SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Ordinary Meeting of Council





We're with you

Wednesday, 13 December 2023 Council Chambers | Wingecarribee Shire Council 68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale at 3:30 pm

MEETING NOTICE

An Ordinary Meeting of Wingecarribee Shire Council will be held in Council Chambers at Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic Centre, 68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 3.30pm.

Council will move into Committee of the Whole for Item 9.1 Delivering Better Services Framework to allow for a Community Briefing on this item, as resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 November 2023 (MN 2023/554).

The Public Forum will commence at 3.00pm.

Further information and details on registration process can be found on Council's website, using the following link:

Public Forum Application Form | Wingecarribee Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)

SA1 A	ADDENDUM TO ITEM 9.5 – RESOURCE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - POST	
EXH	HIBITION REPORT - ATTACHMENT3	
	SA1.1 Resource And Waste Management Strategy 2023 - 2032	3
SA2 (GENERAL MANAGER53	3
	SA2.1 Sutton Forest Sand Quarry - Submission To The Department Of Planning And	
	Environment53	
	SA2.2 Letter Of Response To The Minister For Planning Regarding Medium Density Housing	
	62	
SA3 F	REPORTS72	2
	SA3.1 Information Update - Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel - Member Appointment72	2
	SA3.2 Licence To Discharge Water Into Rail Corridor And Licence For Existing Infrastructure	
	With ARTC - 21 Ferguson Crescent Mittagong76	
	SA3.3 Naming Of New Community Hall, Penrose80)

SA1 ADDENDUM TO ITEM 9.5 – RESOURCE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - POST EXHIBITION REPORT - ATTACHMENT

SA1.1 Resource And Waste Management Strategy 2023 - 2032

Wingecarribee Shire Council

Resource & Waste Management Strategy

2023-2032

Strategy and Action Plan





December

Contents

1	Waste Management in Wingecarribee	4
	1.1 Wingecarribee Strategic Position	4
	1.2 Strategy Context	4
	1.3 What is important to Wingecarribee?	8
	1.4 What impacts waste management for Wingecarribee?	10
	1.5 How is Wingecarribee tracking?	12
	1.6 Development of this Resource and Waste Management Strategy	16
2	Strategy Development and Directions	17
	2.1 Our future direction	17
	2.2 What will Wingecarribee do next?	18
	2.3 Resource and Waste Management Strategy Directions	19
	2.4 Wingecarribee's targets	20
	2.5 Strategy drivers and directions	20
	2.6 Strategy development	21
3	Wingecarribee Circular Economy Direction	22
	3.1 Waste and the circular economy	22
	3.2 Waste hierarchy and circular economy	23
	3.3 Circular materials	25
	3.4 Wingecarribee circular economy solutions	26
4	Wingecarribee Resource Recovery Direction	27
	4.1 Resource recovery	27
	4.2 Systems and services for capturing resources	27
	4.3 Managing contamination	29
	4.4 Resource recovery for all waste generators	30
	4.5 Wingecarribee resource recovery solutions	32
5	Wingecarribee Waste Responsibility Directions	33
	5.1 Waste management responsibilities	33
	5.2 Services and resourcing	33
	5.3 Facilities and other responsibilities	34
	5.4 Communications and education	36
	5.5 Reporting on progress	36
	5.6 Wingecarribee waste management responsibilities and solutions	37
6	Actions	38
	Wingecarribee circular economy direction – actions	38
	Wingecarribee Resource Recovery direction – actions	41
	Wingecarribee waste responsibilities direction – action	45

Contents

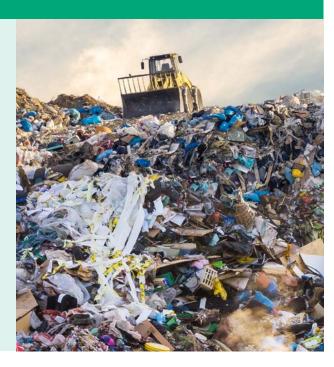
List of figures

Figure 1:	Resource recovery services provided by Council	5
Figure 2:	Wingecarribee recent landfill diversion performance – overall waste diverted from landfill	13
Figure 3:	Waste streams to be managed	13
Figure 4:	Residual bin composition – major waste materials	14
Figure 5:	Council strategy drivers and directions	20
Figure 6:	Waste hierarchy	23
Figure 7:	Circular economy	24
Figure 8:	Collection services – default services	28
Figure 9:	Household waste circular economy – the kerbside to market return journey	35
List of	ftables	
Table 1:	Community engagement – what our community said	9
Table 2:	Wingecarribee Shire Council current resource recovery services	10
Table 3:		
	Wingecarribee – waste generation & resource recovery performance and comparison	12
Table 4:	9	12 19
Table 4: Table 5:	and comparison	. –
	and comparison Wingecarribee Shire Council – strategy directions and objectives	19
Table 5:	and comparison Wingecarribee Shire Council – strategy directions and objectives Resource and waste management strategy development	19 21

1 Waste Management in Wingecarribee

The Wingecarribee community generates over 30,000 tonnes of waste materials each year.

The population of around 52,000 is spread across numerous population centres. The community has identified the importance of planning initiatives to support waste minimisation and resource management. All members of the community create waste materials and there is a broadly accepted responsibility to value sustainable waste management practices.



1.1 Wingecarribee Strategic Position

Wingecarribee Shire Council (Council) has developed a framework to implement waste management initiatives, guide operations and deliver waste management services to the community.

This Resource and Waste Management Strategy (Strategy) sets a pathway to support environmental and economic sustainability for the community. The management of resources from generated waste is central to the Strategy. The pursuit of improvements will require targeted efforts.

Strategic actions have been designed following a detailed review of the relevant waste management context, as well as Council's existing services and assets. Reasonable medium-to-long term resourcing of initiatives has informed the suitability of the work program.

A continual review of the proposed actions will be required throughout the life of this *Strategy* in order to ensure Council remains on-track to achieve the overall objectives.

1.2 Strategy Context

The Wingecarribee community expects Council to lead in its decision making and strategic development through providing services. This *Strategy* provides a roadmap for ensuring waste resources are optimally managed for recycling or re-use, programs are achieved, responsibilities are acted upon and suitable resourcing is planned.

Wingecarribee Shire Council's waste management responsibilities are undertaken within a broad and complex mix of policies, legislation and local characteristics. An overview of the relevant context explains the starting point for Council's consideration of future plans.



Resource recovery services

Council provides a range of services to residents to collect or manage waste materials and resources. A number of these services are provided to the community via service contracts which are procured by Council on behalf of the community.

In addition to the collection and processing of residential waste, Council implements other opportunities for residents to sustainably manage their waste. Council also implements services to support businesses across the commercial districts.

The Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) which houses a community recycling facility is a key waste management asset operated and maintained by Council for the community's benefit. Council assumes responsibility for all compliance obligations associated with the delivery of waste management services. Also, in delivering waste management services, Council promotes, communicates and educates the community regarding the waste and resource recovery services.

Figure 1: Resource recovery services provided by Council

CURRENT SERVICE Kerbside collections Domestic • Commercial • Public Place Consolidation and haulage of waste for processing/disposal **OTHER SERVICES** Illegal dumping management Special events Moss Vale Resource **Education and Recovery Centre** communication Community Convoling Centres Reviva Council waste, compliance and other responsibilities

Wingecarribee settings

Council's central planning strategy *Wingecarribee* 2041 Community Strategic Plan¹ includes ideas specific to resource recovery, including for the community to:

- work collaboratively to reduce pollution and its impact in the environment
- develop partnerships and implement education programs that enable people to live sustainably
- minimise waste through education, promotion of alternatives and prosecute illegal dumpers
- maximise recovery of resources from the waste stream
- · support circular economy initiatives
- collaborate ... to reduce carbon emissions.

Council's Environment and Climate Change Policy² identifies principals for the local community accompanied by actions to respond to priority areas, including to develop a waste strategy. This policy also seeks to encourage and support waste avoidance, recycling, recovery and diversion of waste from landfill through targeted education and demonstration of innovative solutions. The Policy also notes the importance of Council's Resource Recovery Centre in playing a role in managing resources.

Council has also adopted a *Council Emissions Reduction Plan*³ which recognises that landfilling contributes to the production of greenhouse gases; and notes the opportunities to recycle and repurpose waste.

In addition, Council joins with neighbours through the Canberra Region Joint Organisation of Councils and recently, the development of the *Regional Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy*⁴ aligned the region with NSW and national strategic pathways.

Other influences

In setting strategic plans, Council is influenced by the NSW and national strategies.

The 2018 National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources⁵ provides a framework for collective action by businesses, governments, communities and individuals until 2030. The 2018 National Waste Policy seeks to embody a shift in thinking towards a circular economy including



the need for better resource-efficient systems, products and services to avoid waste, conserve resources and maximise the value of all materials.

The National Waste Policy recognises that:

Local governments play an important role in providing household waste collection and recycling services, managing and operating landfill sites, delivering education and awareness programs, and providing and maintaining litter infrastructure.

The Policy identifies five overarching principles underpinning waste management in a circular economy. These include:

- avoiding waste
- · improving resource recovery
- increasing use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
- better managing material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
- improving information to support innovation, guiding investment and enabling informed consumer decisions.

¹ Community Strategic Plan. Wingecarribee 2041. WSC.

² This policy was in draft at the time of issue.

³ This policy was in draft at the time of issue.

⁴ Regional Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022 – 2027. Canberra Region Joint Organisation. 2022.

⁵ National Waste Policy Less Waste, More Resources 2018. Copyright Commonwealth of Australia 2018.

The *National Action Plan*⁶ creates targets and actions and include:

- banning the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres⁷
- reducing total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030
- 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030
- significantly increasing the use of recycled content by governments and industry
- phasing out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025
- halving the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
- making comprehensive, economy-wide and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment and policy decisions.

National Waste Policy Action Plan

2030 targets

80%

average recovery rate from all waste streams 10%

per person reduction in total waste generated in Australia The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041⁸ set broad directions for NSW waste management. Relevant strategic directions include:

 that households be provided with a food and garden organics diversion system by 2030



- that the operation of the waste levy⁹ will be formally reviewed each 5 years
- that the NSW Government will strategically plan for critical waste infrastructure
- that the NSW Government will work to strengthen powers to combat illegal dumping
- support for regional organisations of Councils collaboration and a joint procurement service.

Targets have been adopted in the NSW Strategy, as set out in the National Waste Policy Action Plan. The NSW Strategy relies on local councils contributing to meeting the targets. The key result areas and aims for the NSW Strategy remain:

- increase recycling rates¹⁰ to
 - 70% for municipal solid waste
 - 70% for commercial and industrial waste
 - 80% for construction and demolition waste
- increase waste diverted from landfill to 75%.

NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2030 targets



70%

for municipal solid waste

70%

Increase recycling rates to:

for commercial and industrial waste 80%

for construction and demolition waste Increase waste diverted from landfill to:

75%

⁶ National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019. Prepared by the Australian Government, state and territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association.

⁷ The ban on plastic, paper, glass and tyres was commenced in 2020.

⁸ NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041. Stage 1: 2021 – 2027. NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment. June 2021

⁹ Pursuant to s.88 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*

¹⁰ from a 2010–11 baseline (Municipal 52%, C&I 57% and C&D 75%)

Other relevant NSW policies and strategy positions include:

- the NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement¹¹: which details how NSW will transition towards a circular economy
- the NSW Plastics Action Plan¹²: which sets out actions to reduce plastic generation and make the most of plastic resources; and
- the NSW Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 2030¹³: which is the NSW Government's response to the challenges posed by climate change.







1.3 What is important to Wingecarribee?

Council undertook significant community engagement in the development of this *Strategy*. The community provided invaluable feedback and aspirations through online surveys¹⁴ and workshops¹⁵. Many aspects of Council's waste management services and operations were identified for comments, suggestions and review. Engagement with the community is particularly important when local councils are tasked with implementing changes to current services.

The results of the various engagements undertaken were reported to Council. The key

strategic objectives nominated by residents through the consultation can be summarised as:

- · divert more waste from landfill
- · find solutions for managing waste plastics
- increase opportunities for a broader range of materials to be recycled
- · actively work to reduce waste generation
- recover food waste for composting and re-use.

Table 1 summarises the formal community engagement key response areas.

¹¹ NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good to Waste. State of NSW and NSW EPA. February 2019

¹² NSW Plastics Action Plan. NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment. June 2021.

¹³ Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 – 2030. NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment. March 2020.

¹⁴ Bulky waste survey. Your say Wingecarribee June 2022 (1,204 engaged participants). Waste Management Strategy January 2023 (331 engaged participants). Resource Recovery Centre Your Say Wingecarribee June 2022 (139 participants).

 $^{15 \ \} Community workshops conducted in Renwick and Moss Vale February 2023.$

Table 1: Community engagement – what our community said

RESPONSE AREA	MEASURE
1. Satisfaction with Council's services	The delivery of waste services are of high importance to residents, with the current collection services receiving high levels of satisfaction ¹⁶
2. Awareness of scope of services offered	Residents believe they have adequate information
3. Measured knowledge	Most residents do not know what happens to collected waste
4. Environmental impacts of waste	Overwhelmingly, residents are concerned about the impacts
5. Resource Recovery Centre	Residents use the Community Recycling Centre and Reviva Shop
6. Other infrastructure	Other sites for recycling, waste management likely supported
7. Options for diverting waste from landfill	More opportunities for additional material recycling supported
8. Bulky clean up collection services	Scheduled are preferred, but the reduced cost of on-call services supported
9. Suite of bins services	Modernise to improve resource recovery
10. Bin collection frequencies	Mixed support for reducing mixed waste collections to fortnightly
11. Food waste management systems	Recovery of food waste is supported by most residents
12. Recycling bin options	Almost all residents utilise recycling bins – support the capture of more materials
13. Problem waste to target	Plastics, Ewaste and polystyrene recycling supported
14. Mixed waste management (unrecoverable)	Significant support for energy from waste solution
15. Cost control of waste services	Willingness to pay additional fees is mixed. Support for user-pays services
16. Council's engagement	Continual education supported – modernised

^{16 2022} Community Satisfaction Survey. WSC 2022.

