well-located housing and successful places</li> <li>• Net zero emissions</li> <li>• A thriving and diversifying economy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vision</b></p> <p>Defined for the region, the vision reflects the transport objectives and is informed by stakeholder consultation and detailed evidence and data. It responds to the region's long-term land use vision.</p>	<p><i>The Illawarra Shoalhaven benefits from a safe, connected, sustainable, and resilient road and transport network that seamlessly links communities by supporting the efficient movement of people and freight.</i></p>
<p><b>Initiatives</b></p> <p>In order to meet the objectives and realise the vision, a range of short- and medium-term initiatives and longer-term outcomes have been developed for the region.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan has identified 45 initiatives/actions to address the region's challenges and leverage its current and future opportunities. The initiatives/actions are organised by committed projects currently underway, short-term (0–5 year) and medium-term (5–10 year) timeframes.</p> <p>Of these 45 actions, 29 short-term initiatives/actions relate directly to Wollongong, and all medium and long-term actions.</p>

## PROPOSAL

The submission provided in the attachment has been prepared by Council's Infrastructure and Works Directorate, with feedback provided across Planning and Environment, Community Services and Corporate Services Directorates. The submission has been prepared to ensure the Draft Plan is relevant to our area and reflects the significance of Wollongong LGA as identified within key documents such as Our Wollongong, Our Future Community Strategic plan; Wollongong Transport Strategy; Wollongong Local Strategic Planning Statement and the Wollongong Economic Development Strategy.

The submission is structured into the following sections:

- Cover Letter
- Response to key themes
  - This includes Council's broad response to the Draft Plan and highlights key priorities, structured by themes.
    - Strategic alignment
    - Initiative Collaboration and Implementation

- Relationship to south-western Sydney
  - Public transport service planning
  - State supported planning precincts
  - Transport network development to support land release areas
  - Rail Network enhancement
  - Disability standards and legislation compliance
  - Resilience
  - Bus interchange and passenger facilities
  - Road network capacity
  - Maritime infrastructure and services
- Council advocacy actions
    - This table pulls the key advocacy actions from the Council's Wollongong Transport Strategy and Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan for consideration.
  - Response to specific items
    - This table responds to specific content with the Draft Plan and recommends additions, adjustments and clarifications.

## CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

TfNSW undertook public consultation on the Draft Plan through the NSW "Have Your Say" portal, including the option to complete a survey, upload a submission, and provide feedback by email, with exhibition closed on Monday 9 February 2026. Council has shared the Have Your Say page with our community through our social media channels to support awareness.

The Draft Plan was informed by data and insights, including common planning assumptions and via engagement and the Have Your Say website which has been accepting general feedback throughout the development of the Draft Plan. Council staff have been involved in early conversations on the Draft Plan, have shared relevant strategies with the TfNSW and a briefing was given to Councillors by TfNSW prior to this report.

This Council report and the attached submission provide Council's formal response within the approved extension period of 28 February 2026 to enable adequate time for review and reporting of the submission to Council.

## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2035 *Goal 2 – We have well planned, connected and liveable places.*

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the **Transport Services:**

- *Advocacy towards local, regional, and state transport initiatives;*
- *Work with Transport for NSW on the implementation of the Illawarra Regional Transport Strategy;*  
*and*
- *Ensure sustainability is a key priority in transport planning and delivery to reduce fossil fuel consumption and support Wollongong net zero greenhouse gas emissions targets.*

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This Draft Plan has been developed to guide future transport investment across the region. It aligns with NSW Government priorities and serves as TfNSW coordinated response to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041. The Draft Plan contributes to achieving the emissions reductions targets as outlined in the TfNSW Net Zero and Climate Change Policy which aims to achieve net zero emissions in the transport sector by 2050, with key targets for

renewable energy and electric vehicle adoption and highlights necessary infrastructure, services and policy interventions required to support the successful transition to a low carbon future.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The submission is a non-statutory response to a public exhibition process.

Councils' submission utilises existing endorsed Strategies and Plans to ensure alignment with the needs of our community and seeks to ensure Council's priorities are reflected in the final Plan. Council's submission also seeks clarity in responsibilities and sequencing of the implementation of initiatives to ensure transparency deliverables and to enable alignment of Council and NSW Government programs.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from endorsing and lodging the submission. However, the Draft Plan will inform future state government investment priorities and potential co-investment opportunities with Council, given it includes a wide range of initiatives across transport modes, assets and land ownership.

## CONCLUSION

The Draft Plan is a significant 20-year, outcomes-focused plan for the region, including 45+ initiatives across roads, public transport, walking and cycling, freight and land use integration.

Improvement to our transport network is critical to delivering on the vision and actions identified within Council's Wollongong Transport Strategy. Endorsing and lodging Council's submission will ensure Wollongong's priorities and strategic context, such as Council's advocacy items are clearly communicated to TfNSW to inform the finalisation of the Plan.



## WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

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### Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan Team

Transport for NSW

Dear TfNSW Project Team,

### WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN STRATEGIC REGIONAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PLAN

Wollongong City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the *draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan*. As an important city within the region, and the third largest city in NSW, we are a growing economic, educational and employment hub.

As identified within Council's *Wollongong Transport Strategy*, Wollongong's transport network plays a critical role in supporting our region's prosperity, accessibility, and resilience. Council appreciates Transport for NSW's continued collaboration in shaping a long-term, integrated and future-focused transport vision for our communities.

Council's enclosed submission outlines key priorities that we believe are essential to achieving an effective, sustainable and equitable transport system for the region.

We look forward to continued partnership with Transport for NSW as the Plan progresses from strategy to implementation to support alignment of programs and priorities across our organisations. Council is committed to working collaboratively to ensure the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region receives the transport investment and proactive network improvements necessary to support our growing population, strategic industries and diverse communities.

If you require further information or wish to discuss the submission in more detail, please contact **Nathan McBriarty, Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Planning**.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important regional planning process.

Yours faithfully

Greg Doyle

**General Manager**

Wollongong City Council

Telephone: (02) 4227 7111

## Wollongong City Council Submission - draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan

Council welcomes the draft Plan's willingness to acknowledge the complexity of delivering an integrated regional transport network and supports the document's clear articulation of the challenges facing the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region, including constrained corridors, legacy infrastructure, topography, growth pressures and climate resilience. Council considers this honesty to be a strength of the draft Plan, providing a more credible foundation for shared problem-solving across agencies and levels of government.

Council commends the strong Connection to Country narrative, which meaningfully recognises the enduring cultural, social and movement significance of Country and provides an important lens through which future transport decisions should be shaped.

### Response to key themes

#### 1. Strategic alignment

The effectiveness of the draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan (draft Plan) relies heavily on its alignment with the broader framework of strategic planning documents, infrastructure policies and legislative requirements that guide transport, growth and development across New South Wales.

For the draft Plan to deliver best-practice outcomes, it must operate through a coordinated and mutually reinforced actions. The draft Plan should include a dedicated principle around the importance of the application of the *Movement and Place Framework* in delivering the identified initiatives. With specific acknowledgment of *Design of Roads and Streets*, *Road User Space Allocation Policy*, *NSW Speed Zoning Standard* and *Roads Act*.

The draft Plan generally aligns with Council's *Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan* in particular, Goal 2 "We have well planned, connected, and liveable places" and the *Wollongong Transport Strategy 2025-2035*.

While the draft Plan sets out a broad strategy for regional and inter-regional travel, Council considers there to be scope to refine the document. Council recommends adjusting the initiatives to include essential planning work to expedite the implementation of the actions needed to realise our shared vision for the region. More clearly defined and targeted initiatives would help deliver substantial improvements in transport services and infrastructure. Such refinements, supported by financial commitment, would better align the draft Plan with the evolving needs of the Illawarra–Shoalhaven Region and the communities who live, work, and visit the area.

#### 2. Initiative Collaboration and Implementation

Achieving sustainable and equitable transport outcomes requires the collective effort of government, businesses, developers, communities, and individuals, each playing a vital role in shaping a future where transport is accessible and fair to all. This includes embracing changes in behaviour and delivering well-informed, integrated transport infrastructure. A people and community-centric focus is essential, viewing the transport system as one network regardless of responsibility or ownership, which is critical for moving people and goods efficiently and sustainably within and throughout the Wollongong LGA. Delivering this integrated transport system will require joint leadership from Council, State and federal governments, and the private sector, with support from the community.



Council welcomes continued ongoing collaboration to help shape and progress the initiatives aligned with Council's priorities and wish to enter a "One Network Agreement" with NSW Government. We acknowledge that initiatives are high level and request the continual sharing of the specific tasks including the scope, timeframe and progress as work commences across initiatives. This commitment to openness and transparency will allow us to strengthen program-level synthesis, share data and knowledge, create clearer connections between related activities and support more effective information sharing across teams and the community.

Council seeks a clear, transparent and agreed list of transport infrastructure projects to be delivered in each local government area to support the strategic objectives of the draft Plan. This should include, but not be limited to, upgrades to existing infrastructure, network capacity improvements, active and public transport enhancements, and supporting place-based and first- and last-mile connections. Clearly articulating what infrastructure will be delivered, where and by whom will provide certainty for Councils, enable better alignment with local planning and investment programs, and ensure that regional objectives are translated into coordinated, place-responsive outcomes across all LGAs. It will also assist Council plan their investment within their own Capital Infrastructure Program over the next 10 years.

Additionally, there are a substantial number of initiatives identified within the draft Plan, some which have been carried through the last two endorsed Plans. Council requests a report to be published which provides a status update (completed, underway, not started, carried over) on all the actions from the 2021 Plan.

To ensure ongoing maintenance and asset management responsibilities are addressed collaboratively and integrated in line with a 'One Network' agreement. It is requested that TfNSW develop and maintain State Road corridor infrastructure for all modes of transport. Council therefore seeks a clear commitment to early and ongoing collaboration with Council and TfNSW on maintenance responsibilities, lifecycle costs and funding arrangements, to ensure transport investments are delivered and sustained in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way across state and local networks.

Council also seeks streamlined and proportionate approval pathways for transport projects delivered by Council that contribute directly to the objectives of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan. Council should be recognised as a delivery partner and collaborator- rather than treated as a developer- where projects form part of the agreed transport network for our Community. Council therefore supports the establishment of a formal 'One Network Agreement' to enable coordinated planning, shared governance and expedited approvals, reducing duplication and delay while ensuring projects are delivered efficiently, consistently and in the broader public interest. In particular fees charged to Council for approval of projects especially those which receive grant funding from Transport for NSW.

### **3. Relationship to South-West Sydney**

The draft Plan includes several opportunities and initiatives that seek to establish or enhance connectivity and services between Wollongong and South West Sydney. There are current commitments and collaboration between the LG8 Councils (Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Wingecarribee, Shoalhaven, Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly) who together form a super region of national significance, playing a pivotal role in Australia's future prosperity and nation building. Additionally, there are discussions around the appropriate boundaries of NSW regions such as Wingecarribee being included in the Illawarra Shoalhaven DPHI planning region. The draft Plan, however, would benefit from including further emphasis on the important relationship between Wollongong and South West Sydney, particularly the Macarthur Region growth areas. The draft Plan acknowledges freight demands between the regions but does not provide context for the movement of people and the services and activities these people undertake within the Wollongong LGA. For example, significant demand for Wollongong's jobs, leisure, recreational and healthcare services originate in South West Sydney. The continued growth of Western Sydney Airport and the Aerotropolis will additionally generate substantial travel demands between both regions.



The mapping and figures of the draft Plan require the proximity and importance of the South-West Sydney and Illawarra-Shoalhaven connection throughout. Section 5.2 in the last paragraph highlights the strategic need to develop tangible transport projects connecting the region to South-West Sydney for all modes of transport.

#### **4. Public Transport Services Planning**

##### Absence of a Wollongong-Shellharbour Public Transport Service Plan

There is an urgent need to develop an overarching Public Transport Plan for the Wollongong Shellharbour area. While the draft Plan includes recommendations for various important elements of future bus and rail enhancements, there is no overarching plan that coordinates or optimises provision between growth areas, transit orientation development (TOD) sites, infill areas, established centres, existing residential areas and so on to achieve sustainable transport outcomes such as significant reduction in car dependency.

The draft Plan states the importance of integrating public transport services into the planning of urban release areas. However, at present the planning appears ad-hoc, without a public facing, overarching 'ultimate development scenario' public transport plan.

The absence of a Public Transport Service Plan hinders the development of integrated transport plans for major state supported growth areas of West Lake Illawarra, Warrawong and around the BlueScope Surplus Lands. With no overarching Public Transport Service Plan for the broader area, Council and TfNSW may develop inefficient, conflicting or redundant public transport schemes for this area given the lack of alignment with future public transport operations of the Wollongong and Shellharbour area. Challenges also arise with Council and or Transport for NSW requiring capital expenditure to retrofit public transport infrastructure such as bus stops, in areas recently developed by the private sector once a service uplift is delivered by Transport for NSW.

##### Bus feeder services

The proposal for high frequency services along a number of bus corridors is welcome. It's critical that these bus feeder services are provided along optimised routes with services frequencies that result in attractive end to end journey times and deliver significant improvements, ultimately reducing car dependency. Detail on the planning and implementation of feeder services should be provided in the draft Plan with appropriate action plan items to allow for sufficient TfNSW resources to be allocated to this crucial work. These services need to respond to activity along each corridor or destination, including supporting our night-time economy. The development of the Wollongong-Shellharbour Public Transport Service Plan mentioned above should include network-wide bus-feeder routes to align with proposed bus corridors and railway stations where appropriate.

#### **5. State supported planning precincts**

##### Existing and future infill development areas

There is currently an absence of NSW Government integration between land-use and transport planning. In this respect, Council supports the provision of high-quality transport options to support NSW Government housing agenda through the Transit Orientated Development (TOD) and Low and Mid-Ride (LMR) housing precincts. Proactive service provisions with associated infrastructure are also required for our existing high-density precincts and centres, such as the Wollongong City Centre, where Council and our development industry has been supporting housing and employment growth for some time. The need for significant improvements to public transport services suggests there are gaps, and opportunities to refine the current agenda and policies, particularly in areas where significant development is occurring, but high-quality and reliable public and active transport is limited. This in turn results in ongoing private vehicle reliance, with impacts being shifted to Councils to try and mitigate.

##### Wollongong Railway Station Precinct

Whilst the TOD sites at Corrimal, North Wollongong and Dapto represent important opportunities for infill development, the principal regional priority for facilitating sustainable high-density infill should be the Wollongong Station precinct. Wollongong is the busiest station in the region, with approximately



140,000 monthly entries and exits. Given Wollongong's role as the region's highest-order commercial centre, an expanding health and education precinct, and the primary hub of the Illawarra economy, investment into this precinct to deliver on the NSW Government Masterplan is critical. The station precinct as it stands today is degraded, disorientating and presents safety concerns that are a barrier for utilisation for all modes of transport.

TfNSW's *Wollongong Station Precinct draft Master Plan* identifies infrastructure upgrades and potential redevelopment opportunities that will provide the catalysts for high density in-fill development with a high level of access to public transport, employment and health services. Council supports the progress of this masterplan in the draft plan action plan.

There is opportunity for significant increases in dwelling capacity within 1200m of Wollongong Station and it should not be represented as a lower order station to Corrimal, Dapto and North Wollongong. A stronger reference to the Wollongong Station Precinct Masterplan within the draft Plan is warranted and would support Council's previous submission to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure welcoming the opportunity to explore the potential for Wollongong to be considered as a Tier 1 TOD precinct.

## **6. Transport Network Development to support Land Release Areas**

### Northcliffe Drive Extension and Western Ring Road

The initiative to continue development of the Northcliffe Drive extension is strongly supported by Council. This corridor's role and function is of the significance of a state road, not a local road, and this role should be reflected in the draft Plan. For this connection to provide adequate access to the West Lake Illawarra Growth area, delivery of the full western ring road including the bus corridor identified in the draft Plan is also required.

Amendment of the relevant initiatives in the draft Plan to deliver the full western ring road will support unlocking of required housing and provide resiliency in the growth area and broader road network. Section 5.3.2 highlights the regional significance to deliver this project to support the delivery of urban release area.

### Mode Shift

Significant mode shift in growth areas can only be realised if sustainable and attractive transport opportunities are in place early so that travel patterns are shaped as the population is established. For West Lake Illawarra, future road network planning assumes a mode shift to sustainable transport. Sustainable public transport infrastructure, service planning, and implementation of services for West Lake Illawarra has been lacking to date and needs to be prioritised to avoid car dependency for the precinct.

Bus interchanges and bus passenger facilities are crucial for supporting sustainable travel on the West Lake Illawarra Growth area. Without supporting infrastructure, use of bus services with or without a connecting rail service will be limited.

## **7. Rail Network Enhancement**

### Rail Corridor Detail and Initiatives

The draft Plan acknowledges the capacity constraints of the rail network. Detail should be provided in relation to key strategic rail corridor segments and associated initiatives for each. A focus on passenger and/or freight movements should be clarified for each segment. Council understands investigations have been undertaken on some segments where next steps to implementation should be taken rather than delaying potential upgrades to undertake network reviews.

### Illawarra to South West Sydney Connectivity (including Aerotropolis)

Council supports the inclusion of initiatives to advance planning work for the Maldon-Dombarton Rail Link. While the draft Plan nominates the link for freight only, rail connectivity to Western Sydney is



critical for not only for freight but also passenger travel. The draft Plan recommends bus service enhancements over rail to provide future public transport connectivity between the Illawarra and South West Sydney. Rail provision for this longer distance travel should be pursued given the significant speed, capacity, user amenity, reliability, safety and environmental benefits over bus travel.

Along with significant enhancements to motor vehicle connectivity as part of the Outer Sydney Orbital project, rail connectivity for passengers between the Illawarra and South west Sydney should be provided. Council strongly supports the provision of freight and passenger rail connectivity via the Maldon-Dombarton alignment with further connectivity to the Western Sydney Airport and St Marys.