1.4 What impacts resource recovery for Wingecarribee?

Strategic actions must be designed to suit the local settings. Communities are characterised¹⁷ across a number of indicators which are considered in deciding best-fit waste management and resource recovery plans.

The population estimate for Wingecarribee Shire as of the 30th June 2022 is 52,779¹⁸. Since the previous year, the population has grown by 0.62% compared to the population growth in Regional NSW at 0.89%. Between 2021 and 2041, the population for Wingecarribee Shire is forecast to increase by 13,205 persons (25.17% growth), at an average annual change of 1.13%.

Residents & services

Wingecarribee's community is profiled as being above the NSW average age with the largest age group being the 70 to 74 year olds. More than half of the population is employed. Key industries include health care, building, education and training as well as hospitality and tourism. Most residents are english speaking and education attainment is above the regional NSW average. Household incomes for the Wingecarribee community are higher on average that the regional NSW average.

Kerbside services provided by Council to the community impact waste management systems and outcomes. Council currently provides services to residential properties and participating commercial business premises. Table 2 below includes details of the current services provided by Council.

Table 2: Wingecarribee Shire Council current resource recovery services

Service	Details
Residential	Approximately 20,000 households
Single-unit dwellings	95%
Multi-unit dwellings	5%
Collection services	Residential and Commercial
Mixed Waste	80 L Weekly (approx. 19,500 services) (140 & 240 L options)
Recycling	240 L Fortnightly (approx. 19,500 services) (360 L option)
Organics	240 L Fortnightly (approx. 19,000 services)
Residential Bulky Clean Ups	Scheduled (1 per year) ¹⁹ Separate bulky garbage, organics, metal, mattress collections
Other services	Public Place Litter, Special Event and Illegally Dumped Collection Services

¹⁷ Wingecarribee Community Profile. idprofile. 2021

¹⁸ Wingecarribee Community Profile. idprofile. 2021

¹⁹ Bulky waste collections currently provided

Housing

The Wingecarribee Local Housing Strategy²⁰ notes that the local government area is rural, with most residents living in the main population centres of Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale, with other dispersed semi-rural areas. Population forecasts are modest, but new land release areas will need to be provided with suitable services. Most of the population growth is expected to occur in the main towns. Small household numbers are a feature of household types with expected couple only and lone person households typical. By 2036, Council expects an additional 2,800 households to be accommodated. Detached houses on large lot sizes remain the dominant housing stock across the community. Medium density housing is expected to increase in the coming decade.

Population forecasts are modest, but new land release areas will need to be provided with suitable services.

Waste management infrastructure

In addition to providing households with waste collection services, access to other waste management infrastructure for the community is considered by Council in planning waste management services. The Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre services broad waste management needs and supports community opportunities for circular waste management practices. Access to the RRC is provided to residents with access to transportation. Suitable travel distances to facilities are determined by a number of factors noting that rural residents generally have a higher tolerance²¹ for distances.

The Wingecarribee community utilises the RRC for a range of purposes. Ensuring access equity for recycling and re-use opportunities across the local government area is managed by Council in overall service delivery. Given the relatively smaller volumes of waste materials to be managed, Council will balance the justification for new infrastructure with the expected outcomes and likely costs. Council will focus on innovative and entrepreneurial activities and encourage commercial opportunities to offset/fund the costs of infrastructure.

Additional services for residents in areas other than Moss Vale may include establishing public drop-offs, recycling stations or the provision of mobile collection units for special or problem wastes. Council has identified the aim of equitable access to residents by ensuring that residents in villages and semi-rural areas have suitable access to services.



20 Housing Our Community. Wingecarribee Local Housing Strategy. July 2021. WSC 21 Waste Transfer Stations: A Manual for Decision-making. June 2002. EPA USA.

1.5 How is Wingecarribee tracking?

Council manages the waste generated by residents and businesses across a variety of waste streams. Municipal (household) waste is the key waste stream for Council's efforts. Commercial and industrial waste, together with construction and demolition waste streams also contribute to the waste that is generated and must be managed. Waste management strategies can be designed to minimise waste generation, to target the recovery and re-use of resources from the waste streams or influence the generation and management of waste streams beyond Council's control.

Waste management strategies are designed to set out the expected journey for the community towards the desired directions or goals. The first steps in designing appropriate strategies is to assess the baseline for key waste factors or indicators, including:

- · how much waste is generated?
- what type of waste materials need to be managed?

- what resources can be recovered from the waste?
- how does the community's waste management compare?

Household waste management

Households across the Wingecarribee area are responsible for a significant proportion of Council's waste to be managed. Council provides kerbside collection services for garbage, recycling and garden organics. Material managed by Council at the Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre also needs to be considered in overall waste generation totals. Table 3 below provides a snapshot of the materials being generated by the community, together with overall resource recovery performance for the community.

Table 3: Wingecarribee - waste generation & resource recovery performance²² and comparison

Households - Kerbside	Wingecarribee households	NSW comparison
Mixed Waste	8,344 tonnes p.a. or 8.2 kg/HH/week	11.63 kg/HH/week
Recyclables	4,544 tonnes p.a. or 4.5 kg/HH/week	3.82 kg/HH/week
Organics	6,840 tonnes p.a. or 7.1 kg/HH/week	5.65 kg/HH/week
Households generation	19,728 tonnes	-
Community totals	Wingecarribee totals	-
Mixed Waste ²³	14,405 tonnes p.a.	-
Recyclables	5,441 tonnes p.a.	-
Organics	11,061 tonnes p.a.	-
Community generation	30,907 tonnes p.a.	-
Overall per household generation	28.59kg/HH/week	23.10 kg/HH/week
Total recycled	19,497 tonnes p.a. or 63.1%	46.1%

²² NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2020-21. June 2022

 $^{23\} Includes\ bulky\ clean\ up\ was te\ but\ excludes\ was te\ materials\ recycled\ through\ the\ community\ recycling\ centre$

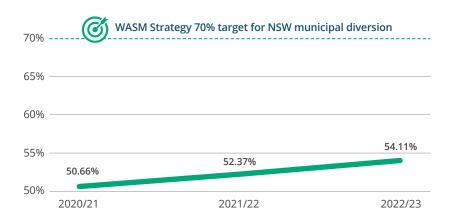


Figure 2: Wingecarribee recent landfill diversion performance – municipal solid waste diverted from landfill

The Wingecarribee community is tracking comparatively well, however, focused efforts will be needed to ensure waste is minimised and resources are captured through the waste management systems. Household waste generation compares favourably across each stream of mixed waste, recycling and organics collected. The additional waste materials delivered to the RRC to be managed increase the overall generation rates. Efforts will be required to address overall generation rates.

Figure 3 illustrates the proportion of waste streams in the overall total of materials to be managed.

Other useful information that provides additional context for Council is to review the composition of the waste generated and particularly, how households present their waste. This allows for an understanding of where improvements may be made.



Figure 3: Waste streams to be managed²⁴

24 NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2020-21. July 2021

Household waste composition

Council undertook an audit of domestic kerbside waste materials during 2021. From this waste audit, the residual waste bin (red lid bin) identified the following most predominant materials:

1.	food/kitchen (recoverable)	23%
2.	food/kitchen (other)	16%
3.	other putrescible	8%
4.	ceramics, dust, dirt, rock, inert, ash	8%
5.	nappies	8%
6.	textiles/rags	4%
7.	contaminated soiled paper	4%
8.	other paper and packaging	4%
9.	LDPE non-packaging	3%
10.	garden vegetation	2%

The audit showed that over 50% of the residual waste bins collected from households are comprised of recoverable resources that could be captured for recycling and re-use. This provides significant opportunity for the community to better utilise the services provided by Council, to improve overall performance.

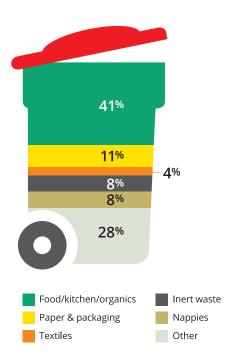


Figure 4: Residual bin composition – major waste materials



Wingecarribee Shire Council Resource & Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2033

Waste expectations

Resource management and recovery strategies can be adopted to influence all sectors and notably in Wingecarribee, household waste is around half of the waste managed by Council. The management of commercial as well as building waste can also be influenced to improve resource recovery. Commercial and industrial (C&I) waste, together with construction and demolition (C&D) waste, is delivered to ultimate destinations through Council's Resource Recovery Centre.

Waste from sources other than households is totalled, but the origin or character of those materials are not well understood. Building is a key industry for the area and so it is expected that construction and demolition waste contributes significantly to per capita waste generation.

Nationally, waste generation rates have been collated over a 15-year period and reported through the National Waste Report. In 2022, the Report²⁵ noted that over the 15-year period overall waste generation increased by 31% or 5.4% per capita. On a per capita basis, the following waste generation was recorded:



Building is a key industry for the area and so it is expected that construction and demolition waste contributes significantly to per capita waste generation.

Over the same period, the re-use and recycling rates were measured to show that totals recovered increased, with the municipal recovered total increasing by 22%, C&I increased by 10% and C&D increased by 121%. However, on a per capita basis, the recovery outlook was mixed, reported as follows:

C&D	increased by 77% per capita
C&I	decreased 4% per capita
residential waste	decreased 2.2% per capita

Wingecarribee expects 1.13% population growth through the next 20 years. Given per capita waste generation continues to grow, targeted efforts will be needed to improve recovery rates. Particular note is made of the C&D sector and the likelihood of increased C&D materials to be managed in Wingecarribee.

²⁵ National Waste Report 2022, prepared for The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Blue Environment et. al. December 2022

²⁶ This total excludes ash – if included, the total would be 20%.

²⁷ In Wingecarribee, this is predominately household waste but includes some commercial waste.

²⁸ including ash, this total would be a 21% increase.

1.6 Development of this Resource and Waste Management Strategy

In developing this Resource and Waste Management Strategy, Council has considered the existing settings governing resource management and reviewed how the community has performed. Extensive background information has been reviewed, together with consultation and planning to identify and concentrate the importance of key areas to be addressed. This Resource and Waste Management Strategy has been developed in response to:

- the policy, legislative and regulatory context
- Council's existing relevant plans
- the results of community consultation to guide the Strategy drafting
- Council's existing waste management data and a review of waste material composition
- relevant research and analysis.

Outline of strategy – directions + actions

Within the context of existing services and resource recovery performance is the backdrop for Council's new strategic outlook. The new direction for Wingecarribee is answered through the identification of how the community will decide to act next. Directions for Wingecarribee's resource and waste management have been garnered from considering obligations, opportunities and needs. Key *Strategy* directions have been developed to ensure the community's views can be addressed, within existing or reasonable resources. The broad directions are explained further in Section 2 of this *Strategy*.

The relevant key objectives that emerge from these *Strategy* directions are then explained in <u>Sections 3</u>, <u>4</u> and <u>5</u> in this *Strategy*. Council will work to achieve the objectives through a set of targeted actions identified and designed to respond to the direction objectives which are discussed throughout and finally tabled in a work program for Council to implement, in <u>Section 6</u> below. Intended actions are considered suitable for Wingecarribee.



Wingecarribee Shire Council Resource & Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2033

2 Strategy Development and Directions

Wingecarribee will build on wellestablished waste management foundations.

The community's priorities are acknowledged and future plans will answer to identified ambitions. Strategy directions will seek resource recovery improvements, minimise waste to landfill and maintain high service standards. Broad directions for the community will inform waste management initiatives that respond to the local conditions. Setting the pathway will allow for actions to achieve community expectations.



2.1 Our future direction

Council's resource management and recovery operations and resource recovery performance reflects the importance to the community of responsible and sustainable management.

Waste management plans are guided by both the starting point, as well as emerging policies, solutions, innovations and timelines. Strategic directions will underpin Council's objectives and influence what Council and the community does to continue to improve. Council's decision-making relies on a broad range of considerations. The various responsibilities of Council can be identified, with strategic responses designed. The goal of managing waste materials to support a sustainable future will be realised through well directed strategic endeavours.

Importantly, the resourcing of Council's resource management responsibilities, strategies and actions will not be isolated from the directions of the Community Strategic Plan.

2.2 What will Wingecarribee do next?

In determining the next steps for Wingecarribee waste management and resource recovery, the scope of responsibilities are identified. Council's strategic direction is designed to create opportunities within the constraints of a broad range of obligations. These obligations include:

- management of residential waste, including the kerbside collections; and the processing/ disposal of the collected waste (for garbage, recycling, organics and bulky clean-up waste)
- 2. influencing commercial waste generators to improve resource recovery
- 3. ensuring Council's own generated waste is suitably managed
- 4. management of Council's waste management assets

- targeting building and construction waste generators and providing improved opportunities to recovery resources
- understanding regulatory obligations and ensuring compliance responsibilities are addressed in accordance with timing requirements
- 7. providing suitable community communications and education
- 8. participating in, and responding to, adopted regional strategies
- 9. planning and resourcing the agreed programs and waste management actions.