Council notes that the 2025 *Inquiry into Critical transport infrastructure supporting the Western Sydney International Airport and Western Sydney Aerotropolis* recommended:

*That the NSW Government investigate the need and feasibility of a freight and passenger rail link to the south-west of the airport and aerotropolis, including completing the Maldon-Dombarton rail line. (Committee on Transport and Infrastructure, 2024)*

Council also notes that the NSW Government response to the above recommendation stated:

*"The Illawarra Rail Resilience Plan will include a detailed assessment of the Maldon Dombarton line, including modelling for both freight and passenger services." (NSW Government, 2025)*

Council recommends the draft Plan be updated to include a commitment to progressing feasibility assessment and business case development, including land value uplift for the Maldon-Dombarton rail link with further connectivity to the Western Sydney Airport and St Marys.

#### Level crossings

Existing level crossings on the Wollongong road network are a significant ongoing risk for pedestrians and cyclists as well as road and rail users. While the draft Plan acknowledges this risk, Council suggests initiatives to improve level crossing safety should be revised to include short and long term objectives for removal of railway level crossings on the network. In terms of priority, the retention of the level crossing at West Dapto Road is impacting on approvals for housing development and uplift in the area. The progression of the Northcliffe Drive extension should be listed and prioritised.

In this regard, Council notes the following policy position in the TfNSW *Level Crossing Closures Policy*:

*"To manage the risks to safety associated with road and rail interfaces, the closure of public and private level crossings in NSW is to be pursued, where it is practical and cost effective to do so. Access may be managed by a grade separation or by redirecting traffic via an alternate approved access route." (Transport for NSW)*

### **8. Disability Standards and Legislation Compliance**

The draft Plan identifies the significant need for accessibility enhancements at bus stops across the region. It includes an opportunity to *"Ensure all public transport stops and services meet the 'Disability Standards for Access to Public Transport' are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and are accessible for people of all ages and abilities."*

The NSW Government has allocated some \$800M across NSW to improve accessibility around train stations via the Safe Accessible Transport program in response to requirements set out in the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) 2002. Whilst this is a highly valuable initiative to make public transport stations and wharves safe, inclusive and easy to use for all passengers, the program did not include funding allocations for local governments to improve bus stop infrastructure.

In 2022 Council completed a review of existing bus stop infrastructure in the LGA and developed a strategy to achieve DSAPT compliance. Whilst it is certainly a priority for Council to upgrade bus stops to provide access for persons with disabilities, external funding programs are needed to accelerate our



ability to improve this essential service across the LGA. Ongoing funding for TfNSW should be provided to undertake key DSAPT compliance outcomes such as the continued roll out of the B Poles.

## 9. Resilience

### Vulnerability of Windang Bridge

Windang Road, including Windang Bridge, is noted in the draft Plan as a key bus corridor, and future location of rapid bus services between Shellharbour and Warrawong/Wollongong. Tidal movement resulting from the permanent opening of the lake entrance is contributing to significant erosion of the waterfront along Windang Foreshore and undermining of Windang Bridge. Council has sought support from the NSW Government to progress a business case to resolve these issues but no commitment has been made by the NSW Government to progress long term options for the Lake Entrance.

The vulnerability of Windang Bridge should be addressed in relation to the future provision of rapid bus transport (and other business as usual transport) through this key connection.

### Flood Mitigation Works

The draft Plan notes opportunities to make transport routes more flood-resilient. It should be noted that upgrades to protect major roads shouldn't end up making flooding worse elsewhere in the LGA. The Draft Plan should make it clear that catchment-wide assessments are needed to ensure improvements on main corridors don't create new or additional flooding in other areas, especially on local roads and property.

### Rail resilience and reliability

While the draft Plan acknowledges rail line disruptions as a challenge for the region, a greater emphasis supported by data on the disruption frequency and severity should be added. This issue is particularly significant in Wollongong's northern suburbs. Greater emphasis on this issue would strengthen the case for delivery of the Rail Resilience Plan initiatives and rail reliability work in general.

## 10. Road network capacity

Road congestion has significant impacts on productivity, public health, safety and livability. Significant areas across the network experience high congestion during peak hours. In many of these areas, opportunities to increase capacity are not viable due to lack of road reserve space and costs associated with significant capacity updates. The draft Plan should acknowledge the limitations of the region's road network. As a growing city, more efficient use of available space will be necessary to accommodate increasing travel demand and avoid the impacts of congestion. Realising this outcome will require a significant shift toward road reallocation to sustainable transport modes.

### M1 Motorway Congestion

The draft Plan does not emphasise broader Princes Motorway capacity issues, especially given the growth of West Lake Illawarra. As an example, the Figtree to Dapto section of the motorway currently experiences very poor levels of service in peak hours affecting road safety, freight and economic outcomes. Traffic modelling done by Council and TfNSW shows major level of service failure of the M1 infrastructure without significant mode shift. These modelling data results should be illustrated in the draft Plan. Given the pace of growth in West Lake Illawarra, the draft Plan should include initiatives in the short term to identify sustainable transport initiatives, such as improved public transport to reduce the number of vehicles travelling on the roads that can reduce future congestion impacts on this crucial corridor as the demand grows.

## 11. Maritime Infrastructure and Services

### Safety

The draft Plan should address existing significant maritime safety issues at Lake Illawarra. Lake Illawarra is used for recreational and commercial maritime activities. Tidal movement resulting from the permanent opening of the lake entrance has created unsafe boating conditions, due to highly turbulent



waters, and unsafe areas due to erosion of the waterfront along Windang Foreshore. These conditions are expected to result in further erosion including the loss of road infrastructure within 5 years, and undermining of Windang bridge – a key bus route between Shellharbour and Warrawong/Wollongong.

Council is working with Crown Lands and TfNSW to resolve multiple issues in relating to the lake entrance and Windang Foreshore. As noted above, Council has sought support from the NSW Government to progress a business case to determine future options for the lake entrance to resolve these issues. The draft Plan should include commitment by the NSW Government to progress this business case.

#### Port Kembla Cruise Ship Terminal

There is no mention in the draft Plan of the potential for Port Kembla to become the next cruise ship terminal for NSW.

The Port presents an ideal location for a cruise terminal and turnaround facility serving the domestic cruise market. Port Kembla is a deep-water, sheltered harbour capable of accommodating vessels up to 300 m in length and 14.5 m draft, with no air-height constraints or congested shipping lanes. The Port currently handles commercial vessels and has capacity for cruise berthing that could be adapted for passenger operations with minimal capital investment. Unlike Garden Island and Port Botany, Port Kembla faces no competing military or container activities, allowing flexible scheduling and streamlined turnaround operations.

Located less than 90 minutes from Greater Sydney by road or rail, Port Kembla benefits from direct motorway links and ongoing upgrades to the South Coast rail line. It is also well positioned near Shellharbour Airport, within 90 minutes of both Sydney and Western Sydney airports, and within two hours of Canberra Airport.

Beyond its infrastructure advantages, Wollongong is a vibrant regional city offering a high-quality visitor experience through a range of attractions all within 30 minutes of the Port.

Establishing a cruise terminal in Wollongong would directly advance NSW Government objectives relating to regional dispersal, economic resilience, and optimal use of existing infrastructure. Investment in Wollongong as NSW's third cruise turnaround port would address current demand, support long-term growth, and help maintain a vibrant and sustainable cruise sector for the state

#### Local and Regional Significance of the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct

Visitation to the Bellambi Foreshore Precinct continues to grow, with the location offering open space, playground, ocean pool, multiple toilet amenities buildings, picnic areas, Bellambi Boat Ramp and Jetty, coastal walking and cycling routes, dog walking beach, and car parking to support these activities.

The Bellambi Boat Ramp and Jetty are highly utilised assets by the local and visiting recreational boating and fishing community, however the location and its assets are not recognised as a regional facility. Within the Wollongong Local Government Area, Wollongong Harbour is classified as a regional facility and Port Kembla Harbour as state significant. With frequent Wollongong foreshore precinct event activations, Wollongong Harbour becomes inaccessible due to road closures. Therefore, the local and visiting recreational boating and fishing community rely on the Bellambi Boat Ramp and Jetty.

The Bellambi Foreshore Precinct already provides the intersecting infrastructure requirements set out within the NSW Government Boating and Maritime Infrastructure Strategy and Plans, of a regional facility. This includes a ramp, jetty, parking, foreshore amenities, storage for a regional facility.



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#### References

Committee on Transport and Infrastructure. (2024). *Critical transport infrastructure supporting the Western Sydney International Airport and Western Sydney Aerotropolis*. Parliament NSW.

NSW Government. (2025). *NSW Government response Inquiry into Critical transport infrastructure supporting the Western Sydney International Airport and Western Sydney Aerotropolis*. NSW Government.

Transport for NSW. (n.d.). *Level Crossing Closures Policy*. Transport for NSW.



### Council advocacy actions

ID	Action	Action Description	Responsibility (Lead, Support)	Timing
1.	Advocate for an aligned Regional Transport Plan and delivery of actions	Ensure the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan acknowledges and responds to the Wollongong Transport Strategy through the inclusion of projects in Council's Infrastructure Priority Plan. Advocate for associated funding to delivery actions, clear prioritisation and transparency for delivery and reporting.	TfNSW Council	Short
2.	Adopt a 'one network' agreement between Council and TfNSW	Adopt a 'one network' approach through an executed agreement between Council and TfNSW including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles and responsibilities on asset ownership and maintenance.</li> <li>• Data and information sharing capabilities to deliver integrated transport solutions</li> <li>• Project prioritisation of investment to achieve mode shift and public transport accessibility</li> </ul> <p><i>Consider the role of the DPFI and State Led planning approvals in this agreement.</i></p>	TfNSW Council DPFI	Short
3.	Advocate for State and Federal transport investment	Advocate for the Wollongong and Region's fair and strategic share of transport investment. Including the timely delivery of transport infrastructure and services and to support future planned growth and a diversification of the community.	TfNSW DPFI Council	Ongoing
4.	Advocate for legislative updates to support efficient, contemporary and best practice transport	Advocate for updates to legislation that reflect the Movement and Place Framework approach and make approval processes clearer and simpler for place-based uses in Streets.	TfNSW Council	Ongoing
5.	Advocate for improved access to TfNSW and State data	Advocate for the continued and improved access to data including crash statistics, Household Travel Survey. Request efficiency in updates, and a consistent and reoccurring data capture.	TfNSW Council	Ongoing



ID	Action	Action Description	Responsibility (Lead, Support)	Timing
6.	Advocate for the funding of the design and delivery of the Strategic Cycleway Corridor	Contribute to the design and delivery of the Strategic Cycleway Corridors, towards a connected network across council boundaries, and to local cycleways to make riding an attractive option for everyday trips.	TfNSW DPHI Council	Short
7.	Advocate for the transition to clean, renewable energy public transport	Transition public transport fleets to cleaner energies that are sustainable and support the improved amenity (noise, air pollution) of our road and street network. Advocate for all new fleets in the region to be fuelled by renewable energy.	TfNSW Council	Ongoing
8.	Advocate for ongoing funding for improved Public Transport Services	Fund and deliver on a Public Transport Service improvements that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports mode shift – buses, train, car share and micromobility</li> <li>• Considers new or alternative modes such as rapid buses, trackless trams, on-demand buses</li> <li>• Responds proactively to future and existing planned residential density including in Urban Release Areas</li> <li>• Provides a high service standards (frequency, travel time, journey time reliability and span of hours</li> <li>• Considers accessibility – physical and financial</li> </ul>	TfNSW DPHI Council	Ongoing
9.	Advocate for rapid public transport services	Advocate for rapid transport services such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• between Wollongong and Oak Flats via Shellharbour City Centre and Wollongong and West Lake Illawarra</li> <li>• between NSW Health Precinct, Wollongong Station and Wollongong Foreshore via Crown or Burelli Streets</li> <li>• On-demand public transport</li> </ul>	TfNSW DPHI Council	Ongoing
10.	Fund and deliver Public Transport Services for West Dapto Urban Release Area	Fund and deliver a Public Transport Service Plan that responds proactively to planned residential density and can be used to advocate for improvements. The Plan will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map existing and proposed road corridors as defined in the Wollongong DCP.</li> </ul>	TfNSW DPHI Council	Ongoing



ID	Action	Action Description	Responsibility (Lead, Support)	Timing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps proposed densities and land use functions</li> <li>• Considers corridors that support alternative transport functions</li> <li>• Support mode shift – buses, train, car share and micromobility</li> <li>• Provide a high service standard (frequency, travel time, journey time reliability and span of hours)</li> <li>• Consider accessibility – physical and financial</li> </ul>		
11.	Advocate for Station upgrades that support the function of these precincts as multi-modal interchanges	Advocate for ongoing Station upgrades that support the function of these station precincts as multi-modal interchanges including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure bike sheds and bike parking</li> <li>• Clear wayfinding</li> <li>• Digital timetable signage</li> <li>• Optimise space for drop off and pick ups</li> <li>• Accessible and legible entrances and exits</li> <li>• Permeability within the surrounding places and precincts</li> <li>• Platform width and length to support future capacity</li> </ul>	TfNSW DPHI Council	Ongoing
12.	Advocate for streamlined speed zones including 30 km/hour speed zones	Implement 30 km/h speed limits as the new standard practice within school zones and in town centres, and design road environments to this speed.	TfNSW Council	Ongoing
13.	Advocate for continued support and enhancement of the Wollongong Gong Shuttle	Continue to support the Wollongong Gong Shuttle, extending hours to cater for nighttime economy, weekends and integrating with other transport modes.	TfNSW Council UOW	Ongoing
14.	Advocate for a Southern Gong shuttle	Advocate for a Southern Gong shuttle, connecting Wollongong City Centre to southern suburbs including major redevelopments such as BlueScope Lands and Warrawong. The route should include utilisation of park and ride facilities.	TfNSW Council	Ongoing

Source: Wollongong Transport Strategy, 2025-2035



ID	Action	Responsibility ( <u>Lead</u> , <u>Support</u> )	Timing
22.	Deliver a Bike Shed at Wollongong Station and any other major NSW Government led developments	TfNSW	Short
44.	<p>Add the infrastructure projects identified within the recommendation's maps for Movement and Place; Walking; Bike riding and Scooting; Public Transport; and Carparking to Councils Infrastructure Request List for future advocacy of funding in the Infrastructure Delivery Program.</p> <p>(Note: The Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan has a series of maps split by mode with infrastructure improvements that apply to State roads. These initiatives should be reviewed by TfNSW, their strategic importance acknowledged within the draft Plan and funding proactively sought for their delivery.)</p>	TfNSW	Short to Medium

Source: *Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan, 2025-2035*



<b>Response to specific items</b>	
<b>Document Reference (key direction or section)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> needs to highlight the state and national significance of the region.
<b>Page 11 last dot point</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> include susceptibility to storm and flash flooding due to our location adjacent to the escarpment
<b>Key directions - 1</b>	Proactive transport improvements including service planning and delivery are required in areas with significant population growth to establish set travel behaviours from the onset.  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Note the importance of mode shift - highlight behaviour change programs in addition to improved services.
<b>Key Directions - 1a</b>	Support inclusion of the Northcliffe Dr Extension into West Lake Illawarra - this reinforces the road should be a State responsibility. The entire Western Ring Road should be also delivered.  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Change wording to 'deliver Western Ring Road through West Lake Illawarra release area including extension of Northcliffe Dr' or similar opening 19,000 doors.
<b>Key Directions - 3e</b>	Planning' for the Maldon-Dombarton rail link should include a more specific next stage such as detailed feasibility or business case. A lot of planning work has already been done and to get the project off the ground  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Change wording to include reference to next stage deliverable
<b>Key Directions - 1a</b>	Refer to submission section "M1 Motorway Congestion"  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Identify sustainable transport solutions that will specifically address congestion.
<b>Key Directions 1b</b>	This direction is vague and too broad, consider a more specific direction to a tangible outcome the network will receive.
<b>Key Directions 2c</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Reword this point as 'bus network coverage' can be misinterpreted to mean spatial coverage
<b>Key Directions 2</b>	Refer to submission section "Public Transport Services Planning"  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Consider a direction similar to "Establish trunk and feeder bus routes that prioritise service frequency and end to end journey speed"



<p><b>Key Directions 3e</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission section “Rail Network Enhancement”</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Move Key Direction 3e under direction 2 to show commitment for freight and passenger service along Maldon-Dombarton route.</p>
<p><b>Key Directions 4b</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion: include rail which is just as susceptible as the noted roads to declared disasters.</b></p>
<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p>The comment in the last paragraph on this page states how important mode shift is to realising the future transport vision. However, Council been advised by TfNSW as part of West Dapto planning that their policy is not to plan to mode split targets anymore.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> TfNSW to clarify what metrics in lieu of mode shift targets will be used to support ongoing multi-modal strategic transport planning</p>
<p><b>4.1 Page 39 - Transport Oriented developments and emerging precincts</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission section “Transit Orientated, Low and Mid-Rise Housing Developments”</p> <p>The Wollongong Station Precinct Masterplan is listed as 'in planning' on Fig 17 (p 61) but it should be highlighted elsewhere in the doc (e.g. under the TOD section).</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> State in this section of the plan that Wollongong station is also a priority that is in the planning stages.</p> <p>Elevate status of Wollongong Station in mapping of TOD sites</p> <p>Include recognition of the Wollongong Health precinct and Illawarra Sports Entertainment precinct.</p>
<p><b>4.1 Page 39 Growth Areas</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Split the projection of West Lake Illawarra from Nowra-Bombaderry as their transport needs and requirements are separate. Could also add a graph showing growth projected across the different precincts.</p>
<p><b>4.1 - Growth Areas</b></p>	<p>Last paragraph refers to the Housing and Productivity Contribution (HPC) but it doesn't clarify that it is just for State infrastructure and that the rest is funded via developer contributions.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Change sentence to read '...to help fund the delivery of <b>State</b> infrastructure...'</p>
<p><b>4.2 – Weather and Climate Impacts</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> reference to the April 6 2024 Declared Disaster is to be noted and commentary provided on its impact to the region.</p>