2.3 Resource and Waste Management Strategy Directions

Upon acknowledging the broad categories of Council's waste management obligations, together with the settings and drivers for improvements, the strategy directions are identified. Council has determined strategic directions. Specific actions can be developed for each. The strategic directions provide opportunities for improved management, such as targeting waste materials for recovery. Each *Strategy* direction then allows for management objectives.

The following *Resource and Waste Management Strategy* directions are established:







Resource Recovery



The Strategy directions, together with their related objectives are noted below in Table 4.

Table 4: Wingecarribee Shire Council – strategy directions and objectives

Direction: Circular Economy	Direction: Resource Recovery	Direction: Waste Responsibility
Align with regional, NSW and national strategies including strategies to target waste streams not yet recovered e.g. FOGO, plastics etc	Pursue a staged resource recovery rate/target through adopting the NSW targets – to minimise waste, divert more waste from landfill and improve resource recovery	Address Council's infrastructure and assets requirements, including understanding and managing all compliance responsibilities, for the medium to long term
Promote and reinforce circular strategies, language and change approaches as relevant to Council's waste materials	Implement systems to capture the widest possible range of materials for recovery	Resource and control costs for value for money outcomes – implement services efficiencies to address other directions
Identify and participate in viable circular economy, avoidance and re-use project initiatives, including utilising the RRC and Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) to embrace resource recovery and the circular economy	Progress strategies within well- developed communications and education activities that raise awareness and drive behavioural change (including contamination management)	Identify and implement opportunities to manage problem waste management
Implement waste management collection and processing services suitable – through the most appropriate suite of services – to achieve circular outcomes	Seek operational efficiencies and maintain quality controls, to ensure the highest order re-use of materials	Seek opportunities for innovation in the recovery of residual waste as an alternative to landfilling, that are cost effective and environmentally responsible
Support long term investment in circular responses and regional solutions – allowing flexibility to capture new waste materials where a recycling solution can be provided	Develop strategies and work with all stakeholders to influence and support improvements in recovering a broad range of waste materials e.g. construction and demolition waste	Assess and develop new strategic partnerships where opportunities will support Council's other strategic directions
Review and update relevant Council policies to align waste services with circular pursuits	Broaden services to provide opportunities for additional waste materials to be recycled	Participate and contribute to regional strategies – such as, litter reduction efforts and respond to illegally dumped waste challenges

2.4 Wingecarribee's targets

Wingecarribee adopts the targets set in the National Waste Policy and the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy, as applicable. Within the Wingecarribee community, these translate to local targets through local objectives and can be summarised as:

- reducing total waste generated on a per capita basis by 10% during the life of this Strategy
- implementing programs to aim for 80% resource recovery overall by 2030
- providing organics waste recovery systems, once services are available, to halve organics landfilled

- identifying how to phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics as soon as possible
- promoting the use of recycled content to increase local re-use of resources.

Targets will be pursued through local and regional programs. Additional pursuits will also be aligned with broader strategy endeavours such as advocating for suitable waste management infrastructure and joining in regional efforts to combat illegal dumping. This Resource & Waste Management Strategy will be implemented by Council across the identified directions through staged timelines and action plans.

2.5 Strategy drivers and directions

The delivery of this *Strategy* is planned to respond to identified drivers through objectives that comprehensively set clear directions. Dynamic actions will be the method by which Council and

the community join to reach the local targets. Figure 4 below illustrates the strategy development and directions:

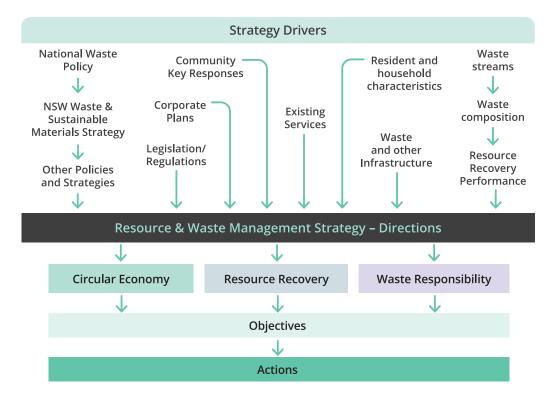


Figure 5: Council strategy drivers and directions

2.6 Strategy development

The actions to be undertaken in order to deliver this *Resource and Waste Management Strategy* are medium to long term actions, designed for each identified direction, being mindful of the community's resources.

Each strategic action will guide Council to implement and achieve the various steps required to improve resource recovery, waste management and services to the community. Details of each strategy direction and the related local characteristics for adopting each are explore further. Finally, the directions of the *Strategy* are sub-categorised in order to arrange actions and timelines for implementation. Table 5 below summarises the sub-categories from which local actions are developed:

Each strategic action will guide Council to implement and achieve the various steps required to improve resource recovery, waste management and services to the community.

Table 5: Resource and waste management strategy development

Strategic direction subcategories		
Α	Circular Economy direction	
A.1	Waste and circular economy	
A.2	Circular materials	
A.3	Manage new or problem waste	
В	Resource Recovery direction	
B.1	Capturing resources	
B.2	Contamination management	
B.3	Influence all waste generators	
С	Waste Responsibility direction	
C.1	Services	
C.2	Facilities	
C.3	Continue education and communications	
C.4	General compliance and waste management data	

3 Wingecarribee Circular Economy Direction

Waste management circular economy principles guide communities to become active in pursuing solutions for improved resource management.

Keeping materials in circulation rather than creating waste will require a shift in mindset and transitional steps. Once there is a clear understanding of the materials to be managed, the actions for transforming the community to be circular can be designed and followed.



3.1 Waste and the circular economy

Wingecarribee Shire Council has responded to the community's wishes to consider such directions as 'environment and climate change' and 'emissions reduction' through the development of Council-specific policies – such as eliminating single use plastic bags. Circular economy actions can also be capture in this Resource and Waste Management Strategy as it relates to the management of materials captured through Council's waste systems.

Council will endeavour to attach circular value to materials when implementing waste management practices, programs and activities. Adopting this new circular paradigm will ensure decision

making is founded in community accepted values which will result in reduced wasted materials and increased sustainability.

Long term waste management will focus on recognising the resources to be managed and the opportunities for maintaining the circularity of materials over the long term.

The Circular Economy differs from recycling in that from the very beginning products are made to last several lifecycles. In an ideally designed Circular Economy, products would be designed from the start to be reused, repaired, and re-manufactured.

3.2 Waste hierarchy and circular economy

The waste hierarchy is a well-established framework prioritising waste minimisation and resource recovery that underpins waste management strategies. Council's approach will advance this philosophy towards a circular view in designing all aspects of the management of resources through priorities that follow from the hierarchy, being:

- 1. the highest priority of avoiding and reducing the generation of waste materials
- the next priorities encompass resource recovery actions through re-use, recycling, reprocessing and energy recovery
- finally, where waste materials cannot be recovered, treatment options and disposal as a last resort.

The waste hierarchy is typically illustrated below in Figure 6.

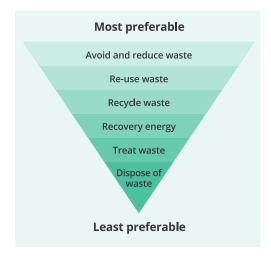


Figure 6: Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy is a well-established framework prioritising waste minimisation and resource recovery that underpins waste management strategies.

Council's strategy endeavours promote the avoidance and minimisation of waste. The next step is the management of materials once they are to be managed by Council. A 'circular economy' approach to waste management aims to value resources by keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible, thereby maximising the use and value of resources. Such an approach reduces environmental impacts as well as contributing to increased economic activity and community social benefits, such as employment opportunities.

At its centre, circular economy includes the recognition that deliberate activities are to be implemented, or steps taken to embed circular principles into strategies and operations to encourage sustainable business performance. Council will take the same approach to the delivery of waste management services.

The circular economy in the resource management context, can be illustrated as follows in Figure 7.

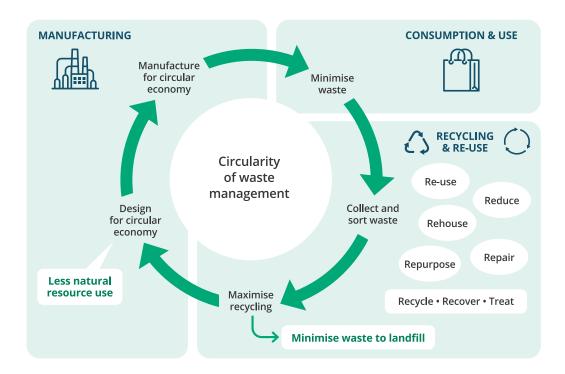


Figure 7: Circular economy

3.3 Circular materials

The management of materials through Council's waste management systems must be planned to capture resources and ensure recycling, re-use or reprocessing. The approach is designed to keep the resources in circulation to minimise natural resources being used as well as avoiding the limitation of resource use by landfilling. Communities are well-tuned to the aims of circularity and desire schemes to be implemented for the highest order outcomes, through waste management systems focused on resource management.

Community consultation undertaken in developing this *Resource and Waste Management Strategy* identified the need to capture a broader range of materials, such as soft plastics and textiles. Council is tasked with installing services and structures to target these materials and to seek a solution for perpetuating their circularity.

It is likely that local solutions for promoting the circularity of materials will be characterised by creating links and access to regional or national solutions. For waste materials, circular economies are grounded in competitive efficiencies such as scale, predictable material qualities and the costs of production or processing. The relatively small volumes of materials from Wingecarribee will be consolidated with other communities seeking circular outcomes.

A range of waste management actions have been designed to promote a circular economy for Wingecarribee, through the optimisation of materials. Council will be required to take a leadership role in aligning circular resource management practices with broader policy positions.

Sustainable procurement

Sustainable procurement ensures that Council considers economic, environmental and social impacts of purchasing goods to emphasise the entire life cycle of the product. Council's sustainable procurement processes can take into account:

- · strategies to extend the life of the product
- planning what happens with a product at the end of its life – i.e. how will it be reused, recycled, treated or disposed
- sustainable solutions and innovation in tenders
- improving sustainability throughout the life of the good's life while improving opportunities for a more circular approach to Council's business.



Wingecarribee Shire Council Resource & Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2033

3.4 Wingecarribee circular economy solutions

Key circular actions will be directed towards providing the community with increased opportunities to support circular solutions and access services that will increase circularity. The following will be implemented by Council in order to set Wingecarribee on a suitable circular economy direction:

A.1 Waste and the circular economy

ACTIONS

- 1.1 Continue to engage in regional waste strategies
- 1.2 Develop waste reduction strategies
- 1.3 Support local circular solutions
- Develop a sustainable procurement strategy
- 1.5 Design resource recovery measurement methods
- 1.6 Advocate for circular solutions
- 1.7 Influence Council's partnerships
- 1.8 Establish social enterprise connections

A.2 Circular materials

ACTIONS

- 2.1 Continue regional collaboration
- 2.2 Plan procurement to address circularity of materials
- 2.3 Promote buy-back opportunities
- 2.4 Examine Council's own waste
- 2.5 Community bans for single use items
- 2.6 Continually review strategic actions

A.3 Manage new or problem wastes

ACTIONS

- 3.1 Consider pathway for unrecoverable materials
- 3.2 Participate in regional illegal dumping activities
- 3.3 Assess C&D waste generation
- 3.4 Consider new methods or events to capture more materials
- 3.5 Develop a sustainable events policy
- 3.6 Support community events such as Clean Up Australia
- 3.7 Ewaste management plan developed

4 Wingecarribee Resource Recovery Direction

Resource recovery success depends not only on the collection systems for recycling and recovery of waste materials, but also on the proper use of the systems to minimise levels of contamination.

Wingecarribee can improve resource recovery outcomes by capturing all materials where solutions for their reprocessing is available. Optimising the collected materials will improve recovery outcomes.



4.1 Resource recovery

The Wingecarribee community recycles well, although appears to have stalled in improving resource recovery outcomes. Recycling volumes have reduced 5% annually over the last 5 years. Existing systems are utilised and where possible, residents seek alternatives to disposing of recoverable materials to landfill. Resource recovery occurs by residents and businesses utilising the existing kerbside collection services as well as separating waste items for recycling at the Moss Vale Resource Recovery Facility.

Resource recovery can be increased by capturing all materials where solutions for their reprocessing is available. Resource volumes captured, together with the minimisation of contamination, allows for re-use or re-processing of the collected materials.

The increasing cost of not recovering resources from the waste streams continues to support the need for efficient recycling systems. Council seeks expanded opportunities for recycling and endeavours to match sustainable materials management practices with services designed to improve resource recovery.

4.2 Systems and services for capturing resources

Council currently provides a range of kerbside collection systems for residents for the collection of mixed waste, recycling and garden organics. Options for bin sizes and collection frequencies across the waste streams are designed to cater to varying household needs. Best practice guides²⁹ for bin systems, to drive resource recovery also seek to harmonise systems across regions in order to strengthen the correct use of collection systems. Residents need to recognise and understand the collection systems in order to optimise resource recovery.

²⁹ Preferred resource recovery practices by local Councils. Best Bin Systems. NSW EPA. 2012. Better practice guide for resource recovery in residential developments. NSW EPA. 2019

Council can consolidate the options available to residents in order to promote resource recovery, simplify the bin systems to be serviced and to compliment the processing services provided. Community education is then designed to support residents to captured recoverable resources and minimise contamination. The particular bin systems adopted will result in performance outcomes where the bin size, collection frequency and household education are optimised to match community needs. In addition, straightforward and clear fees and charges will then flow from a consolidation of the available services.