<p><b>4.3 - Figure 9</b></p>	<p>The Wollongong inset shows 'Goulburn' in the Shellharbour Council area. This should be removed.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Remove Goulburn reference in Figure 9 inset</p>
<p><b>4.3 - Port Kembla Manufacturing Precinct/The visitor economy &amp; tourism</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission "Maritime Infrastructure and Services"</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Consider adding context on high suitability of Port Kembla to provide the state's third cruise terminal.</p>
<p><b>4.4 Page 48 - Mode share and car ownership</b></p>	<p>First sentence - correct figure is 77% when you combine vehicle driver and passenger statistics, not 56%</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> update proportion to 77%</p>
<p><b>4.4 - Mode share &amp; car ownership</b></p>	<p>States that pricing of car parking is a major contributor to the convenience of private vehicle use. However, there doesn't seem to be any further emphasis in the document on this - whilst it may not be popular with some of the community, if we are serious about achieving sustainable travel to/from our major urban centres, support economic growth with higher turnover of vehicles then parking pricing policy should be encouraged for the Illawarra Council areas in appropriate locations.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Further emphasis on how Councils can positively influence sustainable travel to/from urban centres (which are the main attractors for commuting trips due to the employment in these locations) through better parking management.</p>
<p><b>4.4.3 - Bus</b></p>	<p>Error in 2nd para - need to add 'Highway'</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Change last sentence in this paragraph to '...and along the Princes <b>Highway</b> and Crown Street....'</p>
<p><b>4.4.4 Freight</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Figure 16 should also be replicated for rail and include any opportunities the Maldon-Dombarton rail link provides.</p>
<p><b>5.2.2 Page 56,57 - Maps</b></p>	<p>Difficult to read due to size. Little to glean as a result.</p>
<p><b>4.5 Fig 17 - Transport project #15</b></p>	<p>The number marked on plan seems to be over the Albion Park Rail Bypass, whereas the Albion Park to Yallah corridor is further west</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Relocate #15 label further west</p>
<p><b>4.5 Fig 17 - Completed #6</b></p>	<p>The number marked on plan is too far north, should be relocated down to clearly be over the main part of the APRB</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Relocate #6 label south to be over the main part of the APRB for clarity</p>



5.2.2 Page 75	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Last dot point left side, mention nighttime economy
5.2.3 Page 76	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Make quote more obviously a quote
5.2.3 Page 77 - Opportunities	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Make opportunities a dot point list
5.2.3 - Image	<p>Uses outdated image of the Blue Mile before upgrade.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> For a document to be published in 2026, suggest showcasing the latest upgraded infrastructure.</p>
5.2.3 - Quote	<p>#65 is the wrong reference.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Amend quote reference number to 66</p>
5.2.3 - Text	<p>Suggest expanding on the following statement: "In future it will be important to develop dedicated infrastructure for bicycles".</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> "It will be important to develop dedicated infrastructure for bicycles and other micromobility users, along with clear separation between people walking and cycling."</p>
5.2.3 - Text	<p>Suggest adding this intersection to the statement: "Further barriers to pedestrians include limited suitable crossing points across major roads such as the Princes Highway in the town centres of Nowra, Milton and Ulladulla."</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Include cycling and inclusion of Five Islands Road in Wollongong LGA.</p>
5.2.5 - Opportunities	<p>Suggest change: "Ensure all public transport stops and services meet the 'Disability Standards for Access to Public Transport are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act, and are accessible for people of all ages and abilities."</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Suggest adding some commentary on supporting Local Council's to do the same. The NSW Government used \$800 million to upgrade train stations (their delegation). Funding could have been shared to support both local government and Transport for NSW responsibilities for bus stops.</p>
5.2.5 - Opportunities	<p>First dot point has errors - missing a closing inverted comma and a comma after 'Public Transport'</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Insert inverted comma and comma after 'Public Transport'</p>



<p><b>5.2.5 Barriers to universal access to public transport for people of all ages and abilities</b></p>	<p>While the document refers to people with a “needs for assistance” at approx. 7%, it’s important to note that the actual proportion of residents with disability is much higher, about 20%. There will also be people who fall outside of this group of “needs for assistance” who also face barriers accessing public transport. It’s important that the community of people with disability is accurately represented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The acknowledgement that there is a need for universal design is supported.</li> <li>- Between July and October 2025, Council undertook community engagement to inform our next Disability Inclusion Action Plan. We received feedback regarding various challenges experienced with local public transport. We ask that the following feedback be considered as part of updates to the draft Plan:</li> </ul> <p>Summary of feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improved signage, lighting, toilets and seating (with back and arm supports) at bus stops and train stations.</li> <li>o Buses and Train stations don’t always have an access ramp/lift available, and if they do, there isn’t always a staff member present to make them available/operate them.</li> <li>o Some larger, electric wheelchairs require a greater circulation/clearance space than what is deemed as compliant.</li> <li>o People who are blind or have low vision shared challenges with getting on right bus, when several buses have pulled up at the same bus stop. They suggest audio announcements be considered.</li> <li>o People who are deaf or hard of hearing shared that they are at a disadvantage when audio announcements are made. They suggested message boards become a standard feature.</li> <li>o People who are deaf or hard of hearing expressed concerns with emergency intercom on trains. Stating that there should be an option available that enables their use, should the situation arise.</li> <li>o To raise awareness of people with disability and build the capability of staff to provide support to people with disability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Consider key community feedback points above for plan updates and public transport operations generally</p>
<p><b>5.3.1 service response to infill intensification - Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission section “Transit Orientated, Low and Mid-Rise Housing Developments”</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Address the need for improvements in areas already targeted for uplift - not just ‘future’.</p>
<p><b>5.3.1 - Last paragraph</b></p>	<p>Missing ‘is’ (error)</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Change to ‘....which is discouraging...’</p>
<p><b>5.3.1 Page 83 - Quote</b></p>	<p>This quote is not relevant for this page’s content</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Update or relocate quote</p>

<p><b>5.3.2. Page 84 - Third opportunity</b></p>	<p>Close coordination with Council will be required given varied demands and functions of road reserves in Central Wollongong</p>
<p><b>5.3.2 Figure 21 Maps</b></p>	<p>Infill legend item is different shade to what is used on map</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Update infill legend item to match map</p>
<p><b>5.3.1 &amp; 5.3.2 - Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission section: "Public Transport Services Planning"</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Add dot point under 'Opportunities' (preferably under section 5.3.1) to include funding and completion of Public Transport Service Plan for the Illawarra</p>
<p><b>5.3.2 Fig 21</b></p>	<p>The population change in West Dapto urban release area from 2021-2041 seems to only highlight small area in the north of the release area - should be greater change in central &amp; southern area as well</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Check projections and update figure</p>
<p><b>5.3.2 Suburban land release areas will need transport infrastructure and services - Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Supportive of opportunity to "Address the transport needs of greenfield developments by ensuring that transport infrastructure is planned and delivered alongside housing." however, this has been a strategic objective for some time with little action.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Include a commitment to provide the required infrastructure and services a list of required projects and their delivery timeline are to be included in the plan.</p>
<p><b>5.3.2 Suburban land release areas will need transport infrastructure and services - Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Supportive of key direction with specific reference to Dapto Ramps on the Princes Motorway and extension of the Northcliffe Drive into West Lake Illawarra.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Suggest inclusion of reference to total West Lake Illawarra Urban Development outcomes. The current text refers to 19,500 new dwellings over 40-50 years. This only covers West Dapto. With Calderwood and Tallawarra included it is closer to 26,500 / 26,750 dwellings.</p>
<p><b>5.4.1 Page 89</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> fix error second paragraph, second question 'reflects'</p> <p>Include Illawarra Sports Entertainment Precinct in paragraph one.</p>
<p><b>5.4.2 Page 90</b></p>	<p>Bridge heights on the M1 restrict access for larger oversize loads. Future renewable energy projects will involve oversize loads that exceed height restrictions on certain M1 bridges.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> mention bridge height restrictions on M1 affecting oversize movements</p>

5.4.2 Page 91	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> fix error in first opportunity sentence.
5.4.2	There is no mention of movement of ethanol from Bomaderry to Port Kembla? Has this been considered?  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Update plan to note ethanol movements from Bombaderry to Port Kembla and update figure 22 if necessary.
5.4.2	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Add opportunity: Heavy vehicle automated approvals via the NAAS program
5.4.3 Rail capacity constraints limit the ability to meet the region's growing passenger and freight rail demand - Opportunities	Dot point 4 is general and vague. An action is required for each strategic rail corridor and should address whether it is focussed on passengers or freight, or both. There are existing investigations which can be progressed to next steps - rather than completing more reviews.  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Define the rail corridors/sections. Refine to build on the investigations that have already occurred - consider the next step towards implementation.
5.4.3 Page 92	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Update first paragraph right side to add missing full stop
5.4.3 Page 94	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Rectify fourth opportunity error 'of'
5.4.3 Page 94	Rail resilience plan will likely recommend additional opportunities  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> If timing allows include opportunities from the Illawarra Rail Resilience Plan, otherwise note that further opportunities and initiatives will be recommended by the Illawarra Rail Resilience Plan.
5.4.4 Local access pressures hinder support for the visitor, tourism and events economy	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> include reference to parking demand as well as congestion.
5.5.6 Maritime safety in the region	Refer to "Maritime Infrastructure and Services" section of this submission  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Amend section to include and address maritime safety implications relating to Lake Illawarra.
5.5.6 Maritime safety in the region	Refer to "Maritime Infrastructure and Services" section of this submission  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> include opportunities to review and upgrade the regional significance of the existing infrastructure for Bellambi.



<b>5.6 – Page 107</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> The community input summary on page 107 should also mention the April 2024 Declared Disaster storm event, since it caused major disruptions across the Illawarra transport network.
<b>5.6.1 – Page 107</b>	Refer to submission section “Flood Mitigation Works”  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> The plan should make it clear that catchment-wide assessments are needed so improvements on main corridors don’t create new problems in other areas.
<b>5.6.1 – Page 108</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> The section on page 108 about the Princes Highway and Princes Motorway should mention the “dam effect” these large north-south infrastructures (including railway). Their high embankments, limited underpasses, and restricted flow paths can really affect how floodwaters behave. Calling this out is important so future upgrades consider how water needs to move across the landscape, and the potential effect of new/larger underpasses with resilient design and supported by maintenance strategies.
<b>5.6.2 - Opportunities</b>	The various references to extending Northcliffe Dr westward over the Highway and rail line are supported. However, the Transport Plan should make a clear link statement between the Northcliffe Drive extension as an opportunity to address Section 5.6.2 statements regarding a number of rail crossings. This is a clear solution to reducing network susceptibility to shocks and disruptions in this location (Kembla Grange level crossing) and ultimately level crossing removal.  <b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Plan should make a clear link statement between the Northcliffe Drive extension as an opportunity to address Section 5.6.2 statements regarding a number of rail crossings. This is a clear solution to reducing network susceptibility to shocks and disruptions in this location (Kembla Grange level crossing) and ultimately level crossing removal.
<b>5.6.3 – Page 110</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> On page 110, the document should call out the risks from sudden events like flash flooding, which can catch drivers off guard and lead to serious crashes. It would be worth considering quick-response sensors and real-time warning systems that can detect fast-rising water levels and immediately alert drivers to help reduce the risk of accidents.
<b>5.7.4 – Page 118</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> In page 118, in relation to the location of EV charging stations, it is important to provide a guideline regarding types and locations suitable for their installation. In particular, to ensure that this service does not introduce new risks (e.g. electrical hazards if located within the floodplain).
<b>6.1.1 – Future network: Road</b>	<b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Expand this section including figure 34 to include the West Dapto ring road acknowledging its critical function within the road network. Add commentary on the capacity of the road network, and need for mode shift to cater for ongoing growth whilst retaining road network efficiencies to support economy



<p><b>6.1.3 Future network: Public Transport</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission section “Resilience”</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> The vulnerability of Windang Bridge should be addressed in relation to the future provision of rapid bus transport (and other BAU transport) across Windang Bridge.</p>
<p><b>6.1.3 Page 125</b></p>	<p>It should be clarified that the trunk and feeder model will be used with feeder services optimised to realise benefit or high frequency bus corridors.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Include optimised bus feeder services in list of key public transport network features and update relevant plan initiatives</p>
<p><b>6.1.4 Page 128</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission section “Rail Network Enhancement”</p> <p><b>Draft Plan Suggestion:</b> Update plan including relevant initiatives to include freight and passenger services on the Maldon-Dombarton line.</p>
<p><b>6.2.1 Currently committed projects underway</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Mention that Illawarra Rail Resilience Plan includes alternate corridor assessment</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> clarify if short term initiatives are funded. If funded add amount and commitment for delivery.</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives # 3 investigate and progress Maldon Dombarton rail link</b></p>	<p>Language is vague and lacks commitment. Commitment is required for the planning and design work for the Maldon-Dombarton passenger and freight rail link and a feasibility study and a business case analysis, including land value uplift, of the SWIRL- St Marys option</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Potential initiatives wording – “Complete planning and design of the passenger and freight Maldon - Dombarton rail link complete planning and design of the Maldon - Dombarton rail link”</p> <p>“Progress feasibility study and a business case analysis of the SWIRL - St Marys rail corridor”</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives Initiative 7</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Deliver improvements rather than investigate</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives Initiative 8</b></p>	<p>Source for item should be updated</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Change source to Transport for NSW Wollongong Station Masterplan and if relevant, Internal Transport Investigation for the Oak Flats proposal</p>



<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives # 9 - Illawarra and Shoalhaven bus service improvement programs.</b></p>	<p>Existing driver shortages will hinder this initiative.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Adjust to – “Progress planning and implementation of short and medium-term improvements to local bus services across Illawarra Shoalhaven, with a strong focus on recruiting and retaining bus drivers to address current workforce shortages.” or similar</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives # 10 - Illawarra high-frequency core bus network.</b></p>	<p>Wording to “Commence early planning...” suggests potentially a long term timeframe for ultimate delivery. Wollongong, Shellharbour high frequency core bus network outcome is supported in the short term.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Provide additional timing detail such as stages initiatives to ensure adequate progress towards delivery in the short term</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives # 10 - Illawarra high-frequency core bus network.</b></p>	<p>There needs to be commitment to have a dedicated bus corridor within the Western Ring Road and commitment to deliver future network as proposed in Figure 36 and 37</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Potential initiative wording – “Complete planning for the prioritisation and implementation of high frequency, all-day bus corridors and supporting infrastructure to connect key centres and destinations across the Illawarra as shown in Figures 36 and 37”</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 #20 Bulli bypass and transport improvements</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> change language from "progress" to "finalise" business case</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives # 21</b></p>	<p>Refer to submission section “Transport Network Development to support Land Release Areas”</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Potential initiative working – “Continue development of an extension of Northcliffe Drive westward over the Princes Highway and the South Coast rail line to support the West Lake Illawarra Growth Area with more efficient and reliable connectivity to the Princes M1 Motorway, and plan and deliver the Western Ring Road in the West Dapto area to further enhance access and network resilience.”</p>
<p><b>6.2.2 Short-term initiatives # 39</b></p>	<p>Support NSW Government’s regionally significant initiatives with multimodal connectivity. Reference to the redevelopment of BlueScope land in Port Kembla and Kembla Grange should also see the retainment and reuse of existing rail infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Potential initiative wording – “Support NSW Government and local councils to improve transport connectivity with regionally significant projects by enabling people to access these destinations through a range of multimodal transport options, while prioritising the retention and adaptive reuse of existing rail infrastructure.”</p>



<p><b>6.2.3 Medium-term initiatives # 43</b></p>	<p>Improvement of key bus interchanges as an initiative is supported. There are areas where a short term initiative may also be needed. As noted in other parts of this submission, early provision of sustainable transport infrastructure is needed in West Lake Illawarra where commuters will rely on bus to rail interchanges.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Consider short term initiative for West Lake Illawarra key interchanges. Also identify specific priority areas for bus interchanges in consultation with Councils and Bus operators.</p>
<p><b>6.3 Statewide initiatives</b></p>	<p>Initiative #i states 2040 and 2047 dates however figure 30 notes 2030 target for passenger vehicle fleet.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Update initiative "i" as well as figure 30 so that they have the same electric vehicle target dates</p>
<p><b>6.3 Statewide initiatives</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Shift initiative #ix to section 6.2.2 as this should be a short term initiative delivered in part by through Road Safety Officer Program and the Local Traffic Forum LTF function.</p>
<p><b>6.4 Longer-term Objective A safe transport network</b></p>	<p>"Safe level crossing" and "improve rail level crossing safety" are not strong enough statements as part of long Term objectives</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Suggest the longer term outcome is "remove level railway crossings"</p>
<p><b>Page 52, 72,114</b></p>	<p>References made to the Draft Wollongong Integrated Transport Strategy, March 2024</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Suggest amending to the final published version Wollongong Transport Strategy, September 2025</p>
<p><b>General Comment</b></p>	<p>There is no mention of the \$500,000 SVPA funded Albion Park – Yallah Spine Road Study. Status of this study should be confirmed. If the project is not progressing the funds should be channelled back into other key growth area initiatives like Northcliffe Drive Extension final business case.</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Provide update on Albion Park – Yallah Spine Road Study</p>
<p><b>General comment</b></p>	<p>Ongoing commitment required for data capture to support delivery of initiatives including Household Travel Survey</p> <p><b>Draft Plan suggestion:</b> Include a commitment for ongoing funding for data capture including the annual Household Travel Survey</p>

**ITEM 3 POST EXHIBITION - PLANNING PROPOSAL WOLLONGONG LEP 2009 - MINOR AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSES**

On 15 September 2025 Council endorsed the preparation and exhibition of a Planning Proposal to make minor amendments to various clauses in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009.

The Planning Proposal was exhibited from 19 December 2025 to 9 February 2026. No submissions were received.

It is recommended that the Planning Proposal be progressed to finalisation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 The Planning Proposal proposing to make the following minor amendments to various clauses in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 be progressed to finalisation:
  - a Clause 1.8 – include the repeal of Wollongong LEP 1990
  - b Clause 4.1A – include the missing reference to C4 Environmental Living
  - c Various clauses – update the reference to State legislation and agencies (Attachment 1)
- 2 The General Manager be authorised to make any minor amendments to the LEP amendment that does not change the intent of the amendment.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Luke Musgrave, Manager City Strategy  
 Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Summary of Proposed Changes

**ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT**

Abbreviation	Meaning
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
LEP	Local Environmental Plan

**BACKGROUND**

The Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009 commenced on 26 February 2010 and has been amended 69 times by Council and 57 times by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

A review of the LEP is continuous. The LEP is updated to:

- Implement Council’s adopted Strategies, such as the Housing, Retail and Business Centres, Industrial Lands and Tourism Accommodation Strategies.
- Release more land for housing in the West Dapto Urban Release Area.
- Progress supported applicant-led / submitted Planning Proposal requests.
- Ensure it remains contemporary.

A review of the LEP has identified the need to make some minor housekeeping amendments to various clauses. On 15 September 2025 Council considered a report addressing the above and resolved:

- 1 *A Planning Proposal be prepared to make the following minor amendments to various clauses in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009:*
  - a *Clause 1.8 – include the repeal of Wollongong LEP 1990.*
  - b *Clause 4.1A – include the missing reference to C4 Environmental Living.*

- c *Various clauses – update the reference to State legislation and agencies.*
- 2 *The Planning Proposal be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination.*
- 3 *If a Gateway Determination is issued, 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 its delegations to finalise the Planning Proposal.*

Following the receipt of the Gateway Determination, the Planning Proposal was exhibited from 19 December 2025 to 9 February 2026. The Gateway Determination indicated that due to the minor and technical nature of the Planning Proposal an exhibition was not required. However, consistent with Council’s resolution and for transparency, an exhibition period occurred.

### PROPOSAL

No submissions were received during the exhibition period.

It is proposed that the Planning Proposal be progressed without amendment, and an LEP amendment be prepared and made. The proposed amendments are summarised in Attachment 1.

### CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Planning Proposal was exhibited on Council’s Our Wollongong Exhibition webpage and the NSW Planning Portal from 19 December 2025 to 9 February 2026. An exhibition notice was published in the Illawarra Mercury.

Council’s webpage received 109 views and 39 documents were downloaded. No feedback was provided on the webpage.

### PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 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
2.2	Facilitate ecologically sustainable development that considers the current and future needs of our community and environment.	

### CONCLUSION

A review of the Wollongong LEP 2009 written instrument identified the need to make minor updates to some clauses. On 15 September 2025 Council endorsed the preparation and exhibition of a Planning Proposal. The Planning Proposal was exhibited from 19 December 2025 to 9 February 2026. No submissions were received.

It is recommended that Council resolve to finalise the Planning Proposal to make the required amendments to the Wollongong LEP 2009.

## **Attachment 1 Summary of Proposed Amendments**

### **1 Amend Clause 1.8 Repeal of planning instruments applying to land**

Upon commencement in February 2010 the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2009 repealed the application of the Illawarra Planning Scheme Ordinance (1968) and Wollongong City Centre LEP 2007. The LEP overrode the Wollongong LEP 1990 for the majority of the Local Government Area (except Dapto and West Dapto).

In May 2010, the Wollongong (West Dapto) Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 commenced and overrode the application of Wollongong LEP 1990 for Dapto and stages 1 and 2 of the West Dapto Release Area. Wollongong LEP 1990 still applied to stages 3, 4 and 5 of the West Dapto Urban Release Area.

In 2014 the West Dapto LEP 2010 was incorporated into the Wollongong LEP 2009.

The Wollongong LEP 1990 was subsequently phased out through the introduction of Wollongong LEP 2009 (Amendment Nos. 7 and 36), the later in 2018.

Wollongong LEP 1990 has not applied to any land within the LGA since the commencement of Wollongong LEP 2009 (Amendment No. 36) in 2018.

Wollongong LEP 2009 (Amendment No 36) (2018) for the Yallah Marshall Mount area, did not include a provision to list Wollongong LEP 1990 in clause 1.8 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 which lists repealed planning instruments. Accordingly, Wollongong LEP 1990 still appears on the legislation website as an “in force” LEP, which creates confusion.

Since 2018, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) has made seven (7) administrative amendments to the Wollongong LEP 1990 which have not been required.

#### **Recommendation:**

To correct this administrative oversight, it is recommended that clause 1.8 of Wollongong LEP 2009 be amended to include in the note:

*d Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 1990*

### **2 Amend Clause 4.1A – Minimum lot sizes for certain split zones**

Clause 4.1A Split zones was prepared to enable subdivision of lots that are within more than one zone but cannot be subdivided under clause 4.1 as the different zone areas do not meet the mapped standard. The clause allows the zone area of one lot in a subdivision to comply with one minimum lot size standard, and be less than the second minimum lot size standard. The clause was added to Wollongong LEP in 2012. The clause applies to the LGA.

The clause is often used in subdivisions in the West Dapto Urban Release Area, where the area of the C3 Environmental Management zone may be less than the 40 hectare minimum lot size standard. The residual C3 Environmental Management zoned land forms part of a residential lot that complies with the 449m<sup>2</sup>/299m<sup>2</sup> minimum lot size.

In the finalisation of the LEP clause there was an oversight where the E4 (now C4) Environmental Living zone is listed in part (2)(a) of the clause, but was not included in part (3)(a)(i) – see below. The exhibited version and the post exhibition and Council report both included the reference to E4 (now C4) Environmental Living.

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) has advised that given the passage of time, section 3.22 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (expedited amendments to rectify misdescriptions and errors) cannot be used and a Planning Proposal is required.

#### 4.1A Minimum lots sizes for certain split zones

- (1) The objectives of this clause are as follows—
- (a) to provide for the subdivision of lots that are within more than one zone but cannot be subdivided under clause 4.1,
  - (b) to ensure that the subdivision occurs in a manner that promotes suitable land uses and development.
- (2) This clause applies to each lot (an **original lot**) that contains—
- (a) land in a residential, employment or mixed use zone, Zone C4 Environmental Living or Zone W4 Working Waterfront, and
  - (b) land in a rural zone or Zone C2 Environmental Conservation or Zone C3 Environmental Management
- (3) Despite clause 4.1, development consent may be granted to subdivide an original lot to create other lots (the **resulting lots**) if—
- (a) one of the resulting lots will contain—
    - (i) land in a residential, employment or mixed use zone, **Zone C4 Environmental Living** or Zone W4 Working Waterfront, that has an area that is not less than the minimum size shown on the Lot Size Map in relation to that land, and
    - (ii) all of the land in a rural zone, Zone C2 Environmental Conservation or Zone C3 Environmental Management that was in the original lot, and .
  - (b) all other resulting lots will contain land that has an area that is not less than the minimum size shown on the Lot Size Map in relation to that land.

#### Recommendation:

To correct this administrative oversight, it is recommended that “**Zone C4 Environmental Living**” be added to part (3)(a)(i) of the clause.

### 3 Update references to legislation and State agencies

A review of the references in the LEP to Acts, Regulations, SEPPs, and State agencies has been undertaken, which highlighted that a number of references are outdated and require updating.

#### Recommendation:

It is recommended that the following out-dated references to legislation and agencies be updated as indicated in the following table:

LEP Clause	Current wording	Proposed wording (proposed change in red font)
1.9 Application of SEPPs	(2A) <i>State Environmental Planning Policy No 71—Coastal Protection</i> does not apply to land within the Wollongong city centre.	(2A) <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 - Chapter 2—Coastal Protection</i> does not apply to land within the Wollongong city centre.
1.9A Suspension of covenants, agreements and instruments	2(d) to any Trust agreement within the meaning of the <i>Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001</i> , or	2(d) to any Trust agreement within the meaning of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , or

LEP Clause	Current wording	Proposed wording (proposed change in red font)
1.9A Suspension of covenants, agreements and instruments	(e) to any property vegetation plan within the meaning of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> , or	(e) to any property vegetation plan within the meaning of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> , or
1.9A Suspension of covenants, agreements and instruments	(f) to any biobanking agreement within the meaning of Part 7A of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> , or	(f) to any biobanking agreement within the meaning of Part 7A of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , or
1.9A Suspension of covenants, agreements and instruments	(h) to any land vested in the Lake Illawarra Authority under the <i>Lake Illawarra Authority Act 1987</i> .	(h) to any land vested in the <i>Crown</i> under the <del>former</del> <i>Lake Illawarra Authority Act 1987</i> . <a href="#">[Trade and Investment Cluster Governance (Amendment and Repeal) Act 2014 No 26 - NSW Legislation]</a>
3.3 Environmentally sensitive areas excluded	(2)(d) land reserved as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> or as a marine park under the <a href="#">Marine Parks Act 1997</a> ,	(2)(d) land reserved as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> or as a marine park under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ,
3.3 Environmentally sensitive areas excluded	(2)(ja) land identified as containing an endangered ecological community under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> or the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> ,	(2)(ja) land identified as containing an endangered ecological community under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ,
4.2A Erection of dwelling houses on land in certain rural and conservation zones	Note after clause (2) <b>Note:</b> A dwelling cannot be erected on a lot created under clause 9 of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Rural Lands) 2008</i> or clause 4.2.	<b>Note:</b> A dwelling cannot be erected on a lot created under <i>Schedule 4 Part 2 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021</i> or clause 4.2.
5.19 Pond-based, tank-based and oyster aquaculture	(7) <b>Definitions</b> <i>extensive aquaculture</i> has the same meaning as in the <i>Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017</i> .	<i>extensive aquaculture</i> has the same meaning as in the <i>Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2024</i>

LEP Clause	Current wording	Proposed wording (proposed change in red font)
7.2 Natural resource sensitivity— biodiversity	(5)(a) the clearing of native vegetation that is authorised by a development consent or property vegetation plan under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> or that is otherwise permitted under Division 2 or 3 of Part 3 of that Act, or	(5)(a) the clearing of native vegetation that is authorised by a development consent or property vegetation plan under the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> or that is otherwise permitted under Division 2 or 3 of Part 3 of that Act, or
7.2 Natural resource sensitivity— biodiversity	(5)(b) the clearing of vegetation on State protected land (within the meaning of clause 4 of Schedule 3 to the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> ) that is authorised by a development consent under the provisions of the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> as continued in force by that clause, or	(5)(b) the clearing of vegetation on State protected land (within the meaning of clause 4 of Schedule 3 to the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> ) that is authorised by a development consent under the provisions of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> as continued in force by that clause, or
7.2 Natural resource sensitivity— biodiversity	(5)(c) trees or other vegetation within a State forest, or land reserved from sale as a timber or forest reserves under the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i> , or	(c) trees or other vegetation within a State forest, or land reserved from sale as a timber or forest reserves under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> , or
7.2 Natural resource sensitivity— biodiversity	(5)(d) action required or authorised to be done by or under the <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> , the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> or the <i>Surveying Act 2002</i> , or	(5)(d) action required or authorised to be done by or under the <i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i> , the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> or the <i>Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002</i> , or
7.2 Natural resource sensitivity— biodiversity	(5)(e) plants declared to be noxious weeds under the <i>Noxious Weeds Act 1993</i> .	(5)(e) plants declared to be noxious weeds under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .
Schedule 6 Pond-based and tank-based aquaculture Part 1 – Division 2	<b>6 Definition</b> <i>intensive aquaculture</i> has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017</i> .	<i>intensive aquaculture</i> has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2024</i> .

**ITEM 4 POLICY REVIEW - SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER POLICY**

Council’s Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy sets out the laws, responsibilities and programs that ensure our community remains safe as they enjoy the use of private swimming pools. Its core purpose is to reduce the incidents of preventable drownings, with a focus on infant and child drownings.

The Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy has been reviewed as part of the scheduled term Policy review cycle. The review found that the Policy remains generally current and appropriate, with only minor changes required which are primarily administrative in nature.

Given the minor nature of the changes, the updated Policy does not need to be publicly exhibited, and it is recommended that the updated Policy be adopted.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The updated Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy be adopted.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Corey Stoneham, Manager Regulation + Enforcement  
 Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy

**ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT**

Abbreviation	Meaning
Act	Swimming Pools Act 1992 (NSW)
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
the Policy	Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy

**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* (NSW) is to reduce drowning incidents by mandating child-resistant barriers for private pools, requiring registration, and enforcing compliance through Council inspections. It requires pool owners to maintain secure fences, gate safety, and display CPR warning signs.

Additionally, the Act requires Councils to develop a Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy, Procedure and Inspection Program to regulate swimming pools in its Local Government Area.

Council has maintained a Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy, specifically for privately owned swimming pools, since April 2018. A formal review was undertaken in November 2022 which led to the development of the current Policy in consultation with the community through a public exhibition process.

**PROPOSAL**

The Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy provides a framework for delivering swimming pool safety compliance services and outlines key requirements related to:

- Swimming pool fencing standards
- Certification requirements
- Education and awareness initiatives
- Responsibilities of swimming pool owners when leasing or selling a property
- Obligations of Registered (Private) Swimming Pool Certifiers (Registered Certifiers)

A term review of the Policy has been undertaken and proposed changes to the Policy are minor in nature and relate to updating references to Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2035 and minor terminology changes. Given the minor nature of proposed amendments, the updated Policy does not require public exhibition.

The Policy is supported by procedures and inspection and education programs that guide staff and the public in the consistent application of the Policy.

### CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Swimming Pool Safety Compliance Officers and leaders within the Regulation & Enforcement Division have been consulted during the Policy review process.

A public exhibition process was undertaken in 2022 to inform the development of the current Policy in compliance with legislative requirements. The minor nature of proposed amendments identified through this term review does not require further public notification.

### PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

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

Community Strategic Plan 2035		Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy		Service
4.6	Work together to reduce crime, and foster a safe, and resilient community	Regulatory Compliance
4.8	Provide our community with equitable services, access to education, and information to help them make informed choices	

### SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

While there are no direct sustainability impacts in relation to this report, the Policy supports sustainable practices through efficient use of existing resources, digital engagement via QR codes, and social media messaging to promote awareness. These approaches reduce reliance on printed materials and enhance community safety, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and infants.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

Swimming pool safety barrier compliance is classified as a high-risk service under Council’s Compliance and Enforcement Policy. The implementation of the Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy carries the same high-risk classification due to the potential implications on public health and safety.

The primary focus is the protection of infants and young children, who are most vulnerable to drowning incidents. These risks can be effectively mitigated through the consistent application of the Policy.

By ensuring appropriate enforcement and adherence to the Policy, Council upholds its commitment to community safety and fulfils its statutory obligations under relevant legislation.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

### CONCLUSION

The term review of Council’s Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy has been undertaken to ensure it remains current, relevant, and aligned with legislative requirements and best practice.

Minor changes have been made to the Policy to reflect up-to-date legislation and links to current Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.

It is recommended that the revised Policy be adopted.



## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER COUNCIL POLICY

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

### PURPOSE

Drowning in swimming pools is a significant cause of preventable death in children under five years of age.

Council ~~must is required to~~ have a formal, planned, documented, and published program of ~~swimming pool safety barrier inspections across its Local across its Local~~ Government Area (LGA). Council has an important regulatory and educational role with respect to these laws which is the purpose of this policy.

Pool owners are required by law to maintain the safety of their pool area and must ensure that children are properly supervised. ~~All swimming~~ pool owners need to be aware of the relevant laws.

### POLICY INTENT

This Policy aims to provide a holistic approach to how Council will undertake its Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection ~~and Education Program, Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Education Program, and Program, and~~ associated activities across the Wollongong LGA.

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- 1 Aim to reduce infant ~~and child~~ drowning and near drowning events within the Wollongong Local Government Area
- 2 Provide Council, the community and stakeholders with a strategic, consistent and comprehensive approach to managing swimming pool safety barriers across the Wollongong LGA
- 3 Provide a functional and transparent framework to direct Council's response in the management of swimming pool safety barriers (registration, certification and complaints)
- 4 Raise community awareness of the importance of ~~compliant~~ swimming pool safety barriers and ~~maintaining ongoing compliance of complying swimming pool safety barriers~~ their ongoing maintenance
- 5 Ensure Council satisfies its legal obligations under the Swimming Pool Act 1992
- 6 Ensure consistency in the application and enforcement of the Swimming Pool Act 1992
- 7 Increase ~~swimming~~ pool safety awareness

### WOLLONGONG 2032 OBJECTIVES

Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy links to the Council's ~~Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Community Strategic Plan Operational Plan and Community Strategic Plan 2022-2023~~ which outlines all the actions we are committed to delivering for our City and our community including specifically in relation to this policy:

~~Goal 4 – We have a healthy, respectful and inclusive community. It specifically delivers on:~~

- ~~1. 4.6 Work together to reduce crime, and foster a safe, and resilient community~~
- ~~2. 4.8 Provide our community with equitable services, access to education, and information to help them make informed choices~~

~~● Goal 1 – We value and protect our environment~~

- ~~○ How – Undertake regulatory inspections of swimming pool safety barriers.~~

~~● Goal 5 – We have a healthy community in a liveable city~~

- ~~○ How – Inspect and register places of shared accommodation (boarding houses), private swimming pools, and mortuaries.~~

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER

## COUNCIL POLICY

### POLICY

#### 1. Introduction

Drowning is one of the major causes of death for NSW children. According to the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia, ~~On average, fifteen~~ children under the age of five drown in backyard swimming pools and many more suffer brain damage and other serious injuries associated with near-drowning experiences each year in Australia.

~~Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2021 identified that during the 12 month period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 294 people lost their lives to drowning in Australian waterways, from which 30 deaths were reported in swimming pools, one third of these deaths were children under the age of ten.~~

#### 2. Legislative Arrangements

In 1992 the *Swimming Pools Act* (the Act) was enacted, to curb the number of child related fatalities in swimming pools.

The purpose of the Act was to ensure ~~that~~ swimming pools and spa pools were adequately fenced with compliant safety barriers and to prevent further drownings. Some other safety requirements are prescribed, including the requirement for a warning notice to be displayed near the swimming pool.