Noting the information from Council's waste materials composition audits and the community's feedback, certain resources can be targeted through the systems implemented by Council. Food waste recovery is identified as a key target area. Soft plastics recovery is also a high priority area to target. Textiles is another area for improved capture, where suitable solutions can be implemented.

What kerbside collection systems are most suitable for Wingecarribee?

Council will continue the best practice three bin system for garbage, recycling and organics. Importantly, Council is actively pursuing a processing solution for the capture of food waste with garden organics (FOGO). Such a system can be planned for and introduced prior to the NSW mandated FOGO date. From 2026 a new collection services agreement will need to be implemented that can be designed to transition the community to a food recovery service, once a suitable processing solution is available. Kerbside collection services are designed to provide a 'default' system for the community. Alternatives to say, collection frequencies or bin sizes, can be added by Council where there is sufficient need.

Supplying new bins to the community is a significant undertaking. Weighing up the need and the timing for new bins is usually considered when new collection services are being procured. Upon the introduction of FOGO collections, Council will also need to determine the most appropriate system for the community. This may include the supply to households of kitchen caddies with liners to encourage the capture of food waste. A comprehensive FOGO implementation plan can be developed by Council to support the new service.

For Wingecarribee, the most suitable kerbside services for the medium term will be as illustrated below in Figure 8.



- Transitioning to weekly organics collections once a food processing solution is gained.
- Consider frequency for mixed waste collections to be reduced to fortnightly at the time FOGO collections are introduced.
- Accommodate additional recovery options as solutions become available e.g. soft plastics collected with recycling.
- Other bin size and frequency options can be provided by Council to residents, as necessary.
- Standardised fees and charges can be developed for the default services – with variations for alternatives.

Figure 8: Collection services - default services

Bulky clean up services from households have also been identified by residents as a desired service. The resource value of this waste stream is usually high and, for the medium term, Council will deliver this material to a facility tasked with recovering materials for recycling and re-use. Over the long term, the management of this waste material can be reviewed for any possible higher order outcomes. Currently Council provides households with one scheduled bulky waste collection services. The service level for bulky clean up collections can be reviewed and options examined for the most suitable approach. In the medium term, the community seeks a suitable approach which is likely to be one service per annum. However, to improve efficiencies Council can consider whether these need to be booked collections and/or user-pays services. Other alternatives can include providing residents with vouchers for disposal to the RRC.

Council will also continue to provide resource recovery options through the Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre.

Pursuing solutions such as soft plastics recovery will depend on systems development and infrastructure access that will depend on parties other than Council. Council will play a role in providing support to emerging schemes as well as advocate for government support to the creation of circular solutions.

All collected waste streams are delivered to available facilities subject to service contracts for suitable management services, including resource recovery for recycling, organics and bulky clean up waste. Wingecarribee has been a member of a regional collective of local councils that have twice sought resource recovery solutions jointly. This allows for Wingecarribee to join the relatively small volumes of materials with neighbouring Councils to access resource recovery solutions that may not otherwise be available. This approach is a long term commitment for Council.

4.3 Managing contamination

Once the resource recovery systems have been adopted, the capture of resources for re-use depends on the management of contamination in each stream. Contamination refers to the presence of non-recyclable or non-compliant materials mixed into the resource stream, undermining the quality or efficiency of materials recovery. Where contamination impacts the material stream, there is a lost opportunity to recover the separated materials and additional costs to manage, or the contamination compromises the quality of reprocessed resources.

Waste items placed into the wrong bin undermines community efforts. Understanding bin systems is the first step for residents. Establishing household habits needs to be supported by clear guidelines for 'what goes in what bin'. The collection system outlined for Council supports ease of access which is the first step towards the most appropriate contamination management system. Community education will be essential, particularly for the adoption of FOGO services. Where residents don't utilise the bin systems through household separation, or continually contaminate resource streams, Council can consider methods for identifying the households and appropriate contamination sanctions which can become a condition of service provision.

Auditing waste is an essential step for understanding the composition of waste streams, the recoverable materials to be targeted and the need for customised services. Kerbside waste material audits are a standard method for assessment of household waste which also identifies contamination characteristics. Council might consider additional audits for other waste streams, as appropriate.

4.4 Resource recovery for all waste generators

Resource recovery is not limited to households. All waste generators can be targeted for the recovery of resources for re-use or reprocessing. Stakeholders are usually willing to observe circular economy practices and to optimise resource recovery where systems or services are available.

Council can influence other waste generators, noting that the NSW EPA reports³⁰ that municipal waste accounts for 20% of waste generated in NSW, with commercial and industrial waste being 21%; and construction and demolition waste making up 59% of waste generation.

Business waste

In order to improve overall resource recovery, generators of large waste volumes can be supported to implement resource recovery practices. Such an approach is likely to yield improved outcomes for the community. Targeting large waste generators will require assessing the material delivered to the RRC as well as the generators. Understanding the waste types and the potential for resource recovery can allow for the most effective recovery approach.

Commercial, industrial, building and demolition waste contributes to the community's overall performance and focusing efforts to better understand and incentivise these waste generators



will be beneficial. Where necessary, new services may need to be designed to provide solutions. Upon closer assessment of these waste streams, alternatives for resource recovery can be developed. These waste streams can be different to household waste in characteristics, delivery frequency and volume. New ways of improving resource recovery from this waste will be necessary.

Other approaches and incentives for commercial waste generators can improve overall community efforts. Customised communications for business waste generators and heightened engagement with businesses will also create linkages to resource recovery improvements. Further stakeholder consultation and development of recognition of resource recovery achievement in the commercial sector can be pursued.

Focused education for businesses, particularly in the building and construction sector can help resource recovery efforts.

Development control considerations

Development control plans are another avenue for Council to influence waste generators. Ensuring proper management of demolition and construction waste, together with ensuring new buildings are adequately planned for long term resource recovery systems, such as having adequate space for multiple bins, is an essential approach for Council.

Guidelines can be developed for inclusion with DCPs. Guidelines can provide current information about local resource recovery solutions. Compliance with DCPs will improve outcomes. Council can also introduce on-site checks to ensure compliance where developments need to adopt resource recovery practices.

Resource recovery at the RRC

A masterplan for the RRC will direct Council on the efficient utilisation of this key waste management facility. Council will implement the planned approached and ensure that the facility continues to facilitate waste management needs for the community. Importantly, the masterplan provides for resource recovery management and the continuation of significant operations at the site.

30 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Progress Report 2017-18. NSW EPA. 2019



The Reviva shop at the Resource Recovery Centre

Utilising the RRC to further expand resource recovery opportunities and services will be important. Community feedback encourages Council to broaden the materials to be recovered and Council will explore all possibilities for accommodating additional materials, such as soft plastics, polystyrene and fabrics.

The Reviva Shop at the RRC is operated to capture household items for repair and re-use. This organisation is at the forefront of re-use activities for the community. Further Council support for this enterprise can be examined for increased resource recovery and re-use opportunities.

Problem waste items are also recovered at the RRC community recycling centre for recycling or safe disposal. A range of other inert waste items are managed by Council for resource recovery where solutions are available.

Whether the RRC or alternative additional facilities need to accommodate challenging waste and resource recovery operations, such as construction and demolition waste, can be assessed as part of the RRC masterplan implementation.

Council has identified an aspiration to provide a waste and resource recovery facility for each 10,000 residents. This approach can be delivered through solutions such as recycling stations, transfer facilities, special collections, drop-off event or additional waste event opportunities. All such solutions will remain reliant on the RRC as the central consolidation facility. Other satellite

facilities or special services will have linkages to the RCC which will remain Council's key waste management asset and will centralise the management of waste collected across the local government area. Council will examine opportunities to provide all residents with access to waste and resource recovery services, regardless of where they live.

Community events

Typically, local councils require special or community events to comply with resource recovery practices. A special event management plan can include information and proposed services to ensure that recycling services are provided at each event. Council supplied services can support the event resource recovery and waste management.

To advance this approach, Council can further promote waste minimisation by suggesting that event organisers encourage event participants to bring their own plates, cups and utensils. Information can also be provided for event organisers to request that food vendors permit food and drink service in 'keep-cups' and other BYO food servers.

In addition to special events, expanding public place recycling opportunities will further support resource recovery. Local residents actively seek recycling services when they are away from home. For all public place bins, Council can identify suitable locations, bin types and other service requirements.

Further advances in managing waste in public places can also be explored. Efficiencies can be gained in service provision through strategically located self-compacting bins, or smart bins.



4.5 Wingecarribee resource recovery solutions

Actions will be seek improved resource recovery outcomes. The following strategy components and planned strategic actions will be implemented by Council with the purpose of ensuring the community continues to improve resource recovery and reduce materials to landfill:

B.1 Capturing resources

ACTIONS

- 1.1 Adopt a default service suite for households
- 1.2 Procure new waste management services
- 1.3 Assess need for new bins
- 1.4 FOGO Implementation Plan
- 1.5 Explore options for soft plastics
- 1.6 Develop waste textile recovery plan
- 1.7 Implement RRC Master Plan
- 1.8 Expand public place recycling
- 1.9 Assess commercial bin services to improve resource recovery
- 1.10 Implement responses to reduce construction & demolition waste
- 1.11 Continually review the community's resource recovery performance

B.2 Contamination

ACTIONS

- 2.1 Audits to characterise contamination materials
- 2.2 Increase kerbside contamination management efforts
- 2.3 Embed contamination management in next collection services contract
- 2.4 Target contamination in FOGO
- 2.5 Implement commercial contamination plan
- 2.6 Advocate for expanded CDS

B.3 Influence all waste generators

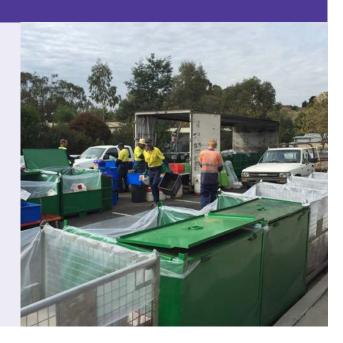
ACTIONS

- 3.1 Identify large waste generators
- 3.2 Incentivise resource recovery
- 3.3 Review Council's waste DCP
- 3.4 Develop C& I resource recovery pledge
- 3.5 Consider additional materials recovery events
- 3.6 Provide resource recovery information for construction waste

5 Wingecarribee Waste Responsibility Directions

Waste responsibilities for local councils are wide ranging and increasingly complex.

Facility compliance responsibilities, service procurement, budgeting and community engagement each have multi-facetted demands for Council to plan for and manage. Strategies need to respond to the vast responsibilities to be managed by Council and directions can be set for proper management of the various responsibilities.



5.1 Waste management responsibilities

Council must ensure adequate importance is attached to managing its waste management responsibilities. Strategic actions must be implemented to ensure Council adequately plans for, and resources, the management of environmental compliance obligations, financial management, contracting for waste management services and community communication.

Maintaining reasonable costs for the waste services to be provided to the community is essential and a medium to long term planning framework is provided by Council. Cost impacts of new and additional services must be planned for.

Securing collection and processing or disposal services must also be planned over a medium to long timeline. Council must anticipate 'what-is-next' to ensure proper preparation for the needs of the Wingecarribee community.

5.2 Services and resourcing

Council controls the infrastructure and methods for delivering waste management operations to the community. The responsibility for resourcing the services requires planning, budgeting and the procurement of services. For the various proposed actions detailed in this *Resource and Waste Management Strategy*, Council can plan for adequate resourcing to ensure delivery of the agreed elements. Resourcing of this *Strategy* will include financial allocations, in-house staffing, external services providers, as well as ensuring Council maintains a suitable level of expertise to guide all responses to Council's responsibilities.

The resourcing of Council's activities, together with the establishment of increased service levels must be balanced against the costs of not acting. For each significant action adopted, an assessment of the costs and benefits will provide the requisite backing for measured decision making.

Where services are to be procured by Council on behalf of the community, suitable procurement strategies and processes should be set up to ensure competitive processes are undertaken within wellestablished probity and governance arrangements.

Improvements can be pursued by Council in resident interactions. Technology may be utilised to provide residents with pro-active notices regarding the day-to-day management of the services as well as put information into residents' hands. Council may explore the development of interactive information exchanges reinforcing resource recovery efforts.

Financial and risk management

Long term financial planning will be required to adequately anticipate financial resourcing. Implementing the actions for this *Strategy* will be aligned with planned finance over the long term. Council plans the financial obligations of the community through an integrated planning and reporting framework. The financing of household waste management services sits alongside Council's consolidate budget with reasonable costs as a guide.

Ultimately, Council will set annual fees and charges to adequately maintain the agreed level of services and direct planning for the medium to long term. Setting the domestic waste charge requires financial standards to be adopted for planned and expected reasonable costs. Charges may be varied for different service levels or user-pays service options e.g. where opt-in services are provided.

For commercial and other waste management services it is open to Council to ensure full cost recovery together with targeting possible revenue streams. Key to waste budgeting is to ensure that generators of waste today are not passings cost forward to future generations. Special budgets may be needed for individual projects or actions.

Importantly, where waste services are provided by service providers at facilities in other locations, contingency planning should also be undertaken by Council. A waste management emergency plan can be developed to plan how emergencies that impact local waste management can be addressed, as well as when access to facilities may need to be managed. Council's responsibility for business continuity planning should align with long term financial planning.

5.3 Facilities and other responsibilities

Special waste streams or waste from special sources can need particular responses. Where tailored solutions are required for the management, or a change to the management, of these wastes, Council can devised responses and manage these waste for the community. New needs can arise at anytime and Council will be tasked with responding to these.

Waste management facilities are provided by Council at the Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre. Implementing the RRC master plan and monitoring facility utility and capacity will be an ongoing responsibility. Resource recovery will remain the focus for this key facility, supported by clear messaging, signs and facility operation.

Where other waste service demands arise, responses can be designed. For example, where some residents are not able to access the RRC for problem waste item disposal, mobile collection and disposal units may be a suitable response. Special arrangements or other responses may be needed for events like 'drop-off days' for materials

that are not usually delivered to the RRC. Attention may be needed to improve service levels for rural residents.

Council will seek to ensure a waste or resource recovery resource is accessible per 10,000 residents, which may result in additional services or facilities located in villages and semi-rural areas. Such facilities may be limited in what can be collected but will focus on improving resource recovery outcomes.

Over the medium to long term, Council may also consider the need for additional facilities. Ensuring equal access to facilities across the local government area, as well as identifying where certain waste streams made need a separate facility, may improve Council's waste management.

Council continues to pursue innovative response to community needs. A precinct study has provided a preliminary framework for establishing a Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP). Council seeks to amalgamate industrial land for locational, employment, ecological and

sustainable uses. The infrastructure needs of the Wingecarribee community will be a consideration for the SHIP. A strategic masterplan for the SHIP will consider Council's overall strategic infrastructure planning. Potential connections to Council's waste management needs can be included in SHIP planning.

Legacy responsibilities will remain with Council for all facilities. Notably the closed Welby landfill site closure requires ongoing rehabilitation management.

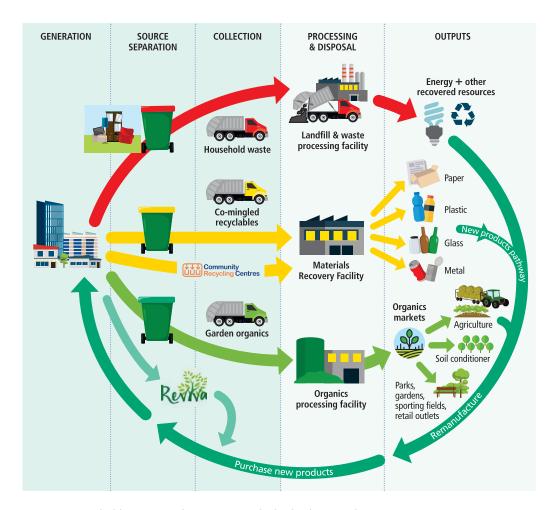


Figure 9: Household waste circular economy - the kerbside to market return journey

5.4 Communications and education

Implementation of this Resource and Waste Management Strategy can be accompanied by an engagement plan that recognises and plans for all required community education and communications. Changes to services or new innovations need to be suitably communicated to the community. Resource recovery education is a constant responsibility for Council to ensure participation and compliance with waste management systems.

School and community education forms an important part of this responsibility. Information must also be developed and delivered to households to align with the actions taken up by Council. The success of certain objectives, such as improving resource recovery and contamination management, depends on consistent and broadly delivered community education.

Where significant changes are planned, such as the introduction of FOGO services, separate implementation and education planning will

be essential to the success of the new system. Special communication campaigns can be designed for targeted actions, for example, capturing building waste for resource recovery. Communications can also be designed to target littering and illegal dumping.

Where Council anticipates that new services may need particular explanations or justification, engaging with the community early and often will provide for better understanding of all community concerns and where accurate information needs to be delivered.

Digital technology has been embedded in waste education and offers a delivery method that is accessible and effective. Council can use digital communication methods to reach the community and provide lower cost, up-to-date information regarding the waste topics Council determines are important at the various stages of implementing this *Strategy*.

5.5 Reporting on progress

Council will monitor and regularly report on the effectiveness of the *Strategy*. We will report progress against priority actions at least every six months through our Delivery Program and Operational Plan reporting mechanisms as well as via Council's Annual Report. Changes to strategies can be enacted where success is not evident.

This Resource and Waste Management Strategy can be accompanied by a measurement and reporting system whereby Council develops clear data sets to track performance and assess whether actions remain suitable. Data sets are routinely derived for some service components and can be expanded where Council needs to understand and illustrate that invested resources are sustainable. Continuing to undertake composition audits forms part of the data required to measure performance. Where improvements are made to services in particular sectors or for identified waste streams, these improvements can be built on, if it is clear that the actions are gaining results. Separate datasets may need to be designed for measuring particular waste management activities.



Wingecarribee Shire Council Resource & Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2033

5.6 Wingecarribee waste management responsibilities and solutions

Council's waste accountabilities will be further achieved through actions designed to ensure Council's overarching responsibilities are addressed. The following strategy components and planned strategic actions will guide Council to capture broad planning and service delivery for all additional responsibilities.

C.1 Services

ACTIONS

- 1.1 Review all resourcing of Council's responsibilities
- 1.2 Update knowledge and acquire advice where necessary
- 1.3 Undertake procurement for long term processing services
- 1.4 Design new fees and charges and long term financial planning
- 1.5 Assess commercial services for full cost recovery
- 1.6 Consider bulky clean up service alternatives
- 1.7 Review services and survey the community
- 1.8 Increase management of special wastes
- 1.9 Assess grant opportunities
- 1.10 Manage Welby landfill legacy
- 1.11 Consider new waste management technology
- 1.12 Continual review of Council's waste management and operations

C.2 Facilities

ACTIONS

- 2.1 Ensure compliance with implementation of MVRRC Masterplan
- 2.2 Assess access for all disposal needs
- 2.3 Consider drop-off events
- 2.4 Assess need for additional facilities
- 2.5 Elevate waste management in SHIP planning

C.3 Continue education & communications

ACTIONS

- 3.1 Draft a Resource & Waste Management Engagement Plan
- 3.2 Increase residential information re recycling
- 3.3 Update information to target contamination
- 3.4 Litter and illegal dumping prevention campaign developed
- 3.5 Community education for FOGO developed
- 3.6 Develop construction and demolition waste specific communications
- 3.7 Deliver communications if energy from waste is likely
- 3.8 Target special and problem waste education
- 3.9 Review and update digital waste information and education

C.4 General compliance & waste management data

ACTIONS

- 4.1 Measure and report Strategy success
- 4.2 Broaden Councils' baseline data set
- 4.3 Identify large waste generators for the purpose of improved communications
- 4.4 Consider additional audits to inform information
- 4.5 Review *Strategy* timelines and performance for additional communications
- 4.6 Develop emergency and contingency planning
- 4.7 Continue to undertake periodic composition audits
- 4.8 Develop new strategy

6 Actions

The following action plan is designed to guide Council's implementation of the Resource and Waste Management Strategy. Each year, the Council will operationalise the *Strategy* by reconfirming the priority actions for the year ahead, along with the funding required, as part of the annual Operational Plan and Budget process.

Wingecarribee circular economy direction – actions

Table 6: Wingecarribee Shire Council – circular economy direction

A.1 Waste and the circular economy – Strategic actions			
ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
1.1 Continue to engage in regional waste strategies.	Council and neighbour local councils		
1.2 Develop waste reduction strategies focussed on identified per capita waste decreases.	Council		
1.3 Support local circular solutions where opportunities arise.	Council and relevant proponents		
1.4 Develop a sustainable procurement policy for Council (a regional approach can be considered). Identify Council opportunities to support circular materials e.g. recycled glass.	Council		
1.5 Design measurement methods for how resource recovery is helping Council achieve climate change and emissions reductions – as sought in broader strategic directions.	Council		
1.6 Advocate for circular solutions such as reprocessing options, extended producer responsibilities.	Council		
1.7 Examine Council partnerships that can adopt Council's circular strategies e.g. when Council undertakes its business activities, suggest and develop joint 'circular understanding statements'.	Council and relevant proponents		
1.8 Establish social enterprise connections to target circular material management. Local social enterprise operations reviewed for material management, employment opportunities etc.	Council		

A.2 Circular materials – Strategic actions			
ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
2.1 Continue regional collaboration for material processing services to access best solutions and innovations in waste processing/treatment.	Council and neighbour local councils		
2.2 Commence procurement planning to seek additional materials processing solutions, develop specifications for contamination management responses, other circular actions through services.	Council/External		
2.3 Promotion of buy-back opportunities for residents through RRC.	Council		
2.4 Examine and characterise Council's own waste.			
Review systems utilised by Council's operations and determine where materials are not being well managed. Implement changes necessary to improve outcomes.	Council		
2.5 Ban on single use plastic water bottles extended for other identified single use items.	Council to promote		
2.6 Review Strategy actions and achievements in preparation for next strategy.	Council		

ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
3.1 Consider pathway for energy-from-waste solution for residual materials that cannot be recovered. Identify barriers and risks to be managed. Community plan for EfW implementation.	Council and through procurement process		
3.2 Participate in regional illegal dumping management activities. Resource accordingly for local illegal dumping rectification.	Council		
3.3 Assess C&D waste generation to understand waste types, for recovery programs. Consider C&D audits to assess – volume and composition, generator type, particular stages or time periods to be managed.	Council/External		A
3.4 Consider new methods or resource recovery events for capturing problem waste e.g. special waste materials events with discounted fees for disposal/management. Broadened solution and target problem waste such as polystyrene. Develop solutions for other emerging problem wastes, such as solar panels.	Council		
3.5 Develop a sustainable event policy to be followed at Council events and as a requirement for community events. Update Council's special events waste management plans. Include in Council's relevant policies a requirement that special events must include resource recovery and demonstrate how services can be provided by Council (via service contract). Promote BYO plates, utensils, cups etc. for community events. Introduce a recycled content requirements for special event waste management plans and council operations.	Council		
3.6 Support events such as Clean Up Australia – provide advice and resources.	Council/External		
3.7 Introduce an Ewaste management plan to improve recovery and diversion from mixed waste/ bulky stream. Increase the scope of ewaste to be recovered.	Council		

Wingecarribee Resource Recovery direction – actions

Table 7: Wingecarribee Shire Council – resource recovery direction

B.1 Capturing resources – Strategic actions ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
1.1 Adopt a default 3 bin waste collection service for residents and commercial customers. Implement waste policy for default services. Consider options on default services and consider incentives for smaller bins.	Council		
1.2 Initiate procurement planning for waste management services. Understand timeline and resource allocations required for procurement of collection services and for processing services. Implement procurement strategy.	Council/External		
1.3 Consider and assess when new bins will be supplied to residents and businesses (tied to waste policy for services). Procure supply and distribution of new bins, when appropriate (possibly at time of FOGO introduction).	Council/External		A
1.4 Develop a comprehensive FOGO Implementation Plan including, for example: trials, communications to prepare the community, consideration of multi-unit dwelling food collections, commercial food collection services, use of kitchen caddies and liners, opt in or across the collection area – all other features to be determined. Deliver the plan in preparation for FOGO collections. Design FOGO monitoring strategy for first 18 months following FOGO implementation. Introduce FOGO collections, monitor and respond. Support to residents for proper use of the new system.	Council/External		
1.5 Explore options for soft plastics collections and capture.Determine most suitable system and procure relevant soft plastics management system.	Council		
1.6 Identify textile sources, types, volumes, where they enter the waste stream and their resource potential e.g. re-use/recycle/re-process. Develop waste textile recovery plan and implement.	Council/External		

B.1 Capturing resources – Strategic actions			
ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
1.7 Implement the RRC Masterplan including all options for improved resource recovery. Where possible, expand RRC opportunities for recovery of additional materials where solutions are available. Expand re-use shop functions e.g. tool library (maybe collaborate with Moss Vale Mens Shed Inc.), repair-and-share event.	Council		
1.8 Expand public place recycling opportunities. Identify sites and undertake trials/audits. Consider smart/compactor bins. Implement in new collection contract.	Council		
 Design and implement a commercial bin services assessment process to determine resource recovery opportunities. Implement service response to improve commercial resource recovery. Develop and implement 5 star compliance system recognising commercial efforts. 	Council		
1.10 Following assessment of C&D waste, implement a multi-pronged response to reducing C&D waste generation and improving C&D resource recovery. Assess increased needs of RRC or other facility needed to properly address C&D waste recovery efforts.	Council/External		
1.11 Assess Council's resource recovery performance and track progress. Identify where new services or responses may be required.	Council		

B.2 Contamination – Strategic actions ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
2.1 Review audit information to characterise contamination in each stream.Design responses that deal with particular items of contamination.Develop and disseminate information regarding what-goes-in-what-bin.	Council		
2.2 Enact contamination management conditions of receiving collection services such as removal of services. Tied to waste policy for kerbside collections. Engage kerbside contamination resources to identify and respond to contaminated bins.	Council		
2.3 Consider contamination management requirements for new collection services contract. Design best approach to kerbside contamination management with new collections contractor.	Council		
2.4 Increased efforts to target contamination in FOGO services. To be addressed early and consistently.	Council/External		
2.5 Formulate and implement a commercial services contamination assessment and action plan. Liaise with local businesses through surveys and provide information for managing contamination.	Council/Local businesses		
2.6 Advocate for greater participation in the NSW container deposit scheme – more facilities, more containers, increased refunds etc.	Council		

B.3 Influence all waste generators – Strategic actions ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
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3.1 Identify large waste generators delivering material to the RRC and assess resource recovery opportunities.			
Engage with large waste generators directly to support transitional needs and design bespoke resource recovery plans.	Council/External		
3.2 Incentivise resource recovery through promotion and communications for capturing resources e.g. target resources 'free' to drop off at RRC.	Council/External		A
3.3 Review and update Council's waste DCP together with waste management guidelines to ensure resource recovery is supported in all development across Wingecarribee.			
Waste management guidelines to accompany DCP and approvals. Guidelines developed for construction and development waste as well as on site (ongoing) waste management for residents i.e. spaces to ensure systems for resource recovery.	Council/External		
Consider periodic on-site inspections for new developments to ensure waste DCP is being complied with. Use educational approach in the first instance to encourage resource recovery.			
3.4 C&I resource recovery pledge developed and endorsed for adoption by local businesses – recognition developed.	Council		
Council to promote annual resource recovery improvements by local businesses. Baseline performance measure offered for businesses taking up the pledge.	Council		
3.5 Consider expanding materials for recovery through events e.g. drop-off days – ewaste/organics waste including pallets/Christmas cardboard and polystyrene etc.	Council		A
3.6 Construction and demolition waste generators identified through DA process.			
Educational information with local solutions for demolition resource recovery included with DA correspondence from Council.	Council/Developers		
Final approvals and certification processes to include requirements for resource recovery evidence.			