On 29 October 2012, additional amendments were made to the Act. The following key responsibilities for Councils were introduced:

- a) Develop and implement a Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program in consultation with the community
- b) Inspect swimming pool safety barriers at three (3) year intervals associated with tourist and visitor accommodation and multi-occupancy residential developments with swimming pools in communal areas
- c) Inspect swimming pool safety barriers at the request of a pool owner, and prior to sale or lease of the property
- d) Issue Compliance Certificates after an inspection which finds a pool safety barrier compliant with the requirements of the legislation. Compliance Certificates are valid for three (3) years.
- e) Report annually on the number of pool safety barrier inspections undertaken and the level of compliance with the requirements, including signage

From 29 April 2016 further amendments were made which required all premises that are to be sold, leased or rented to have a valid Swimming Pool Certificate of Compliance within the contract. The issuing of a Certificate of Non-Compliance would allow a property with a swimming pool to be sold without the barrier being compliant.

In addition to the Act, a number of legislative instruments also exist in NSW to guide backyard swimming pool safety, such as the *Swimming Pools Regulation 2018*, *Conveyancing (Sale of Land) Regulation 2010*, *Residential Tenancies Act 2013*, *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*, Australian Standard 1926.1 (Fencing for Swimming Pools), National Construction Code of Australia and the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Guideline.

From 1 January 2018 the NSW Government transferred the swimming pool regulatory scheme from the Office of Local Government (OLG) to the Department of Finance, Service & Innovation (DFSI). Therefore, ~~the~~ administrative responsibility for the *Swimming Pool Act 1992* and *Swimming Pool Regulation 2018*, has been transferred to a wider Government program.

#### 2.1 Swimming Pool Laws

The *Swimming Pools Act 1992* applies to swimming pools and spa pools that are located (or being built) on sites with a residential building, movable dwelling or tourist and visitor accommodation.

These laws apply to the owner of a property with a swimming pool or spa pool.

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER

## COUNCIL POLICY

In a strata or community scheme, all ~~of the~~ lot owners jointly own any swimming pool or spa pool ~~that is~~ on common property. The owner's corporation (or body corporate) is responsible for ensuring such pools are compliant with the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*.

The law applies to any excavation, structure or vessel including swimming pools and spa pools that are:

- capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 30cm, and
- used, designed, manufactured or adapted for swimming, wading, paddling or any other human aquatic activity.

### 2.2 Owner Responsibilities

#### 2.2.1 Swimming Pool Registration

Importantly, pool owners must register their pools online on the NSW Swimming Pool Register. Owners may pay a fee to Council to do this on their behalf.

A certificate of registration will be issued to the pool owner. Owners can go to the NSW Swimming Pool Register website to check that their pool has been registered.

#### 2.2.2 Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Fencing

Owners of properties with swimming pools must at all times:

- ensure ~~that~~ pools are surrounded with a child-resistant safety barrier that separates the swimming pool(s) from any residential building and any place adjoining the property
- keep closed ~~the all~~ doors and gates ~~that provide~~ providing access to the swimming pool
- ensure ~~that~~ fences ~~and barriers~~ surrounding pools are designed, constructed, installed and maintained to comply with the relevant ~~laws and~~ Australian Standards.

Visit the pool safety checklists page on the NSW Government's Swimming Pool Register for more information.

Note that portable and inflatable pools that are capable of being filled to a depth of 30cm (300mm) or more must also be surrounded by a swimming pool safety barrier and meet the requirements listed above.

#### 2.2.3 Swimming Pool CPR Signage

In case of an emergency the law requires that a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) sign is displayed near the pool.

From 1 September 2019, new CPR signs came into effect. From this time, all new pools must use the updated signage.

Owners of existing pools aren't required to update their signage unless the pool barrier is substantially altered or rebuilt.

CPR signs are available from local pool shops or community organisations such as St John Ambulance, the Australian Red Cross or Royal Life Saving.

The sign must be in good condition and able to be read easily from 3 metres.

#### 2.2.4 Signage for pools under construction or renovation

For pools under construction a sign must be displayed that states:

*"This swimming pool isn't to be occupied or used"*.

The sign must be ~~displayed at all times~~ ~~always~~ displayed while the pool is under construction and only removed once a *Certificate of Compliance* or *Occupation Certificate* has been issued.

### 2.3 Council responsibilities

According to NSW Government's swimming pool register (NSW register), there are more than ~~129,390~~ 129,390 swimming pools registered within ~~the~~ Wollongong City Council Local Government Area (LGA).

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER

## COUNCIL POLICY

Wollongong City Council is required to:

- develop and implement a swimming pool safety barrier inspection program in consultation with their communities
- investigate complaints about breaches of the Swimming Pools Act 1992
- inspect pools associated with tourist and visitor accommodation at three-year intervals
- at the request of a pool owner prior to the sale or lease of the property, inspect a swimming pool or spa pool for compliance
- issue either a Certificate of Compliance or Non-compliance after an inspection
- where necessary, direct pool owners to take action to ensure that legislated pool barrier requirements are met
- make publicly available a relevant extract of the National Construction Code of Australia, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Guideline, and applicable Australian Standards
- report annually on the number of pool inspections undertaken and the level of compliance with the legislative requirements.
- Educate the community on the importance of swimming pool safety and compliance with the Swimming Pool Safety Act 1992

### 2.4 NSW Fair Trading – Private Certifier responsibilities

NSW Fair Trading registers professionals to inspect and certify private swimming pools under NSW swimming pool laws.

Registered swimming pool ~~inspectors~~ (certifiers) are required to:

- at the request of a pool owner, inspect a swimming pool or spa pool prior to the sale or lease of the property
- issue either a Certificate of Compliance or Non-compliance after an inspection
- provide written Notice to owners and Council when a pool does not comply.
- Registered swimming pool ~~inspectors~~ certifiers may only certify existing (not new) pools and cannot certify any pool that achieves compliance with the National Construction Code of Australia by means of a 'performance solution'.

#### Minor Repairs by Registered Certifiers

Some certifiers may do minor repairs (up to \$1,000 including materials and labour) to enable them to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

To do so, those ~~c~~ Certifiers must have an endorsed contractor's licence or qualified supervisor's certificate under the Home Building Act 1989, authorising them to build a swimming pool or structural landscaping. However, the pool owner is free to ~~hire~~ engage another tradesperson to do the work.

### 2.5 Certification

#### 2.5.1 Certificate of Compliance

Council Swimming Pool Safety Compliance Officers ~~pool inspectors~~ and registered swimming pool ~~(certifiers)~~ can inspect swimming pool and spa pool safety barriers and issue a *Certificate of Compliance* if the barrier meets requirements.

Pool owners should contact Council or a private certifier early, to allow time to organise an inspection before renting or selling a property.

A certificate of compliance is valid for three (3) years.

**SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER****COUNCIL POLICY**

Pool owners can visit the NSW Swimming Pool Register website to check if a certificate of compliance has been issued for their particular property.

**2.5.2 Selling a property with a swimming pool or spa pool**

Owners who are selling a property with a swimming pool or spa pool must ensure the contract for sale includes a registration certificate issued from the Swimming Pool Register, and one of the following:

- a valid swimming pool certificate of compliance, or
- a relevant occupation certificate issued within the last 3 years, or
- a certificate of non-compliance.

If one of the above isn't included, the purchaser may rescind the contract within 14 days of exchange, unless settlement has already occurred.

If a certificate of non-compliance is attached to the contract, the purchaser takes on the obligation to obtain a certificate of compliance. They will have 90 days from settlement to rectify defects listed in the certificate of non-compliance and obtain a certificate of compliance.

This requirement does not apply to a lot in a strata scheme or in a community scheme if that strata or community scheme has more than two lots, or if the sales contract is for an off-the-plan property.

**2.5.3 Renting a property with a swimming pool or spa pool**

When a residential tenancy agreement is entered into for a property with a swimming pool or spa pool, the landlord or real estate agent must provide the tenant with a copy of the certificate of compliance or Occupation Certificate.

A certificate of non-compliance cannot be used to rent a property.

If a certificate of non-compliance is issued, Council is obligated to issue a written directions notice to remedy the non-compliance before the premises may be rented.

~~If you have a~~Any concerns about the actions of a real estate agent, ~~contact~~ should be directed to NSW Fair Trading.

**3. Education and Awareness Program**

Council has over the years implemented swimming pool safety barrier education campaigns aimed at increasing the awareness of the community regarding pool safety and legislative requirements. Swimming pool safety and awareness continues to be part of Council Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Inspection Program.

Education materials, information brochures, multimedia advertisements and website information will continue to be developed and used by Council, the State government and the Royal Lifesaving Society.

Section 5 of the Act requires Council to promote awareness of the requirements of Swimming Pools Act and associated Australian Standards.

Clause 21 of the Regulation requires Council to ensure that certain swimming pool related documents are made available and accessible to the community.

These documents include the following:

- Australian Standard AS1926.1-2007 "Swimming pool safety – Location of safety barriers for swimming pools" (Hardcopy only)
- The National Construction Code of Australia (Hardcopy Only)
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Guideline (Hardcopy and electronic on Council's website at [www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au)).

These documents are available for free public viewing at Council administration offices during normal business hours. Due to copyright laws, Council will not allow these documents to be taken away from the

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER

## COUNCIL POLICY

building, printed or copied. The Australian Standards are available for purchase from SAI Global at [www.saiglobal.com](http://www.saiglobal.com).

The Building Code of Australia is available for purchase from the Australian Building Codes Board at [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au)

The Australian Resuscitation Council have the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Guideline (Guideline 8) available for viewing at [www.resus.org.au](http://www.resus.org.au). By registering at the website visitors can access and print the guideline free of charge.

#### 4. More information

Owners can search the NSW Swimming Pool Register to check if a pool has been registered and whether a Certificate of Compliance (valid for three years) has been issued.

Visit the Royal Life Saving NSW website or contact council for more information, fact sheets and water safety requirements.

#### 5. Other resources

- [Royal Life Saving NSW website](#) - Information on swimming pool/spa and water safety requirements.
- [Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Australia](#)
- [Spa Pools](#) - Safety guidelines for spa pools.
- [Inflatable Swimming Pools](#) - Safety guidelines for inflatable or portable pools.
- [Office Of Local Government Website](#) - Search for your local council contact details.
- [Find A Private Certifier](#) - NSW Swimming Pool Register authorised swimming pool inspectors

#### REPORTING

It is a requirement of Section 22F of the Act that Council includes in its annual report under Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 information in relation to swimming pool inspections undertaken by Council.

#### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Wollongong City Council first developed the “*Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Policy*” in April 2018.

Swimming pool compliance activities at ~~Council WCC~~ are administered by specially trained ~~Development Compliance Officers trained as Swimming Pool Safety Compliance Officers~~ ~~Pool Safety Barrier Specialists~~, who are appointed ~~to deliver this service~~ on a full-time basis.

NSW Fair Trading registers professionals to inspect and certify private swimming pools under NSW swimming pool laws.

#### RELATED PROCEDURES

- Wollongong City Council - Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Swimming Pool Safety Barrier – Inspection ~~and Education~~ Program Procedure
- ~~Swimming Pool Safety Barrier – Education Program Procedure~~

**SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER**

**COUNCIL POLICY**

APPROVAL AND REVIEW	
Responsible Division	Regulation and Enforcement
Date adopted by Council	[To be inserted by Corporate Governance]
Date/s of previous adoptions	28 November 2022, 3 April 2018
Date of next review	[Not more than four years from last adoption]

**ITEM 5 APPROVAL TO SEEK MINISTERIAL CONSENT TO GRANT AN AGREEMENT FOR LEASE AND A LEASE - NORTH WOLLONGONG BEACH CAFE & KIOSK**

This report recommends that Council apply to the Minister for Local Government for consent to enter into an agreement for lease and a lease with North Kiosk Pty Ltd (ABN 45 106 911 862) for the North Wollongong Beach Café & Kiosk, located on land described as Part Lot 70 DP 751299, Part Lots 1 and 3 DP 1136814 and Part Lot 11 DP 865220. Statutory public notification was undertaken in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1993 and, as objections were received and not withdrawn, Council is required under Section 47(5) to seek the Minister’s consent before granting the proposed agreement for lease and lease.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 Note the public notice and exhibition of the agreement for lease and lease over the land described as part of Stuart Park being Part Lot 70 DP 751299, Part Lots 1 & 3 DP 1136814 and Part Lot 11 DP 865220 has been carried out in accordance with Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- 2 Note that submissions objecting to the proposed agreement for lease and lease were received during the public exhibition period and those objections have not been withdrawn.
- 3 In accordance with Section 47(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes an application to the Minister for Local Government for consent to grant the proposed agreement for lease and lease of the North Wollongong Beach Café and Kiosk over the land described as part of Stuart Park being Part Lot 70 DP 751299, Part Lots 1 & 3 DP 1136814 and Part Lot 11 DP 865220 to North Kiosk Pty Ltd (ABN 45 106 911 862) for a term of five (5) years with two (2) options of five (5) years each under Section 46(b)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**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.

**ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT**

Abbreviation	Meaning
GIPA	Government Information (Public Access)

**BACKGROUND**

On 15 December 2025, in reference to the lease of North Wollongong Beach Café and Kiosk, Council resolved in part to:

1. *Council accept the offer of North Kiosk Pty Ltd for the Lease of North Wollongong Beach Café & Kiosk subject to the consideration of any submissions made during the statutory notice period as required under Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1993.*

Public notice was carried out in accordance with Chapter 6, Part 2, Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The proposed agreement for lease and lease was publicly advertised for a period of 28 days, concluding on 23 December 2025, with two (2) objections received.

The following table summarises the objections received and Council’s response:

Theme	Objection (Summary)	Council's Response
<p>Lease Term, Tenure and Consistency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Claims inconsistency between public notice and Council resolution</li> <li>○ Suggests total tenure exceeds 15 years</li> <li>○ Says tender documents and draft lease differ</li> <li>○ Objects to 15-year term and compares nearby sites</li> </ul>	<p>Council originally advertised the leasing tender for a 5 + 5-year term (total 10 years) closing on 21 October 2025.</p> <p>Following review of the tender submissions received, Council resolved to readvertise the lease for a longer term of 5 + 5 + 5 years (total 15 years) to support the capital investment into Council's asset.</p> <p>The revised Public Notice reflected Council's resolution of 15 December 2025, confirming the longer lease term being 15-year lease term.</p> <p>An agreement for lease is not considered a lease and is instead a contractual promise to grant a lease in the future. It is not part of the lease term and, accordingly, does not create or extend tenure. The agreement for lease will be executed with the tenant during the seawall upgrade and North Beach Kiosk building upgrade works, prior to the commencement of the formal lease. The Lessee will not be able to trade or operate during the agreement for lease period.</p> <p>The Lease documents accurately reflect Council's resolution.</p> <p>A 15-year lease term is permissible under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>, is supported by independent valuation advice, and is typical for commercial arrangements requiring substantial Lessee capital investment.</p>
<p>Statutory Process, Notification and Ministerial Consent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Claims Ministerial consent was not addressed</li> <li>○ Allegations of notice period being insufficient</li> <li>○ Questions Plan of Management authority and procedural validity</li> </ul>	<p>Council met all requirements of Sections 47 and 47A of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> in relation to the Statutory Public Notification 28 period.</p> <p>Under Section 47(5)(a), Council resolves to seek Ministerial consent after considering submissions, which this report now seeks. The Plan of Management supports the proposed café use which permits food and beverage consistent with the proposal.</p>
<p>Tender Process, Probity and Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alleged non-compliance with policy guidelines</li> <li>○ Concerns about declined tenders, negotiation pathway, recommendation changes, and conflicts</li> <li>○ Questions GIPA access</li> </ul>	<p>A competitive tender was completed. Regulation 178 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 allows Council to decline tenders and negotiate. Negotiations were structured and guided by independent valuation and probity advice. Conflicts were declared and managed appropriately in line with Council's Policies and Procedures.</p> <p>Recommendation changes reflected updated advice and Council direction. GIPA requests were processed lawfully; commercial-in-confidence and privileged material are exempt.</p>

Theme	Objection (Summary)	Council's Response
Market Valuation and Commercial Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concerns about rent level, valuation method and non-disclosure</li> <li>○ Suggests long terms reduce community benefit</li> </ul>	<p>Council sought independent valuation advice on two occasions to assist with the lease negotiations. The offer accepted by Council exceeds the market advice.</p> <p>Full reports cannot be released due to commercial-in-confidence restrictions. Annual fixed percentage increases and market review clauses in the lease ensure ongoing commercial return.</p> <p>Upon finalisation of the lease documentation and execution, the commercial rental will be made available on Council's contract register in accordance with Section 53 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p>
Public Use, Amenity and Operational Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concerns about pedestrian corridor impacts and Crown land protection</li> </ul>	<p>The leased area does not encroach on the pedestrian corridor. The proposal enhances public benefit through activation, increased revenue and stronger maintenance obligations while maintaining public access.</p>

As objections were received, a resolution from Council is required to seek Ministerial consent under Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Once a determination is received from the Minister for Local Government, Council will notify the submitters of the outcome.

## PROPOSAL

In accordance with Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council must obtain the Minister's consent to enter into the proposed agreement for lease and lease with North Kiosk Pty Ltd (ABN 45 106 911 862), as objections were received to the granting of a lease exceeding five years.

Pursuant to Section 47(9), the granting of the Minister's consent constitutes conclusive evidence that Council has complied with public notice and objection requirements.

Subject to the Minister's determination, lease documentation allows for reasonable amendment or delayed commencement to accommodate any conditions imposed.

## CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The agreement for lease and lease proposal was publicly notified for a period of 28 days in accordance with Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The public notification comprised of a notice on Council's website, written notification to surrounding property owners and the placement of a notice sign on the land inviting public submissions. The public submission period concluded on 23 December 2025.

Two (2) submissions by way of objection were received as outlined above.

## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 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 Plan 3.3 – 'Increase and attract new business investment and enterprise to Wollongong while supporting and growing existing local businesses.'