Wingecarribee waste responsibilities direction – action

Table 8: Wingecarribee Shire Council – waste responsibility direction

C.1 Services – Strategic actions			
ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
1.1 Review Council's waste management resourcing to determine if needs are being responded to and define measures to be implemented.	Council		
1.2 Continually update knowledge and acquire advice to ensure Council adequately responds to all waste management responsibilities.	Council		
1.3 Undertake procurement process for new waste management services: Collection services and long term processing services (regional approach to procuring processing services supported)	Council/ External		
 1.4 Design new fees and charges following procurement of services – medium term Consider long term financial planning. Review Council budgeting approach and new methods for financial management, including ensuring full cost recovery. Investigate user-pays service components. Link financial planning to contingency planning. Long term financial plans for various responsibilities e.g. RRC/contracted services/ additional actions to be taken up from this Strategy. 	Council/External		
Assess and develop suitable approaches commercial waste management costs recovery – and influence resource recovery. Implement necessary changes to fees and charges.	Council		

C.1 Services – Strategic actions ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
 1.6 Consider options for the management of bulky clean up waste. Minimisation and resource recovery improvements to be design features of this service. Consider: service minimisation vouchers mattress recovery user pays options to minimise the waste stream alternative: swap days/garage trail days etc. Create an education campaign around 'user-pays' to highlight how service charges are allocated for the variety of services provided by Council. 	Council		
 1.7 Review of services mid-term in order to plan for service changes – to align with community needs. Next service contracts to be planned for reviewed services. Conduct service satisfaction surveys – to inform strategic changes. Review urban vs rural service offerings. 	Council		
1.8 Special waste: establish a register of special services such as medical, sharps: develop communication materials to guide the proper management of these special wastes.	Council		
1.9 Assess all opportunities for grants to support Council's waste management responsibilities.	Council		A
1.10 Continue maintenance and photo-capping of Welby landfill.	Council		
1.11 Consider and develop technology to improve resident interaction for service management, resource recovery and education.	Council		
1.12 Continual review of all waste management operational models, services and facilities to maximise community benefits and value.	Council		

C.2 Facilities – Strategic actions			
ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
2.1 Complete implementation of masterplan for Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre and ensure associated compliance responsibilities are resourced.	Council		
2.2 Ensure safe disposal and resource recovery opportunities are accessible to all residents. Review barriers to access to the Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre. Explore solutions or suitable responses, for example, mobile collection and disposal units/milk run collections. Mobile unit may be suitable for special events use.	Council		
Consider rural residents and additional services, as suitable.			
2.3 Consider drop-off events at designated areas across the LGA – to capture materials that are not received at the RRC.	Council		A
2.4 Examine need for increase to resource recovery management facilities. For example, is a separate building resource recovery site required. Link to contingency planning.	Council		
2.5 Elevate resource recovery and other waste management related opportunities in SHIP planning.			

C.3 Continue education & communications – Strategic actions ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
3.1 Draft a Resource & Waste Management Engagement Plan to align with this Strategy. Plan to include all relevant points and changes that will require communication and education. Plan to address the various sectors and planned strategic actions – with most efficient methods for communication and information to be delivered. Schools' resource recovery education expanded and aligned to NSW curriculum.	Council/External		
3.2 Develop and implement increased residential information regarding recyclables i.e. target materials in mixed waste bin that could be recycled.	Council/External		
3.3 Update and increase Council's education and communications to target contamination – distributed with rates notices.	Council		
3.4 Litter and illegal dumping prevention campaigns to be updated and periodically delivered over the long term.	Council		
3.5 FOGO implementation plan to include FOGO community education and communications – identify and communicate the behaviour changes required.	Council/External		
3.6 Build new C&D specific communications. Information based packages to solve resource recovery decisions locally – update regularly.	Council/External		
3.7 Develop and deliver communications regarding EfW if this option looks likely to be a solution for Wingecarribee for unrecoverable materials – recognise the possible social licence barriers.	Council		
3.8 Special problem waste education targeting the correct management method for items such as paints, batteries and gas bottles. Promote other programs that Council participates in e.g. drummuster, Household Chemical CleanOut etc.	Council		
3.9 Review Council's waste website information and upgrade. Implement interactive digital engagement. Expand functions such as a waste 'app' for disseminating education. Develop new social media accounts to promote resource recovery. Use digital methods to 'campaign' a particular waste issue each 3 to 6 months.	Council/External		

C.4 General compliance and waste management data – Strategic actions ACTION	Place Partners	Impact	Timeframe
Measure and report on the progress of the Strategy against objectives, timelines and resource recovery impacts. Templates can be designed to track annual key measures against the Strategy objectives, as they relate to Council's broad endeavours.	Council		
Establish baseline data set for measuring performance improvements across waste streams as well as for planning, budgeting etc. Identify and collate waste data that will inform decision making for all waste streams and materials	Council		
l.3 Identify large C&I and C&D generators for targeted communications e.g. is agricultural waste an issue that needs particular attention and communications. Improve estimates of commercial waste collected through kerbside collections – audits.	Council		
4.4 Undertake period audits (other than kerbside audits – to determine specific communication actions).	Council/External		A
Include a review of strategy timelines, resource recovery performance monitoring and reporting as well as the need for further community engagement.	Council		A
Commence development of emergency waste management planning for Council, to align with the NSW EPA's emergency waste sub plan. Develop a Council Waste Business Continuity Plan.	Council/External		
4.7 Continue to undertake composition audits to track progress any emerging challenges. Prepare for and respond to other kerbside interactions as issues arise e.g. contamination management for FOGO introduction. Contamination officers deployed periodically to educate regarding kerbside contamination.	Council/External		
1.8 Development of new strategy Commencement review, community consultation etc. in preparation.	Council		

SA2 GENERAL MANAGER

SA2.1 Sutton Forest Sand Quarry - Submission to the Department of Planning and Environment

Report of: Adan Davis

Director Communities and Place

Authorised by: Lisa Miscamble

General Manager

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of a submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) on the State Significant Development application for the Sutton Forest Sand Quarry.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- 1. Council endorse the draft Submission in relation to the Sutton Forest Sand Quarry, as attached to this report, and for it to be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
- 2. Submissions received by Council from the community on the proposal, be forwarded to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

A State Significant Development (SSD) Application to construct and operate a Sand Quarry in Sutton Forest is currently being assessed by the State Government. The quarry would produce and dispatch up to a maximum of 860,000 tonnes per annum, contributing up to 25.8 Mt of natural sand products over its operational life. The project would have among the highest annual natural sand production rates in NSW.

The facility is proposed on land at 13300 Hume Highway, Sutton Forest, approximately 16 km south-west of Moss Vale. Information on the proposed development can be found on the State Significant Development website at: https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/sutton-forest-sand-quarry

A SSD application (SSD 6334) and supporting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in May 2018 and placed on public exhibition till 21 June 2018. Council made a submission addressing the issues of:

- Impact on Groundwater
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
- Biodiversity Impacts
- Rehabilitation issues
- Social and Other Impacts
- Traffic and Transport

In total, 636 submissions were received and DPE formally requested that a Response to Submissions report be submitted to respond to all issues raised in the submissions.

On 7 November 2023, Council received notification that the Submission report and an Amendment Report relating to the Proposal was on public exhibition. Although the public exhibition period closed on 4 December 2023, Council requested an extension of time to enable Council to endorse a submission. An extension of time was granted by the Department of Planning and Environment on 1 December 2023 to enable an endorsed submission to be forwarded to the Department on or after the Council Meeting of 13 December 2023.

REPORT

The Amendment Report identifies a number of revisions to the previous proposal including the following key amendments:

- a smaller extraction area (reduced from 44.5 ha to 33.9 ha) to minimise the impacts to biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage values.
- alternations to the quarry layout and relocation of site elements including stockpiling and processing areas, and internal haul roads
- development of additional noise bunds
- revegetation activities within the project boundary
- the relocation of the proposed quarry access road and a new left in and left out at-grade interchange with the Hume Highway rather than a quarry interchange and overbridge
- use of the Illawarra Highway Interchange and Marulan South Road Interchange to support the proposed new left in and left out at-grade interchange for trucks heading south and trucks coming from Sydney
- no blasting.

The key elements of the amended project are:

- quarry works: the quarry pit, processing and stockpile management areas (including processing plant and equipment), and administration area
- ancillary development: including a quarry access road, site office, truck depot, weighbridges, water storage dams and basins, haul road, water diversion, communication infrastructure, utilities
- extraction of up to 1 million tonnes of sand resources per year
- processing and dispatch of up to 860,000 tonnes of sand products per year
- an average of 166 truck movements and a peak of up 332 truck movements associated with product sales
- plus up to 12 truck movements per days associated with the delivery of quarry consumables and for maintenance activities
- 24 hours Quarry processing operations and extraction operations between 5:00 am and 10:00 pm
 Monday to Sunday and on public holidays
- an extraction depth of 70 metres Australian Hight Datum (mAHD)
- a 30 year quarry life (from the date of project approval).

Council's draft Submission has been prepared against the concerns raised in Council's original submission in June 2018 and the proponents subsequent Response to Submissions.

The Submission recognises that the proponent has made a number of changes to the proposal, but it identifies that Council and the community remain concerned about the suitability of the site for the proposed development. One of the fundamental concerns is the location of activity in a sensitive part of a regionally important wildlife corridor, which is a koala stronghold and an area where active recovery action is being undertaken by Council, the State and local landholders. In addition to this, is the concern of the cumulative impact that this proposal would have on top of other activities already approved in the same section of the corridor, including two other sand quarries

The NSW Government's own draft South East & Tablelands Regional Plan 2041 identifies the subject site and its environs as a state and regionally significant biodiversity corridor and immediately adjoins and likely includes high environmental value (HEV) land. The proposal potentially undermines and compromises the significant work of HEV lands mapping and the broader policy objectives attached to this mapping. These objectives include providing habitat for flora and fauna, including significant koala populations on the subject site.

The visual amenity impacts of the activity is also of great concern to the community. There is concern of the potential impact on tourism-based enterprises currently operating in the area and future viability of these enterprises as the visual amenity is compromised by the proposed development. The defining values of this region includes its rural and bush landscape character which shape this region's visitor economy. The proposed development is likely to cumulatively, with nearby existing sand mines, and irreversible alter this identity-shaping rural and bush landscape character of our region.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

The project is assessed by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) as a State Significant Development. The DPE has placed the Submissions Report and Amendment Report on public exhibition and concerned community members who made previous submissions of the exhibition period.

<u>Internal Communication and Consultation</u>

Relevant internal departments were consulted and provided input into the submission.

External Communication and Consultation

Council has made contact with the Department of Planning and Environment seeking an extension of the exhibition period to allow a submission to be made following the December Council meeting. Information about the proposed Sutton Forrest Sand Quarry has been placed on the 'Community Interest Items' page of Council's website.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

The draft submission focuses on the environmental concerns associated with the proposal, in particular impacts on the significant biodiversity corridor and koala habitat and ground water impacts.

Social

An amended Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been prepared by the Applicant and submitted with the Amendment Report and potential impacts on residents and local tourism has been identified in the submission.

Broader Economic Implications

The project would create up to 20 indirect jobs during construction and up to 22 direct jobs during operation and 30 transport jobs. During the operational phase (assuming 30 years of operation) benefits to the NSW economy are forecast to \$104 million. This includes the costs of environmental mitigation costs.

Culture

Aboriginal Heritage Impacts have been assessed within the proposed change to the EIS.

Governance

The Proposal is subject to a State Significant Development application, therefore the NSW Department of Planning and Environment is the relevant planning authority.

In circumstances where the following criteria are met, the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) is the relevant planning authority:

- The application is not supported by Council; or
- Where the Department has received more than 50 unique public objections; or
- The proponent has disclosed a reportable political donation in connection with the application

COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications in relation to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

As the proposal is a State Significant Development application, Council policies do not apply in assessing the application.

CONCLUSION

Council acknowledges that the Proponent has undertaken additional community consultation and made a number of changes to the proposal. Council's draft Submission has been prepared with reference to the concerns raised in Council's original submission in June 2018 and the proponent's subsequent Response to Submissions.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Sutton Forest Sand Quarry Submission [2.1.1 - 5 pages]



4 December 2023

Jarrod Blane **Industry Assessments** Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Locked Bag 5022 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Mr Blane,

Submission regarding SSD-6334 Sutton Forest Sand Quarry

Thank you for your email of 7 November 2023 advising Council of the Amendment Report for the Sutton Forest Sand Quarry (SSD-6334) and the invitation to comment. Council thanks the Department for acknowledging our request for an extension to facilitate and endorsed final submission by Council.

Council raised a number of concerns as part of our original submission in June 2018, particularly on the grounds of groundwater impacts, groundwater dependent ecosystems, biodiversity impacts, rehabilitation issues, traffic and transport and social and other impacts.

Council acknowledges that the Amendment Report identifies some substantial changes to the proposed development, with particular regard to the reduction of the quarry footprint, and transport routes. Council does however remain concerned regarding the suitability of the site for the proposed development and lack of community support for the proposal.

One of the fundamental concerns of Council is the location of activity in a sensitive part of a regionally important wildlife corridor. This is a koala stronghold and an area where active recovery action is being undertaken by Council, the State and local landholders. In addition to this, is the cumulative impact that this proposal would have on top of other activities already approved in the same section of the corridor.

The NSW Government's own draft South East & Tablelands Regional Plan 2041 identifies the subject site and its environs as a state and regionally significant biodiversity corridor and immediately adjoins and likely includes high environmental value (HEV) land. The proposal potentially undermines and compromises the significant work of HEV lands mapping and the broader policy objectives attached to this mapping. These objectives include providing habitat for flora and fauna, including significant koala populations on the subject site.

The visual amenity impacts of the activity is also of great concern to the community. There is concern of the potential impact on tourism-based enterprises currently operating in the area and future viability of these enterprises as visual amenity is

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compromised by the proposed development. The defining values of this region are its rural and bush landscape character which shape this region's visitor economy. The proposed development is likely to cumulatively, with nearby existing sand mines, and irreversible alter this identity-shaping rural and bush landscape character of our region.

Additional detail regarding Council's concerns are outlined below for your consideration.

Impact on Groundwater and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

- Council raised a number of concerns with its original submission on the issue of groundwater. Unfortunately, a number of these remain unclear or unresolved.
- 2. The groundwater resource is a highly productive aquifer utilised extensively by local landholders and is an important part of this local community and economy. 43 registered bores were identified in a 2.4 km radius of the project, Including 11 Industrial / irrigator users. The groundwater also supports groundwater water dependent ecosystems some of which are listed as EECs both in NSW and Nationally. Any loss of the integrity of this groundwater resource, or degrees of error in the modelling, could have a significant impact to other users reliant on this resource.
- 3. One of the SEAR's requirements was for the EIS to consider the maintenance of an adequate buffer between all excavation and the highest predicted groundwater table. Little consideration appears to have been given to retaining this with the project intersecting and going below the water table.
- 4. One of the geological features noted in the EIS are the bands of shale intersected in some of the exploration holes and in many of the neighbouring water bores. The shale layer aquatard supports perched shallow groundwater. The subsurface contour of the top of the shale in the local area was previously modelled dipping to the south 'with the axis of a gentle south plunging anticline structure located just east of the drilled area', with the likelihood describe as meandering along deposited low points. The extent or interaction of the shale layer(s), still remain unclear particularly any correlation with Watercourse D (and associated GDE's) and neighbouring bore's
- The EIS identifies one of the main risks and uncertainty of the modelled groundwater impact is the degree of heterogeneity of the aquifer system, and the margin for error identified in the report would appear to potentially impact GDEs. The response proposed to this risk is ongoing monitoring and adaptive management. If inaccuracies are found against the modelled impact, it will be too late for other users of this aquifer and the ecosystems that are dependent upon this. Uncertainties about the impacts should be removed before any approval is considered.
- 6. The EIS does not appear to fully consider the GDE to the south along the upper section of Watercourse D. Noting that most of this is occuring in neighbouring land, it is unclear if the site has been visited and fully investigated. Given its location, proximity and elevation, it is plausible (within the bounds of the model and consideration of outliers) that this wetland is influenced by the aquifer(s) that are intended to be intersected by the quarry, and the potential impact must be adequately considered in detail.

- 7. Water quality data presented relies on limited water sampling events. This does not seem to be an adequate data set to quantify and characterise the existing condition of this State and Nationally listed EEC. There does not appear to be enough data to characterise what sources of water (groundwater) the swamp is reliant upon, or to consider the potential impact from adverse stormwater discharges, or from different chemistry or physical properties of an amended groundwater medium.
- 8. The EIS has not considered potential impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) from the rehabilitation process. The rehabilitation of the site will create an amended geology and soil type and create different groundwater flows, chemical and physical properties. Monitoring and adaptative management do not seem like appropriate approaches for aspects that could have long term impacts.

Biodiversity Impacts

- 9. Council raised a number of concerns with its original submission on the issue of biodiversity impacts. Unfortunately, a number of these remain unclear or unresolved.
- 10. The project site is located in a regionally import wildlife corridor called the Great Western Wildlife Corridor (GWWC). The GWWC is a key corridor in the Great Eastern Ranges Southern Highlands Link located between Bullio and Bungonia. This is an important corridor connecting Morton National Park to the South and Blue Mountains national parks to the north.
- It is described in the Wingecarribee Local Environment Plan (WLEP2010) as a Regional Wildlife Habitat Corridor and is mapped on the Natural Resources Sensitivity Map.
- 12. The corridor is additionally recognised as a highly significant location for "consolidation" in the Office of Environment and Heritage NSW Native Vegetation Management Benefits Analysis maps.
- 13. This is an area where significant conservation and habitat restoration work is occurring.
- 14. The NSW Government recently purchased a 401ha property at Tugalong Road Canyonleigh for Koala habitat, and the establishment of the Guula Ngurra National Park, recognising the importance of this corridor for Koala conservation.
- 15. This is a critical corridor for connectivity conservation as many threatened species including the Koala, Southern Greater Glider, Glossy Black-Cockatoo and other important ecological species habitat this corridor.
- 16. The Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project (SHKCP) is a joint project between Wingecarribee Shire Council and Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). Research with this project has provided a high level of understanding of the Koala population in the Southern Highlands. The Koala population has been estimated at 3000, making it the largest Koala population in southern NSW and represents 10% of the States Koala population. The GWWC is an important koala



- stronghold in the Shire which over 1000 predicted to inhabit the corridor. Annual bio-acoustic monitoring is undertaken across the Shire.
- 17. The SHKCP research has identified that the Koala core and home range in the Great Western Wildlife Corridor is generally much greater than the Koala range to the east of the Shire, meaning the Koalas rely on much larger areas of connected habitat in the west of the Shire. The DPE have the latest data and mapping that can assist in the a thorough review of the application. During time of drought, the required range is likely to increase, and the importance of sheltered gullies and waterways also increases. Any amount of connected habitat loss is likely to impact on koala occupancy.
- 18. Council is working with the DPE to retore habitat in the GWWC. The DPE have assisted in developing Habitat Restoration Prioritisation tools. Through this knowledge, the project area is showing as an important place to "Protect and Maintain" habitat and also to "Create" habitat to enhance habitat connectivity. The priority habitat action for this area is Protect and Maintain.
- 19. Council is partnering with the DPE in re-creating koala habitat in the corridor and working with landholders to achieve this. An example of this has seen Council working with a landholder in a similar section of the GWWC as the SFSQ project, with habitat recovery and tree planting amounting to approximately 30Ha within the last 6 months. Similarly over 4000 koala feed trees were distributed to landholders part of the Shire's Land for Wildlife program.
- The Sutton Forest, Paddy's River, Wingello and High Range localities are where the GWWC is narrowest and highly fragmented and where conservation efforts need to focus.
- 21. The cumulative impact of development in this precinct is alarming. Two other large quarries have been granted consent in the same section of the GWWC. A map showing the cumulative impact of these quarries was submitted with Council's original submission. Breaking the habitat links and reducing the habitat patch sizes will reduce the viability of the GWWC to serve its biodiversity function.
- 22. Another important species recovery work occurring in the GWWC is the NSW Saving our Species project "Glossies in the Mist", which is a collaborative project with OEH, NSW NPWS, Wingecarribee Shire Council, Local Land Services, Forestry Corp NSW, Australian Plant Society and Friends of the Glossies partners.
- 23. Assessment of the biodiversity impact has triggered the need for the applicant to pursue biodiversity offsets. Council is concerned that the offset approach does not adequately remove or allay the concerns regarding the impact on the GWWC, believing this is a still a net loss to the GWWC.
- 24. Council believes there is still limited understanding of the dynamics and interaction with the GWWC, and is cautious to rely on descriptors such as a comparison of distance in providing a qualitative assessment. Council is concerned that the EIS mention the 139 hollow bearing trees that will be removed from the footprint of the quarry operations, but it is unclear what the condition is like on the remainder of this section of the corridor. Maps in the EIS show around on 25 hollow bearing trees on the remainder of the site compared to the 139 that will be required to be removed.



This seems like a very high percentage of the hollow bearing trees proposed to be removed from this precinct.

25. One of the benefits of the corridor were noted during the 2019/2020 bushfires. While both the northern and southern ends of the corrider were severely impacted from fires in both the Morton National Park and Blue Mountains national parks were, viable populations of impacted species were left largely unaffected in the corridor.

Social and other Impacts

- 26. Council is aware that many residents in the area of the project are still very concerned about the impacts that the quarry is likely to have on them. The concerns are wide ranging, and some have been mentioned already for example concerns over impacts on their groundwater supply.
- 27. Other issues raised with Council include:
 - · impact from lightspill and effect on the night sky;
 - impact that dust and other emissions will have on the houses and businesses;
 - the level of consultation experienced in this process;
 - noise from day and night operations and the impact this will have on houses, farms, and the use of Penrose Park;
 - the levels of noise impact deemed acceptable in guidelines will still clearly stand out, and be out of character of the area, and
 - affect on enjoyment of the area;
- 28. The visual impact of the activity is also great concern to the community. There is concern of the potential impact on tourism-based enterprises operating in the area.

Council acknowledges that the proponent has undertaken additional community consultation and made amendments to the proposal to reduce the impact leading to a number of improvements in the Amendment Report. However, Council still has ongoing concerns in relation to the proposal. Council requests that these concerns be fully considered by the Department and relevant subject matter experts from other State agencies to consider the full impact.

Should you require any additional information please contact Barry Arthur, Manager Environment and Sustainability on 02 4868 0888 during business hours or via email at Barry.Arthur@wsc.nsw.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely,
Lisa Miscamble



SA2.2 Letter of Response to the Minister for Planning Regarding Medium Density Housing

Report of: Deniz Kilic

Executive Manager Strategic Outcomes

Authorised by: Lisa Miscamble

General Manager

PURPOSE

To respond to correspondence from the Minister for Planning regarding more housing in low and medium density zoned land across suburbs and to help increase supply and diversity of homes.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the Letter of Response to the Minister for Planning.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

On 30 October 2023, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Honourable Paul Scully MP wrote to the Administrator Mr Viv May PSM, highlighting the need for more supply and diversity of housing across suburbs.

At the Council Meeting of 15 November 2023, the Administrator moved a Minute to table a copy of the Minister's correspondence and requested the General Manager prepare a detailed response for consideration at the Council Meeting of 13 December 2023.

This report and attached Letter to the Minister for Planning respond to that request.

REPORT

A detailed Letter of response is attached for the consideration of Council.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

N/A

Internal Communication and Consultation

N/A

External Communication and Consultation

N/A

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT Environment N/A **Social** N/A **Broader Economic Implications** N/A **Culture** N/A **Governance** N/A **COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS** N/A **RELATED COUNCIL POLICY** N/A **CONCLUSION** The Letter of response to the Minister for Planning is recommended for endorsement. **ATTACHMENTS** 1. Hon Paul Scully MP Letter Housing Supply [2.2.1 - 5 pages]

2. Minute and Letter from Minister to ADM [2.2.2 - 3 pages]



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Document Ref: MDPE23/3451 13 December 2023

Hon. Paul Scully MP Minister for Planning and Public Spaces 52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Scully,

Housing Supply in the Wingecarribee Shire LGA

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated 30 October 2023 in relation to the need for an increase in housing supply in our low and medium density zones across New South Wales, which was tabled at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 15 November 2023.

Wingecarribee Shire Council supports the importance of increasing housing supply and is committed to the delivery of a diverse housing stock to meet the needs of our community, both now and into the future.

Over the past few years Wingecarribee Shire has experienced an increase in new dwelling approvals. In particular, the three towns of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale have experienced an increase in townhouse and residential flat building development in medium density zones.

The availability of zoned land in medium density residential and mixed-use zones has not been an issue or barrier to smaller affordable housing development. Rather, the issue until recent years has been the 'demand and supply' market forces, which are now such that these forms of housing are viable and attractive for property developers to invest. Currently, the major issue that Wingecarribee faces, that will limit and/or delay delivery of these forms of much-needed smaller housing options, is infrastructure, in particular upgrades to the three sewerage treatment plants (STP). Wingecarribee Shire Council is the water and sewer authority for the Shire.

In 2022 Council received much needed funding from the State Government of \$6.6M from the Restart NSW Fund and \$25M from the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund Round 3 to its substantial investment to progress the upgrade of the Bowral and Moss Vale STPs. Bowral STP upgrade is now under construction and expected to be completed by November 2025. Moss Vale STP is undergoing tender processes right now and the upgrade works are expected to be completed by June 2026. Mittagong STP is undergoing detailed designs now and will need to be upgraded in the next 5 years to provide the capacity to meet the projected housing growth in line with our adopted Local Housing Strategy. We welcome financial support from the State or Commonwealth to realise these upgrades and ensure housing delivery can continue to occur in strategically identified, high amenity and master planned areas.

It is strongly recommended that the State Government take caution with the expansive opening up of lower density zones to more dense forms of housing in locations where it was unanticipated. The previous experience with the Affordable Housing SEPP which 'over-reached' and received widespread community criticism, was subsequently heavily 'wound back'. In Wingecarribee's towns and villages, as with many areas across the State, low density residential zones are expansive and extend into areas which would not be sustainable or serviceable for medium densities of housing.