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The proposal is subject to the requirement for Ministerial consent under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This risk is being managed through completion of the statutory notification process, consideration of the submissions received, and an application is being prepared to the Minister for determination. No agreement for lease or lease will be granted and no financial commitment entered into until Ministerial consent is obtained.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Upon granting of the agreement for lease and lease, Council will receive commercial market rental as outlined in the confidential attachment to the previous Business Paper Item 17 dated 15 December 2025.

## CONCLUSION

This report recommends that Council resolve to apply for the Minister's consent to enter into an agreement for lease and lease with North Kiosk Pty Ltd (ABN 45 106 911 862) as objections have been received. In accordance with Section 47(9) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Minister's consent is conclusive evidence that Council has complied with statutory requirements.

## ITEM 6 LEAVE OF ABSENCE - COUNCILLOR DAN HAYES - 23 FEBRUARY 2026

Councillor Dan Hayes has requested a leave of absence for the 23 February 2026 Council Meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

Leave of absence be granted to Councillor Dan Hayes for the 23 February 2026 Council Meeting.

### 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.

**ITEM 7 RETURNS OF DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS - FEBRUARY 2026**

The Model Code of Conduct requires the General Manager to table all Returns of Disclosures of Interest lodged by persons nominated as designated persons, at the next council meeting after they are received. Electronic copies of these returns will be tabled at the meeting in accordance with the Model Code of Conduct.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Council notes the tabling of the Returns of Disclosures of Interest as required by Part 4 of the Model Code of Conduct.

**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 *Government Information Public Access Act 2009*, Council makes the returns of interests by ‘designated officers’ available free of charge on Council’s website. Council redacts residential addresses from online versions of the returns to protect the safety of the individuals named.

**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.	Governance and Administration

**ITEM 8 DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS**

This report outlines Council’s financial performance against phased budget for the financial year-to-date, as at 26 December 2025. Monthly Financial Reports are provided to support transparency and ongoing monitoring, however, unlike the Quarterly Review, they do not include detailed analysis of full-year or forward-year financial impacts. Where material timing variations arise, monthly results may provide an early indication of potential changes that are considered in detail through the Quarterly Review process.

These reports provide budget variation against the September Quarterly Review and do not yet reflect proposed changes to the budget included in the December Quarterly Review.

The year-to-date financial result compared to budget is favourable for the Operating Result (pre-capital, inclusive of non-funds transactions) by \$9.1M, and Funds Available from Operations by \$3.9M.

The Total Funds Result is favourable to budget by \$16.0M. This result includes the reflection of the timing of capital works delivery within the Infrastructure Delivery Program rather than an improvement in Council’s underlying financial capacity.

Council has expended \$53.9M on its capital works program to date, representing 38.6% of the annual budget, compared with a budgeted year-to-date expenditure of \$70.5M. Variations from budget generally reflect the staging and timing of project delivery rather than changes to the overall scope of Council’s capital program.

A detailed analysis of the variations noted above, including proposed changes to the delivery schedules of specific projects, is provided in the Quarterly Review included elsewhere in Council’s business papers for this meeting.

The Statement of Financial Position at the end of the reporting period indicates that Council holds sufficient cash to meet all externally restricted requirements and planned commitments. Cash balances largely reflect funding received for specific purposes, including capital works, that will be expended as projects progress.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The financials be received and noted.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer  
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Financial Statements - December 2025

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

Term	Definition
Capital Expenditure	Capital Expenditure refers to the funds the organisation invests in acquiring, constructing, or upgrading long-term assets that will provide benefits over multiple years. These assets are typically infrastructure, property, plant, and equipment. This type of expenditure is capitalised on the balance sheet and depreciated or amortised over the asset’s useful life. In performance reporting, movements in Capital Expenditure often reflect changes in strategic investment programs, asset renewal cycles, or the timing of major projects.
Operating Expenses	Operating Expenses are the ongoing costs required to run business operations within the financial year. These include, but are not limited to, employee expenses, materials and contract expenses, utilities, maintenance, administrative expenses, and other recurrent and non-current spending necessary to deliver services.

## BACKGROUND

This report presents the Financial Performance of Council for the financial year to date up to 26 December 2025. The below table provides a summary of the organisation's overall full year financial results.

<b>Wollongong City Council</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>	
<b>26 December 2025</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variation</b>
<b>Year to Date Position</b>	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
	<b>1-Jul</b>	<b>26-Dec</b>	<b>26-Dec</b>	<b>26-Dec</b>	
Operating Revenue	348.9	373.7	189.0	191.1	2.1
Operating Costs	(362.2)	(363.1)	(180.5)	(173.5)	7.0
<b>Operating Result [Pre Capital]</b>	<b>(13.3)</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Capital Grants & Contributions	70.2	71.0	34.5	20.3	(14.2)
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>(5.2)</b>
<b>Funds Available from Operations</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Capital Works</b>	<b>139.4</b>	<b>139.4</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>16.6</b>
<b>Contributed Assets</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	-	-	-
Transfer to Restricted Cash	2.8	43.3	41.9	36.0	5.9
Borrowings Repaid	-	-	-	-	-
Funded from:					
- Operational Funds	68.7	56.9	25.6	29.5	3.9
- Other Funding	79.6	112.2	68.0	57.9	(10.1)
<b>Total Funds Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>(19.5)</b>	<b>(18.8)</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>	<b>16.0</b>

## Operating Results

The Operating Result [pre-capital] for December 2025 is a year-to-date surplus of \$17.6M against phased budget, representing a favourable variance of \$9.1M compared to the budgeted surplus of \$8.5M. This result includes non-cash accounting transactions and reflects timing of operational income and expenditure across the financial year.

The Operating Result for the same period is a surplus of \$37.9M, which is an unfavourable variance of \$5.2M compared to budget. This variance is primarily driven by the timing of capital grant income and capital expenditure recognition rather than changes to operational performance.

## Funds Results

### *Funds Available from Operations*

Funds Available from Operations is favourable by \$3.9M compared to the year-to-date budget of \$25.6M. This measure excludes non-cash accounting transactions and movements to and from restricted reserves but includes variations in cash payments for employee entitlements. This result provides the clearest indicator of changes to Council's short-term funding position and current financial capacity arising from operational performance.

### *Total Funds Result*

The Total Funds Result as at 26 December 2025 is favourable to budget by \$16.0M. This variance largely reflects the timing of delivery of the capital works program and associated funding receipts rather than the creation of additional discretionary financial capacity.

## Capital Works

At the end of December, Council had expended \$53.9M on its Capital Works Program, representing 38.6% of the annual budget, compared with a budgeted year-to-date expenditure of \$70.5M.

The variance reflects the phasing and staging of project delivery, procurement timeframes, and construction scheduling. Detailed analysis of project-level timing changes and proposed revisions to delivery schedules is provided through the Quarterly Review process.

## Financial Position

### Cash, Investments and Available Funds

Council's cash and investments decreased during December 2025 to \$256.0M, compared to \$272.5M at the end of November 2025, reflecting usual movements in these balances associated with the timing of operational and capital expenditure across the financial year.

<b>Wollongong City Council</b>				
<b>26 December 2025</b>				
<b>Cash, Investments and Available Funds</b>				
	<b>Actual 2024/25 \$M</b>	<b>Original Budget 2025/26 \$M</b>	<b>Revised Budget 2025/26 \$M</b>	<b>Actuals YTD July 2025/26 \$M</b>
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>214.5</b>	<b>206.3</b>	<b>243.1</b>	<b>256.0</b>
Less Restrictions:				
External	103.2	105.3	114.9	111.5
Internal	67.6	86.2	103.6	96.9
CivicRisk Investment	3.7			3.7
Total Restrictions	174.5	191.6	218.6	212.1
<b>Available Cash</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>43.9</b>
Adjusted for :				
Payables	(27.5)	(32.6)	(30.1)	(17.0)
Receivables	30.2	32.7	32.5	8.0
Other	3.8	1.9	(10.1)	8.4
Net Payables & Receivables	6.5	2.0	(7.7)	(0.6)
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>43.3</b>

A significant portion of Council's cash and investments is subject to external and internal restrictions, meaning these funds can only be utilised for specified purposes or future commitments. Council's true discretionary cash position is, therefore, best assessed by considering Available Funds that are not subject to restriction, albeit these funds are allocated in the budget in line with financial sustainability targets.

External restrictions represent funds that must be expended for a specific purpose and cannot be used for general operating activities. Internal restrictions represent Council-determined allocations for future purposes, which may be varied by resolution of Council. Further detail is provided in the Cash Flow Statement (Attachment 1).

Council's Available Funds position remains above Council's Financial Sustainability Policy target range of 3.5% to 5.5% of Operational Revenue [Pre-capital], indicating that liquidity remains strong. The high balance also reflects timing variations in capital delivery. Other cash movements remain broadly aligned with anticipated cash flows over the financial year.

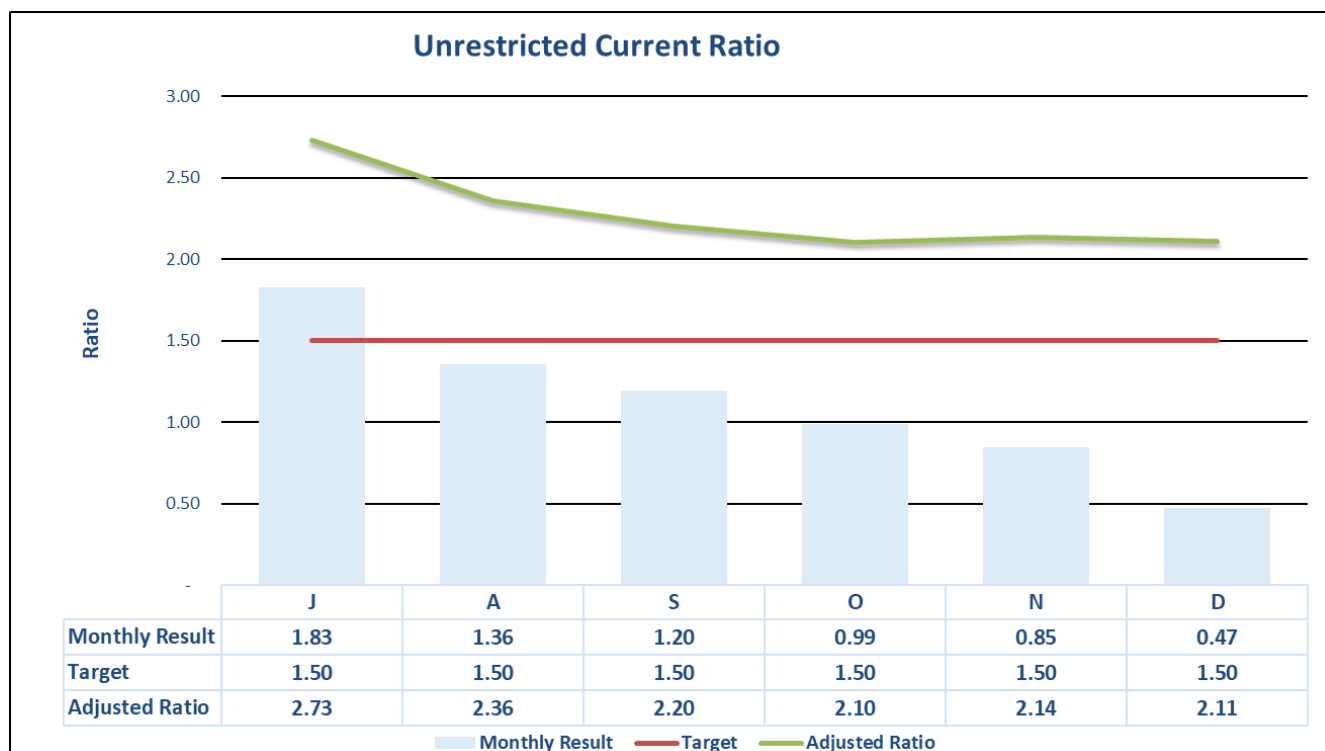
### Investment Classification and Liquidity Ratios

As part of the annual review undertaken in June 2025, certain investments were reclassified between current and non-current categories based on their intended holding period, liquidity characteristics and

historical transaction activity. This review resulted in \$47.6M of Floating Rate Notes with maturities greater than 12 months being reclassified from current (liquid) to non-current (not included in this liquidity ratio).

This accounting reclassification reduced the Unrestricted Current Ratio below the published target of 1.5. However, there has been no change to Council’s underlying liquidity of Council, as Floating Rate Notes remain readily tradable and continue to support cash flow management.

An adjusted Unrestricted Current Ratio has been calculated to include the investment securities that have been re-classified to non-current for accounting purposes, showing that for the month of December Council’s ratio sits at 2.11, well above the benchmark of 1.5.



**Borrowings**

Council has no outstanding loans as at 26 December 2025. Borrowings are not currently identified in the forward estimates and would only be considered where appropriate to manage cash flow timing, support asset investment and maintain intergenerational equity in accordance with Council’s Financial Sustainability Policy and Resource Strategy. An application for subsidised loan borrowings under the New South Wales Government’s *Low-Cost Loans Initiative (LCLI) – Round 4* has been made and if successful would be introduced into future budget variations.

**Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment**

At 26 December 2025, Council controlled and managed \$4.14B of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment at net carrying value, with a gross replacement cost of \$7.2B, excluding \$126.8M in Work in Progress. These assets are managed on behalf of the community to support service delivery and long-term sustainability.

**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.	Financial Services

## CONCLUSION

Council's financial performance to the end of December 2025 reflects a generally favourable year-to-date position across key indicators. The Operating Result (pre-capital) and Funds Available from Operations both show positive variances against the phased budget and the Total Funds Result remains ahead of expectations primarily due to timing differences in the delivery of the capital works program rather than changes in underlying financial capacity.

Capital expenditure to date is below phased budget, reflecting the staging and scheduling of project delivery. These timing variations, along with proposed adjustments to project timelines, are examined in detail in the December Quarterly Review.

Council's Statement of Financial Position confirms that cash and investment balances remain sufficient to meet all externally restricted requirements and planned commitments. Available Funds continue to exceed the Financial Sustainability Policy target range, indicating a strong liquidity position, noting that balances are temporarily elevated due to capital delivery timing.

**Wollongong City Council**  
**1 July 2024 to 26 December 2025**  
**Income Statement**

	2025/26 Original Budget \$'000	2025/26 Revised Budget \$'000	2025/26 YTD Budget \$'000	2025/26 YTD Actuals \$'000	Variance \$'000
<b>Income From Continuing Operations</b>					
<b>Revenue:</b>					
Rates and Annual Charges	258,973	259,666	127,147	127,933	786
User Charges and Fees	40,870	40,957	19,631	20,412	781
Interest and Investment Revenues	6,240	11,104	5,543	5,658	115
Other Revenues	6,334	6,317	3,002	2,880	(122)
Rental Income	7,553	7,685	3,672	3,471	(200)
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	28,960	19,455	9,786	10,541	755
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	70,216	71,027	34,496	20,274	(14,221)
<b>Other Income:</b>	0	0	0	0	0
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets	0	28,516	20,178	20,178	0
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>419,147</b>	<b>444,728</b>	<b>223,455</b>	<b>211,349</b>	<b>(12,106)</b>
<b>Expenses From Continuing Operations</b>					
Employee Costs	169,238	172,588	87,133	85,975	1,158
Borrowing Costs	1,028	1,125	551	458	94
Materials & Services	103,104	96,915	47,527	42,865	4,661
Other Expenses	26,217	24,493	12,381	13,316	(935)
Depreciation, Amortisation + Impairment	88,185	88,185	43,248	40,894	2,355
Labour Internal Charges	(23,041)	(17,695)	(9,141)	(8,919)	(221)
Non-Labour Internal Charges	(2,497)	(2,530)	(1,241)	(1,066)	(175)
<b>Total Expenses From Continuing Operations</b>	<b>362,235</b>	<b>363,080</b>	<b>180,459</b>	<b>173,523</b>	<b>6,936</b>
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>56,912</b>	<b>81,648</b>	<b>42,996</b>	<b>37,826</b>	<b>(5,170)</b>
<b>Operating Result [pre capital]</b>	<b>(13,304)</b>	<b>10,621</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>17,552</b>	<b>9,051</b>
<b>Funding Statement</b>					
Net Operating Result for the Year	56,912	81,648	42,996	37,826	(5,170)
Add back :					
- Non-cash Operating Transactions	108,577	80,475	33,939	30,712	(3,227)
- Restricted cash used for operations	11,963	13,175	6,759	5,110	(1,649)
- Income transferred to Restricted Cash	(91,916)	(99,518)	(48,719)	(34,543)	14,177
Leases Repaid	(514)	(514)	(252)	(149)	103
Payment of Employee Entitlements	(16,354)	(18,404)	(9,150)	(9,476)	(326)
<b>Funds Available from Operations</b>	<b>68,668</b>	<b>56,861</b>	<b>25,573</b>	<b>29,481</b>	<b>3,908</b>
Loans Repaid	0	0	0	0	0
Advances (made by) / repaid to Council	0	0	0	(292)	(292)
<b>Operational Funds Available for Capital Budget</b>	<b>68,668</b>	<b>56,861</b>	<b>25,573</b>	<b>29,189</b>	<b>3,616</b>
<b>Capital Budget Statement</b>					
Assets Acquired	(139,415)	(139,415)	(70,474)	(53,880)	16,594
Contributed Assets	(5,871)	(5,871)	0	0	0
Transfers to Restricted Cash	(2,776)	(43,302)	(41,914)	(36,004)	5,910
Funded From :-					
- Operational Funds	68,668	56,861	25,573	29,189	3,616
- Sale of Assets	1,399	30,399	29,487	23,914	(5,572)
- Internally Restricted Cash	14,508	17,752	9,276	9,805	529
- Borrowings	0	0	0	0	0
- Capital Grants	35,098	35,335	16,491	13,413	(3,078)
- Developer Contributions (Section 94)	22,345	22,100	11,931	9,926	(2,005)
- Other Externally Restricted Cash	400	764	764	764	(0)
- Other Capital Contributions	5,871	5,897	26	53	27
<b>TOTAL FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>(19,481)</b>	<b>(18,841)</b>	<b>(2,820)</b>	<b>16,021</b>

**WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL**

**Statement of Financial Position**  
**as at 26 December 2025**

	YTD Actual 2025/26 \$'000	Actual 2024/25 \$'000
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash Assets	29,859	49,586
Investment Securities	77,886	67,365
Receivables	8,021	30,216
Inventories	6,036	6,511
Current Contract Assets	7,682	5,366
Other	7,538	3,144
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>137,021</b>	<b>162,188</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Non Current Cash Assets	88,000	46,250
Non Current Investment Securities	60,231	51,309
Non-Current Receivables	292	0
Property, Plant and Equipment	4,138,193	4,133,991
Investment Properties	5,650	5,650
Right-Of-Use Assets	1,883	2,276
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>4,294,249</b>	<b>4,239,475</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,431,269</b>	<b>4,401,663</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Current Payables	16,987	27,485
Current Contract Liabilities	25,239	23,174
Current Lease Liabilities	307	395
Current Provisions payable < 12 months	20,614	20,711
Current Provisions payable > 12 months	40,809	40,809
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>103,956</b>	<b>112,573</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Non Current Interest Bearing Liabilities	0	0
N/C Lease Liabilities	2,072	2,072
Non Current Provisions	50,999	50,603
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>53,071</b>	<b>52,675</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>157,028</b>	<b>165,248</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,274,242</b>	<b>4,236,415</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Surplus	1,533,697	1,522,371
Asset Revaluation Reserve	2,556,596	2,561,571
Restricted Assets	183,948	152,473
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>4,274,242</b>	<b>4,236,415</b>

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL		
Cash Flows and Investments		
as at 26 December 2025		
	YTD Actual 2025/26 \$ '000	Actual 2024/25 \$ '000
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Rates & Annual Charges	147,224	247,522
User Charges & Fees	17,503	39,909
Interest & Interest Received	4,500	9,061
Grants & Contributions	34,732	97,659
Bonds, deposits and retention amounts received	166	167
Other	14,516	31,727
<b>Payments</b>		
Employee Benefits & On-costs	(77,441)	(153,952)
Materials & Contracts	(49,601)	(126,741)
Borrowing Costs	(62)	(141)
Other	(12,749)	(22,192)
<b>Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>78,790</b>	<b>123,019</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Sale of Investments	21,222	50,649
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	29,814	2,068
<b>Payments:</b>		
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	(67,101)	(89,795)
Deferred Debtors & Advances Made	(292)	-
<b>Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>(98,430)</b>	<b>(117,306)</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>		
<b>Payments:</b>		
Repayment of Borrowings & Advances	-	(657)
Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities	(87)	(370)
<b>Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities</b>	<b>(87)</b>	<b>(1,027)</b>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(19,728)	4,686
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	49,586	44,900
plus: Investments on hand - end of year	226,117	164,301
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date</b>	<b>255,976</b>	<b>213,887</b>

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL		
Cash Flows and Investments		
as at 26 December 2025		
	YTD Actual 2025/26 \$ '000	Actual 2024/25 \$ '000
<b>Total Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents and Investments - year to date</b>	<b>255,976</b>	<b>213,887</b>
<b>Attributable to:</b>		
External Restrictions (refer below)	111,525	103,184
Internal Restrictions (refer below)	96,945	67,583
Unrestricted	47,506	43,121
	<b>255,976</b>	<b>213,887</b>
<b>External Restrictions</b>		
Developer Contributions	73,021	73,967
RMS Contributions	663	402
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	19,547	13,381
Special Rates Levy Wollongong Mall	1,142	1,062
Special Rates Levy Wollongong City Centre	94	94
Unexpended Loans	997	973
Domestic Waste Management	8,853	6,033
Private Subsidies	3,151	2,898
Housing Affordability	3,155	3,120
Stormwater Management Service Charge	902	1,254
<b>Total External Restrictions</b>	<b>111,525</b>	<b>103,184</b>
<b>Internal Restrictions</b>		
Property Investment Fund	5,608	5,532
Strategic Projects	40,605	31,700
Sports Priority Program	984	856
Car Parking Strategy	1,587	1,372
MacCabe Park Development	(75)	2,190
Darcy Wentworth Park	18	18
Garbage Disposal Facility	3,963	5,982
West Dapto Development	43,581	19,259
Natural Areas	173	173
Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Fund	501	501
<b>Total Internal Restrictions</b>	<b>96,945</b>	<b>67,583</b>

**ITEM 9 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - DECEMBER 2025**

This report provides an overview of Council’s investment portfolio performance for the reporting period December 2025.

Council performed above benchmark for December 2025. The December result was primarily due to the positive valuations of the consolidated NSW TCorp investments and continued reinvestment of funds at improved interest rate yields. The remainder of Council’s portfolio continues to provide a high degree of credit quality and liquidity.

Month	Weighted Average Return	Benchmark Return
December 2025	0.37%	0.31%

**RECOMMENDATION**

Council receive the Statement of Investment for December 2025.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer  
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Statement of Investment – December 2025
- 2 Investment Income Compared to Budget 2025-2026

**ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT**

Abbreviation	Meaning
CBA	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Order	Ministerial Investment Order
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia

**BACKGROUND**

Council staff monitor Council’s cash flow on a daily basis and mandated to invest surplus funds in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order and Office of Local Government guidelines. The Order reflects a conservative investment approach and restricts investment types available to Council. In compliance with the Order and Office of Local Government guidelines, Council adopted an Investment Policy on 12 December 2022. The Investment Policy provides a framework for Council to manage investment credit quality, institutional diversification and maturity constraints. Council’s investment portfolio was controlled by Council’s Finance Division during the period and has remained in compliance with the Investment Policy. Council’s Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee provide oversight of Council’s Investment Policy and Investment Management Strategy.

Council’s Responsible Accounting Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, is required to sign the complying Statement of Investment contained within the report, certifying that all investments were made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Regulation 2005.

Council’s investment holdings at 26 December 2025 were \$255,593,148 (Statement of Investment attached) [27 December 2024 \$190,463,761], and includes Council’s interest in CivicRisk Mutual Ltd.

Council had an average weighted return for December 2025 of 0.37% which was above the benchmark return of 0.31%. The result was primarily due to the positive valuations of the consolidated NSW TCorp investments and continued reinvestment of funds at improved interest rate yields. The remainder of Council’s portfolio continues to provide a high degree of credit quality and liquidity.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) meets eight times a year to review the economy and decide on interest rates. At their meeting on 2 February 2026, the RBA decided to lift the official cash by 0.25% up to 3.85%.

The RBA is keeping a close eye on economic data and global risks to help guide future decisions. They're especially cautious because there's still a lot of uncertainty about how things will develop, both in Australia and overseas. Their main goal is to keep prices stable.

For Council investments, interest rates are regularly reviewed to make sure returns are maximized. This includes looking at different credit ratings and investment timeframes to get the best value from committed funds.

At 26 December 2025, year to date interest and investment revenue of \$5,073,503 was recognised compared to the year to date budget of \$5,078,221.

Council's 26 Floating Rate Notes had a net decrease in value of \$228,596 for December 2025.

Council holds two Mortgage-Backed Securities. In December 2025, their value increased by \$8,542. These investments are hard to sell quickly and have long amortised lives which affects their market value. The interest rate (coupon margin) is based on pricing from before the Global Financial Crisis, which is less favourable today.

Although Council can't control when these investments mature, advisors have said the capital isn't at risk right now. Because the investments are difficult to sell, they've recommended holding onto them for the time being to ensure continued diversification of Council's investment mix.

Council holds two investments within the NSW TCorpIM Funds; Long-Term Growth Fund and Medium-Term Growth Fund. The Long-Term Growth Fund recorded a net increase in value of \$17,379 in December 2025. The Medium-Term Growth Fund recorded a net increase in value of \$3,781 in December 2025. The fluctuations in both the Long-Term Growth and Medium-Term Growth Funds are a reflection of the current share market volatility both domestically and internationally and is diversified across a number of different asset classes with differing risk and return characteristics.

Council's Investment Policy allows up to 40% of its investments to be held with any one AAA-rated institution. This includes the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA), where Council keeps its operating cash in a savings account. As of the end of December 2025, Council's exposure to CBA was 10.68%, which is safely below the target limit of 25%.

The current investment portfolio follows the rules set out in Council's Investment Policy, which was approved on 12 December 2022. The Responsible Accounting Officer has signed off on the investment report, confirming that all investments meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Regulation 2005

## 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:

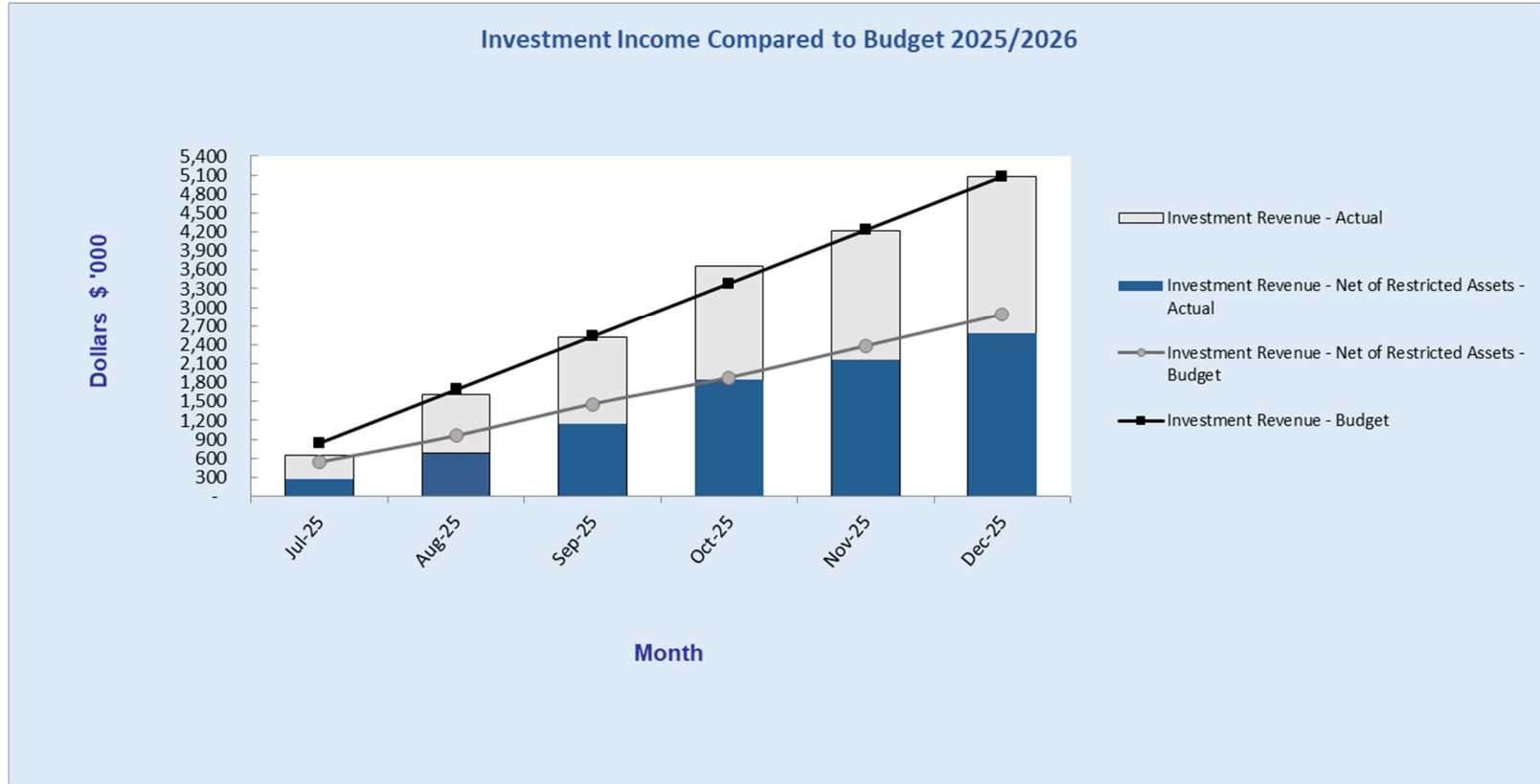
Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	Service
4.14 Council demonstrates responsible leadership that is customer focused, demonstrates respect and inclusion, and uses resources that are managed effectively to ensure long-term sustainability.	Financial Services

## CONCLUSION

Council's investment portfolio delivered an overall return above the benchmark. The result was primarily due to the positive valuations of the consolidated NSW TCorp investments and continued reinvestment of funds at improved interest rate yields.

The portfolio remains compliant with Council's adopted Investment Policy and relevant legislative requirements, maintaining a high standard of credit quality and liquidity. Council's proactive approach to investment management, supported by regular market monitoring and professional advice, ensures that funds are invested prudently and in alignment with long-term financial sustainability goals.

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT 26 December 2025							
DIRECT INVESTMENTS							
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Security	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest / Coupon Rate
CBA Business Online Saver	A1+	-	26,701,587	BOS A/c	26/12/2025	26/12/2025	3.85%
CBA General Fund A/c	A1+	-	2,717,876	General A/c	26/12/2025	26/12/2025	3.85%
NAB General Fund A/c	A1+	-	1,180	General A/c	26/12/2025	26/12/2025	
Bank of Sydney Ltd	Unrated ST UR	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	9/07/2025	8/01/2026	4.45%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P ST A1	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	23/05/2025	23/01/2026	4.31%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	S&P ST A2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2025	30/01/2026	4.30%
Judo Bank	S&P ST A2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	17/09/2025	15/04/2026	4.30%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	20/09/2024	20/04/2026	4.62%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	13/03/2025	13/05/2026	4.69%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2023	30/06/2026	5.19%
Summerland Bank	Unrated UR	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	6/06/2025	10/07/2026	4.25%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	20/09/2024	20/07/2026	4.46%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	22/08/2025	24/08/2026	4.08%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P ST A1+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	28/08/2025	28/08/2026	4.12%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P ST A1	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2025	25/09/2026	4.20%
Great Southern Bank	S&P ST A2	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	3/10/2025	2/10/2026	4.23%
Great Southern Bank	S&P ST A2	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	2/12/2025	2/11/2026	4.44%
Coastline Bank	Moody's Baa3	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	5/12/2025	7/12/2026	4.50%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	15/01/2025	15/12/2026	4.64%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	23/05/2025	21/05/2027	4.16%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2023	30/06/2027	5.09%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	22/08/2025	23/08/2027	3.89%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2025	27/09/2027	4.20%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	S&P A-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	2/10/2025	4/10/2027	4.14%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	25/11/2025	25/11/2027	4.34%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	23/05/2025	23/05/2028	4.32%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	6/06/2025	6/07/2028	4.04%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	22/08/2025	22/08/2028	3.96%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2025	25/09/2028	4.25%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	2/10/2025	2/10/2028	4.27%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	22/12/2023	22/12/2028	4.90%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	27/11/2025	29/01/2029	4.58%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	21/02/2024	21/02/2029	5.19%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	23/05/2025	23/05/2029	4.58%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	6/06/2025	6/06/2029	4.20%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	22/08/2025	22/08/2029	4.10%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2025	25/09/2029	4.50%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	27/11/2025	27/11/2029	4.65%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	15/01/2025	15/01/2030	5.08%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	12/02/2025	12/02/2030	5.10%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	26/03/2025	26/03/2030	5.01%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	23/05/2025	23/05/2030	4.74%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	6/06/2025	6/06/2030	4.60%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	10/07/2025	10/07/2030	4.68%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	22/08/2025	22/08/2030	4.25%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2025	25/09/2030	4.63%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	27/11/2025	27/11/2030	4.96%
<b>Total</b>			<b>160,170,643</b>				
WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT 26 December 2025 continued							
Bond and Floating Rate Note Securities							
DIRECT INVESTMENTS							
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Security	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest / Coupon Rate
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	2,100,000	2,108,190	FRN	24/02/2021	24/02/2026	4.10%
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	S&P BBB+	5,000,000	5,014,900	FRN	4/03/2021	4/03/2026	4.31%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,500,000	2,502,325	FRN	31/03/2023	31/03/2026	4.41%
Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd	Moody's Baa1	1,100,000	1,102,332	FRN	16/06/2021	16/06/2026	4.39%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,500,000	2,511,925	FRN	11/09/2023	11/09/2026	4.46%
Macquarie Bank Ltd	S&P A+	4,000,000	4,019,200	FRN	14/09/2023	14/09/2026	4.56%
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	3,750,000	3,758,025	FRN	15/09/2021	15/09/2026	4.19%
QPCU LTD t/a QBANK	S&P BBB-	2,000,000	2,018,120	FRN	18/09/2023	18/09/2026	5.37%
Illawarra Credit Union Ltd	S&P BBB-	2,500,000	2,501,125	FRN	20/09/2023	21/09/2026	5.43%
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	1,500,000	1,516,455	FRN	11/03/2022	25/01/2027	4.28%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	3,500,000	3,545,605	FRN	12/05/2022	12/05/2027	4.60%
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,038,580	FRN	24/11/2023	24/05/2027	4.75%
Cooperative Rabobank U.A Australia Branch	S&P A+	2,500,000	2,552,075	FRN	19/01/2023	19/01/2028	4.67%
Beyond1 Bank Australia Ltd	Moody's Baa1	2,500,000	2,511,600	FRN	21/03/2025	21/03/2028	4.89%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,500,000	2,526,775	FRN	31/03/2023	31/03/2028	4.64%
Judo Bank	S&P BBB	5,500,000	5,543,230	FRN	29/08/2025	13/06/2028	5.16%
Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust	Unrated UR	305,159	245,431	MBS	17/07/2006	30/06/2028	4.10%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,100,000	2,123,331	FRN	11/09/2023	11/09/2028	4.64%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	3,500,000	3,534,860	FRN	19/09/2023	19/09/2028	4.66%
Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd	Moody's Baa1	5,000,000	5,056,550	FRN	3/10/2025	3/10/2028	4.54%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P AA-	4,000,000	4,101,720	FRN	16/11/2023	16/11/2028	5.40%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	S&P A-	5,000,000	5,027,150	FRN	28/11/2025	20/11/2028	4.41%
Cooperative Rabobank U.A Australia Branch	S&P A+	3,000,000	3,095,370	FRN	21/11/2023	21/11/2028	5.71%
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	S&P BBB+	4,500,000	4,578,345	FRN	29/08/2025	21/01/2030	4.74%
Macquarie Bank Ltd	S&P A+	5,000,000	5,057,300	FRN	28/11/2025	17/07/2030	4.32%
Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust	Unrated UR	2,000,000	1,309,160	MBS	17/07/2006	21/08/2056	4.40%
<b>Total</b>			<b>80,899,679</b>				
Managed Funds & Other							
MANAGED FUNDS							
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Purchase Date	Monthly Return (Actual)	FYTD (Actual)	
TCorp Long Term Growth Facility Fund	N/A		5,015,444	13/06/2007	0.35%	6.34%	
TCorp Medium Term Growth Facility Fund	N/A		5,834,746	26/10/2021	0.06%	3.66%	
<b>Total</b>			<b>10,850,191</b>				
Membership Interest in Investment Body			Fair Value of Holding \$				
CivicRisk Mutual Limited	N/A		3,672,636				
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 255,593,148</b>				
* The maturity date provided is the weighted-average life of the security. This is the average amount of time that will elapse from the date of security's issuance until each dollar is repaid based on an actuarial assessment. Assessments are carried out on a regular basis which can potentially extend the life of the investment. Current assessments anticipate an extension of life of the investment. This is to certify that all of the above investments have been placed in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's Investment Policies.							
Brian Jenkins RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER							



**ITEM 10 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR DEIDRE STUART - COMPANION ANIMALS AMENDMENT (CONTROL OF CATS) BILL 2025**

Councillor Deidre Stuart has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Wollongong City Council –

- 1 Expresses its support for the Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025 (the Bill).
- 2 Notes the objective of the Bill is to provide for measures to prevent owned cats in NSW from -
  - a Escaping from the property where the cat is kept, or
  - b Leaving the property without being under the control of a person.
- 3 Notes the Bill -
  - a Creates a general duty for cat owners to keep their pets contained to their property.
  - b Empowers councils to make and enforce reasonable orders to prevent cats from escaping.
  - c Protects vulnerable people through fair and compassionate enforcement.
  - d Helps stop the flow of lost and abandoned pets into the feral cat population.
- 4 Acknowledges that effective cat containment -
  - a Protects native wildlife and local biodiversity by reducing injury and death from domestic roaming cat predation.
  - b Improves the wellbeing of owned cats by reducing their risk of injury or death from vehicle strikes, dog attacks, ticks, snakebite, poisoning, wounds and infections from cat fights or contracting diseases.
  - c Limits the rate of spread of cat-borne diseases that affect human health, such as toxoplasmosis.
- 5 Writes to the NSW Minister for Local Government, the NSW Minister for the Environment, the NSW Premier and Local Members of Parliament for Heathcote, Keira, Wollongong, Shellharbour, and Kiama -
  - a Expressing Wollongong City Council’s support for the Bill.
  - b Urging the Ministers and MPs to support the Bill.
  - c Requesting State funding for councils to support education, compliance and animal shelter capacity.”<sup>1</sup>

**Background provided by Councillor Deidre Stuart:**

Wollongong LGA has many owned pet cats. In February 2025, according to council records, approximately 30,000 cats were currently identified or registered in Wollongong LGA.<sup>2</sup> More specifically, at 10 Feb 2026, there are approximately 22,000 microchipped cats identified in the Wollongong LGA.<sup>3</sup> Not all cat-owners microchip and register their pet cats. Some microchipped cats change owners without records being updated. These pet cat numbers in Wollongong LGA are believed to be conservative.

Relevant NSW laws (*Companion Animal Act 1998*<sup>4</sup> and *Local Government Act 1993*<sup>5</sup>) require pet cats in Wollongong:

- To be desexed, microchipped and registered
- If they are not desexed, to hold an annual permit
- To wear a collar and tag.

<sup>1</sup> This motion is adapted from that passed by Hornsby Shire Council 8/10/2025 meeting-  
[https://businesspapers.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/Open/2025/11/GM\\_12112025\\_MIN\\_WEB.htm](https://businesspapers.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/Open/2025/11/GM_12112025_MIN_WEB.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Email (03/02/2025) WCC Compliance Manager response to a citizen concerned about impacts of roaming cats on biodiversity.

<sup>3</sup> Email (10/02/2026) WCC Compliance Manager to Cr Stuart.

<sup>4</sup> <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1998-087>

<sup>5</sup> <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-030>

The laws ban pet cats from some public places such as food shops and wildlife protection areas. They also provide for penalties if cats damage property or cause nuisance.

Notably, however, the *Companion Animals Act 1998* does not create an offence for roaming pet cats, rather, offences are for damage caused by such cats. So, currently, pet cats in Wollongong, if their owners allow them, can roam rather freely. Compliance action related to a reported offence involving a pet cat, is quite onerous, as officers need sufficient evidence which usually includes a witness statement, statement from the cat owner, video or other evidence. Council staff recently approached the NSW Office of Local Government, requesting that the powers of authorised officers be expanded in the next review of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, and specifically, proposed amendments to allow authorised officers to declare a cat a nuisance if it habitually roams onto someone else's property.<sup>6</sup>

The precise consequences of roaming pet cats in Wollongong are not known, but there is growing awareness that roaming pet cats:

### **Injure and kill native wildlife**

Across Australia, pet cats are estimated to kill many native animals each year, including an estimated 53 million reptiles, 61 million birds, and 67 million mammals.<sup>7</sup> Based on the Australia Threatened Species Hub numbers,<sup>8</sup> Wollongong's pet cats likely kill about 5 million animals every year (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians) – with most of those killed being native animals. Moreover, cumulatively, about one half of the Wollongong LGA has high environmental value, high conservation value designations including as: state conservation areas, national parks or legislated special areas of the Greater Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. Uncontained pet cats that live in residences near these areas are likely to prey on wildlife in these areas, thereby undermining their biodiversity conservation capacity. This matters because Australia's unique biodiversity is in rapid decline and cats contribute to that decline.<sup>9</sup>

### **Contribute to the human disease burden**

Diseases transmitted by cats that affect humans are estimated to cost Australia more than \$6 billion each year.<sup>10</sup> This is equivalent to about \$200 per person per year – and some of that disease burden no doubt occurs in Wollongong. A rough pro rata estimate of medical care costs, other direct costs and lost income due to cat diseases affecting Wollongong residents is about \$44 million per year.<sup>11</sup> This is frankly an astonishing amount – but the human suffering aspect to this is also confronting. Just one cat-parasite disease, toxoplasmosis, is well known for its impacts on unborn babies leading to miscarriages and congenital defects, but toxoplasmosis is also implicated in traffic accidents, suicide and other mental health conditions. Experts estimate that somewhere between 23% and 66% of the Australian human population is infected.<sup>12</sup> Cat containment would reduce human exposure to cats and help break transmission cycles of pathogens carried by cats.

### **Are less safe than contained pet cats**

A recent NSW government ministerial release noted that two-in-three cat owners have lost pets to a roaming-related accidents.<sup>13</sup> Cat containment would help keep pet cats safe.

Roaming pet cats also cost council and ratepayers. Council's Animal Care and Impounding Service provided care for a total of 938 companion animals (545 cats and 393 dogs) in the 2024-2025 financial

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/202512/NF7-Minutes-25-July-2023.pdf](https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/202512/NF7-Minutes-25-July-2023.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/keeping-cats-at-home-and-wildlife-safe/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://invasives.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Fact-sheet-The-impact-of-cats-in-Australia-Threatened-Species-Hub.pdf> Australia Threatened Species Hub (2020) estimate 186 vertebrate animal deaths per year per roaming pet cat. 30,000 pet cats x 186 deaths/pet cat/year = 5,580,000 vertebrate deaths.

<sup>9</sup> <https://biodiversitycouncil.org.au/news/how-do-we-know-australia-is-in-a-biodiversity-crisis-a-summary-of-the-science-1> (2024); <https://theconversation.com/gut-wrenching-and-infuriating-why-australia-is-the-world-leader-in-mammal-extinctions-and-what-to-do-about-it-192173> (2022)

<sup>10</sup> Jaana Dielenberg (2024) <https://theconversation.com/two-thirds-of-us-support-banning-pet-cats-from-roaming-a-ban-would-save-millions-of-native-animals-and-billions-of-dollars-229180> & [https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/gatmsmla/7-4-cat-dependent-disease-findings-factsheet\\_v17.pdf](https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/gatmsmla/7-4-cat-dependent-disease-findings-factsheet_v17.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Based on 2024 Wollongong population estimate of 221,894 ([Estimated Resident Population \(ERP\) | Wollongong City Council | Community profile](https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/Community-Profile)) and 2025 Australia total population estimate of 27,614,411 (<https://www.abs.gov.au/>)

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/gatmsmla/7-4-cat-dependent-disease-findings-factsheet\\_v17.pdf](https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/gatmsmla/7-4-cat-dependent-disease-findings-factsheet_v17.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/keeping-cats-home-and-wildlife-safe> (2025)

year and also engaged in a rehoming program.<sup>14</sup> Some of these 545 cats were pet cats with owners. Council intends to support financially vulnerable resident cat-owners, by facilitating a number of free desexing and free microchipping clinics for cats utilizing animal welfare organisations (starting in the 2025–2026 financial year).<sup>15</sup>

There is an urgent need to strengthen domesticated cat management in NSW, to stem biodiversity losses, to improve cat welfare, to reduce health burdens on people, and to address pressures on council pounds. NSW's *Keeping cats home and wildlife safe*<sup>16</sup> program which involved 11 councils in its original trial and in 2025 was extended to another 19 councils, does not involve Wollongong. Wollongong City Council applied to participate as a pilot council in the original trial but was not selected, and in the trial expansion last year, there was no opportunity for councils to apply to participate. This program is a step in the right direction, as it focusses on increasing rates of desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration while encouraging the uptake of voluntary containment of pet cats. But as a voluntary program it does not impose any containment duty on cat-owners, and it does not give enforcement powers to council rangers who are on the frontlines of controlling cats.

Laws requiring pet cats to be contained to their owner's property are already in place in some other states/territories of Australia:<sup>17</sup>

- In the ACT, all cats born after 1 July 2022 must be kept on their owners' properties at all times.<sup>18</sup>
- In Victoria, more than a third of councils now require cats to be contained overnight or 24 hours a day – and some are moving toward full 24-hour containment.<sup>19</sup>
- In parts of Queensland, local animal laws already require cat owners to prevent their cats from wandering off their property and disturbing neighbours or wildlife, with obligations to provide secure enclosures.<sup>20</sup>
- Tasmania's *Cat Management Act 2009* focuses on responsible cat ownership including mandatory microchipping and desexing, and while there's no blanket statewide legal obligation to contain cats to a property, the legislation and local council powers actively encourage responsible containment to protect wildlife and reduce nuisance. Councils also have powers to control roaming cats on private land – including trapping and removal.<sup>21</sup>
- In Western Australia, the Government announced in September 2025 that it will amend the *Cat Act 2011* to give councils the power to adopt and enforce cat containment laws, with a Bill expected in 2026. Several WA councils are already updating local Cat Laws to better protect wildlife and promote responsible cat ownership.<sup>22</sup>

The Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025<sup>23</sup> proposes an amendment to the NSW *Companion Animals Act 1998* such that cat owners will be legally required to take all reasonable precautions to prevent their cats from escaping from the property on which they are kept. Cat containment is supported by the RSPCA<sup>24</sup>, WIRES<sup>25</sup>, the Invasive Species Council<sup>26</sup>, Local Government NSW<sup>27</sup>, Australian Local Government Association<sup>28</sup> and the Australian Veterinarian Association<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> WCC Annual Report 2024–2025 – p 56. Moreover, in November 2025, WCC was awarded an Excellence in Innovation in Animal Management Award by the Australian Institute of Animal Management for its rehoming program.  
<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/news/articles/2025/november-2025/cats-out-of-the-bag-wollongong-pet-connection-is-award-winning/>

<sup>15</sup> WCC Annual Report 2024–2025 – p 148

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/keeping-cats-home-and-wildlife-safe> (2025)

<sup>17</sup> <https://invasives.org.au/our-work/feral-animals/cats-in-australia/> (undated) provides a comparative map of regulations across Australia

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/cats>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/pets-animals/animal-registration-regulations/24-hour-cat-containment>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/animals-and-pets/owning-a-pet-in-brisbane/owning-a-cat-in-brisbane>

<sup>21</sup> <https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/responsible-cat-ownership>

<sup>22</sup> <https://walqa.asn.au/media-and-resources/latest-news/a-win-for-local-governments-around-cat-containment>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/bill-details.aspx?pk=18825> Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025

<sup>24</sup> <https://kb.rspca.org.au/assets/Downloads/PP-A8-Cat-containment.pdf> (2023)

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.wires.org.au/domestic-pets-and-wildlife> (2026) WIRES specifically recommends pets be kept indoors at night.

<sup>26</sup> <https://invasives.org.au/our-work/feral-animals/cats-in-australia/pet-cats/> & <https://invasives.org.au/media-releases/pet-cat-containment/> (2023)

<sup>27</sup> <https://lgnsw.org.au/Public/Public/Media-Releases/2025/0821-cat-management.aspx> (2025)

<sup>28</sup> <https://alqa.com.au/stronger-state-laws-would-help-councils-reduce-cat-impacts/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ava.com.au/policy-advocacy/policies/companion-animals-management-and-welfare/management-of-cats-in-australia/> (2022)

By way of summary, the Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025<sup>30</sup> does four key things:<sup>31</sup>

### **Creates a general duty of containment**

The Bill introduces a new section 29A into the *Companion Animals Act 1998* that establishes a clear legal duty for cat owners to keep their animals under control. It requires owners to take all reasonable precautions to prevent their cats from escaping from the property on which they are kept. This duty reflects the principle that owning a cat carries a responsibility not only for the animal's welfare but also for the protection of wildlife and community amenity. The provision makes it an offence to intentionally release a cat from a property unless the animal is under the effective control of a competent person. By codifying this obligation, the Bill closes a long-standing gap in the companion-animal regulatory framework and brings expectations for cat ownership into line with those that already apply to dogs.

### **Establishes penalties that are fair and proportionate**

The Bill sets out a graduated penalty structure that increases with repeated non-compliance. A first offence attracts a penalty of 0.1 penalty unit—about \$11 at current values – reflecting that initial enforcement will focus on education and awareness. A second offence attracts 3 penalty units, or roughly \$330, and a third or subsequent offence attracts 8 penalty units, or about \$880. This scaling provides a fair and proportionate response to repeated breaches while allowing time for owners to adjust their behaviour. The model is designed to prioritise education before punishment, supporting a culture of responsible ownership rather than relying on punitive enforcement alone.

### **Protects vulnerable people**

The Bill includes statutory defences to ensure that the new offences do not unfairly penalise people who may be in crisis or experiencing disadvantage. It provides that a person is not guilty of an offence if, at the time of the alleged breach, they were experiencing homelessness or were subject to behaviour constituting domestic or family violence under the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007*. These provisions recognise that some people face circumstances that limit their ability to comply immediately with containment requirements and ensure that enforcement remains compassionate and proportionate.

### **Empowers councils**

The Bill amends the *Local Government Act 1993* to give councils clear authority to issue and enforce orders that require the occupier of a property to take action to prevent a cat from escaping. If an order is ignored, the person may be prosecuted for failing to comply, with a maximum penalty of 8 penalty units. These provisions give local governments the practical tools they have long sought to respond to nuisance and predation complaints, manage risks to wildlife and public amenity, and support consistent standards for responsible cat ownership across the State.

The Bill also provides a staged commencement – 12 months after assent for most provisions, and six years for the full penalty regime – to allow time for education and for cultural change to occur.

The NSW Parliamentary Legislation Review Committee found no issues with the proposed Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025.<sup>32</sup>

Our council should express our support for this Bill. It is time that cat companion animals were treated similarly to dog companion animals under NSW legislation and required to be contained to owners' properties and to be under the control of their owners at all times. This would protect wildlife, protect owned cats, and reduce spread of cat-vector human diseases.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/bill-details.aspx?pk=18825> Companion Animals Amendment (Control of Cats) Bill 2025

<sup>31</sup> Summary provided by Office of MP Sue Higginson (28/01/2026).

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ladocs/digests/725/Legislation%20Review%20Digest%20No.%2038%20of%2058%20-%2011%20November%202025.pdf> Legislation Review Digest No. 38 of 58. 11/11/2025.

**ITEM 11 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JESS WHITTAKER - ROYALTIES FOR REJUVENATION FUND**

Councillor Jess Whittaker has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that the General Manager provides an update to Councillors on the status of the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund via a Workshop.”

**Background provided by Councillor Jess Whittaker:**

The NSW Government sets aside at least \$25 million each year in royalties to support coal mining communities across NSW. Wollongong City Council previously was the recipient of the Royalties for Regions Fund, which was untied funding available exclusively to mine affected and impacted communities. The newly established Royalties for Rejuvenation fund was subsequently quarantined in the 2023-24 budget. The withdrawal of the Resources for Regions Fund in 2023 and quarantining of the Royalties for Rejuvenation fund in 2023-24, has led to coal mining regions like the Illawarra being starved of funding that would help pay for road upgrades and community services that support nearby mines.

The Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund Website also states that “The NSW Government will set aside at least \$25 million each year from mining royalties to support coal mining communities in NSW through the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund. The funding will ensure that coal mining communities can make targeted investments towards strategic planning, workforce development programs, constructing enabling infrastructure, and establishing new industries and employment opportunities.” There is no current public information about how these quarantined funds will be spent, and if coal mining community councils will be granted access to these funds in the future. If the General Manager has further information regarding how and when the funds will be distributed to coal mining communities, could he please provide this to councillors.