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Council has commenced several projects that align with the aims of the State Government to provide additional housing and more information on this approach is detailed below.

Local Housing Strategy

Council's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) was developed with the community and adopted in June 2020 and amended in July 2021.

It provides a long-term planning framework to meet the housing needs of our growing community by providing a variety of housing typologies that will accommodate our growing population and changing demographics, subject to market factors and funding of major infrastructure upgrades. A blanket shift to allowing widespread and sporadic medium density housing across any residential zones would undermine the planned coordination of infrastructure and community confidence in government and planning generally. Council is committed to continuing to undertake a strategic approach to housing supply to ensure that our growing communities are supported by essential infrastructure, that aligns with the needs and expectations of our community and are supported by sustainable transport-oriented growth.

The LHS provides a long-term strategy to guide the delivery of approximately 6,500 new dwellings through a mix of infill and greenfield development over the next 20 years. The Strategy has identified that this will be achieved through a 50/50 split of infill and greenfield residential development, with a focus on providing a variety of housing typologies.

Following the finalisation of the draft South-East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2041 it is proposed that Council prepare a 2024 Addendum to the LHS to demonstrate how these changes and external factors will be accommodated through the LHS to ensure that we continue to manage growth in accordance with the expectations of our community.

Bowral South New Living Area - Master Plan and Servicing Strategy

The Bowral South New Living Area is one of six (6) new living areas identified in the LHS and is anticipated to accommodate over 1,800 new dwellings in the south-east of the Bowral township.

Council recently secured \$250,000 in grant funding under the Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund to complete the Master Plan and Servicing Strategy for the Bowral South New Living Area, which is currently underway and will expedite the release of the New Living Area and ensure that the new community is well planned and supported by essential infrastructure.

Review of Low and Medium Density Development Controls (DCP)

Council has undertaken a major review of its medium density controls to promote an increase in housing diversity throughout the Shire to ensure that medium density development is in keeping with the character of the Southern Highlands. The draft Medium Density Housing Controls have now been completed, and consultation on this matter has been undertaken.

The review of our Low and Medium Density Residential Development Controls will inform the development of a Comprehensive DCP for the Shire. The Comprehensive DCP is intended to remove the barriers that would prevent new development from occurring and simplify the DCP to ensure that the controls are easy to understand and implement.

Town Centre Master Plans and Place Plans

As part of Council's transition to a place-based planning system, we are working towards developing Master Plans for our three (3) main town centres and preparing community-led Place Plans for our satellite villages, which aligns with planning priorities identified in the Wingecarribee Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

The Draft Bowral Town Centre Master Plan was reported at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 13 December 2023, with Council resolving to endorse the draft to proceed to public exhibition. The Draft Master Plan provides a clear vision and strategic direction for the Town Centre and additionally identifies areas with the greatest opportunity for shop-top housing in Bowral.

Further, the Draft Robertson Village Place Plan has been prepared through an extensive consultation process with the local community and identifies a number of place interventions that will guide the provision of smaller housing products in the village and ensure that the infill residential development within the village will be in keeping with the character of Robertson.

Following the finalisation of these two projects, Council will undertake a similar process to develop a Master Plan for the Mittagong and Moss Vale town centres and commence work with the Bundanoon community on a Place Plan for the Bundanoon village centre.

Council's Reform Program to 2024

You would be aware that Council under Administration until September 2024 and it is my strong view that the Shire community has lost many opportunities over the years to improve the quality of its social, cultural, recreational and civic infrastructure by lack of strategic planning.

Politics, lack of leadership and former professional failures have contributed to this reality and were evidenced and documented in the final report of Commissioner Glover under the Wingecarribee Shire Public Inquiry.

Working in partnership with the General Manager, a myriad of legacy issues including strategic land use planning and loss of confidence by the community in Council are being addressed.

Restoring Council's credibility and a platform for a seamless return of democratic representation in September 2024 are priorities, and I respectfully request that Council be excluded from any State-based regulations in our low and medium density zones until we have completed the above important work.

Working with the State Government, Council is committed to providing new and diverse housing options for our community in the coming years and is proactively working towards this shared objective.

A timeline for Council to achieve its priorities was presented to a meeting of Council in August 2023. This is set out in the diagram below:



2.2.1 Hon Paul Scully MP Letter Housing Supply

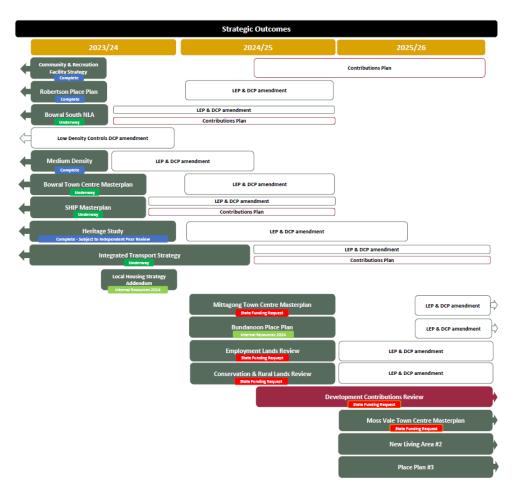


Figure: Strategic Outcomes Works Program

This program highlights work that has been completed or underway and provides a comprehensive program for the next 2 years. This program aligns the delivery of housing with critical enabling infrastructure and funding mechanism providing a supported and staged pipeline of housing.

Council has funded a number of initiatives under this Strategic Outcomes Work Program and has been grateful for State Government funding assistance to supplement Council's funds, in particular funding for Bowral South New Living Area Masterplan (\$250,000) through Department of Planning and Environment and Southern Highlands Innovation Park Masterplan and Governance Structure (\$270,400) through Regional NSW.

As you will see in the Program there are further strategies we will need to produce and will be seeking Government support to assist in this, including Master Plans for Mittagong and Moss Vale.

Council will seek Government support

As noted above, we have undertaken a large body of strategic work in a short period of time to catchup on the failures of previous Councils. Since being under Administration, Council has committed over \$524,000 towards strategic work programs as compared to only \$60,000 over the entire 4-year term of the previous Council. This work has been undertaken in consultation and partnership with our local community to ensure it is aligned with our adopted Community Strategic Plan as well as State Government planning priorities.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you further to discuss the range of initiatives Council is undertaking to support housing delivery and local jobs and would be delighted to host you on a site tour of our Shire.

Should you require any additional information please contact Council's General Manager Lisa Miscamble via $\underline{gmoffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au}$

Yours sincerely

Viv May PSM ADMINISTRATOR



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL Wednesday 15 November 2023



ADMINISTRATOR MINUTE

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces the Hon. Paul Scully MP wrote to me on 30 October 2023 highlighting the need to allow more housing in low and medium density zones across the State to help increase supply and diversity and I table a copy of the correspondence.

Council with the support of the State Government is investing heavily in its Strategic Land Use Planning options, basically to ensure that development goes where residents agree and it is not foisted upon us.

Council has already adopted its Local Housing Strategy, which, with the release of the New Living Areas and improvements to existing density zones, will allow for the Council's targets to be met – even though we still await the release of the NSW State Government South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2041.

It is extremely important that the community is well informed and Council is open, transparent and consistent in its dealings with the State Government and I have asked the General Manager to ensure that a detailed response to the correspondence is available for consideration at the December meeting.

The minute be received and noted.

The Hon Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces



Ref: MDPE23/3451

Administrator Viv May PSM Mayor PO Box 141 MOSS VALE NSW 2577 via: administratoroffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Administrator May, Viv

I write to you regarding the need to allow for more housing in our low and medium density zones across New South Wales to help increase supply and diversity of homes we are delivering in our suburbs.

New South Wales is in a housing crisis. Through the National Housing Accord, councils and the NSW Government are committed to working together to look at every opportunity to address this crisis.

Our shared task is to approve and encourage the necessary investment and commencements for 377,000 homes by 2029.

The land use planning and assessment functions of councils and the Department will need to quickly adjust towards approaches that lead to more homes in well-located areas.

As a way to increase our housing numbers in NSW, the NSW Government has identified a number of limitations across the residential zones constraining our ability to deliver this diverse housing in our low and medium density areas. In Greater Sydney these include:

- Terraces, townhouses and 2 storey residential flat buildings (i.e. manor houses) are
 only permitted in the R2 low density residential zone in 2 of 35 Local Environmental
 Plans (LEPs) in Greater Sydney just six per cent. This is despite 77 per cent of
 residential land being zoned R2. Even though the R3 medium density zones do allow
 terraces, they only make up 13% of residential land; and
- Residential flat buildings (RFBs) are only permitted in the R3 medium density zone in 47% of LEPs. Even though the R4 high density residential zones do allow RFBs, they only make up 3% of residential land.

The story is more mixed outside of our major cities but there are still opportunities available for the planning system to priorities low and mid-rise housing types in our main residential zones.

We are asking councils to review their local policy settings and approaches in the interests of housing supply. I ask you to identify existing well-located areas where terraces, small unit blocks or well-designed mid-rise apartments can be permitted.

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Research consistently shows that there is unmet demand for additional small apartment and low-rise multi-dwelling housing options as well as purpose-built rental and affordable and social housing.

With this in mind, the Department will be realigning its resources to support councils in these initiatives and is developing a tool kit to help councils and state agencies deliver the outcomes we need. Councils shouldn't wait for this work to happen, rather I am asking you to begin work identifying locations and permitting more low and mid-rise homes immediately.

This urgency for all of us to play our part to approve and deliver housing in all parts of New South Wales brings me to my final point. The upcoming 2024 NSW local government elections are scheduled to be held on Saturday 14 September 2024. The caretaker period will begin 4 weeks before on 16 August 2024.

The NSW local government elections may have an impact on some policy and program timeframes and exhibition dates and may impact on planning assessment timeframe targets.

All planning assessments and other council responsibilities and operations should continue as normal until the start of the caretaker period. It is my express view that councils should continue to undertake their legal responsibilities under local government and planning legislation to make sure that we keep up the momentum on delivering the approvals for housing developments across New South Wales.

I would also request that this letter be tabled at your next council meeting so that councillors are clear about the State government's intentions on behalf of the people of NSW to deliver more low and mid-rise homes, while reminding them of their duty during election periods.

We all have a part to play in delivering on the National Housing Accord and a role in helping the next generation into home ownership or long-term rental. I urge you to look at your policy settings with the aim of expanding the number of homes in your LGA.

Should you have any questions regarding the housing reform work or to caretaker conventions for local government elections, please contact the Department at stakeholder.engagement@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

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SA3 REPORTS

SA3.1 Information Update - Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel - Member Appointment

Report of: Jon Shillito

Manager Development Assessment and Regulation

Authorised by: Adan Davis

Director Communities and Place

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the membership to the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel (WLPP) and to confirm Council's intention to continue with, and extend the term of, a Local Planning Panel.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report.
- 2. Extend the term of the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel for a further 3 years to 2027, with panel members to be appointed before June 2024.
- 3. Receive a further report in February 2024 to consider and confirm the process and timeframes for the appointment of the Chair, Alternative Chairs, Expert Panel Members and Community Representative members to the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 26 July 2021 Council resolved:

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the name 'Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel (WLPP)' for its Local Planning Panel;
- 2. Appoint Ms. Julie Walsh as Chair of the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel, as selected by the Minister for Planning, for a term from 01 July 2021 until 29 February 2024;
- 3. Appoint Mr Michael Mantei and Mr Stephen Leathley as Alternate Chairs of the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel, as selected by the Minister for Planning, for a term from 1st July 2021 until 29 February 2024;
- 4. Appoint the Expert Members of the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel, as selected by Council for a term from 1st July 2021 until 29 February 2024. The Members are as follows: Scott Barwick, Larissa Ozog, Alf Lester, Heather Warton, Linda Kelly;
- 5. Appoint the Community Representatives for the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel, as selected by Council for a term from 1st July 2021 until 29 February 2024. The Community Representatives are as follows: Richard Colley, Chris McCann, William (Bill) Davidson, Robert Staas, Denis McManus, Anthony Geoffrey Neill;

- 6. Resolve to set the Panel Remuneration in accordance with the current Remuneration Determination for LPPs as prescribed by the Minister for Planning under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979;
- 7. Resolve that planning proposals must be considered by and advised on by the Local Planning Panel as per the current Local Planning Panels Direction under S9.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 Planning Proposals;
- 8. Resolve that all Panel Members must abide by the Local Planning Panels Code of conduct and complete all relevant and required administrative documentation in a timely manner as required by the Local Planning Panels Code of Conduct -August 2020 (as amended).

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act) details the membership of local planning panels. Pursuant to Section 2.18 of the Act each local planning panel is to comprise:

- "(a) an approved independent person appointed as the chairperson of the panel with relevant expertise that includes expertise in law or in government and public administration,
- (b) 2 other approved independent persons with relevant expertise,
- (c) a representative of the local community who is not a councillor or mayor.

...

(4) For the purposes of this section, an approved independent person is an independent person approved by the Minister for appointment to the local planning panel or a person selected from a pool of independent persons approved by the Minister for appointment to the local planning panel. The Minister may approve different pools of independent persons."

The NSW Department of Planning have recently advised the following (through their website):

"Panel expert members and chairs are selected from a pool of experts and chairs appointed by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for a 3-year term.

The current term for chairs, alternate chairs and most experts is due to expire in February 2024.

...

The department is recruiting a new pool of experts and chairs for the next 3-year term. Once the minister has appointed this pool, councils with an LPP can appoint their chairs and experts.

The department will advise councils on how to extend existing chair/alternate chair and panel appointments until May 2024. Councils will be notified shortly regarding options to extend existing appointments to cover the interim (February to May) period.

Here is an indicative work program for the department's recruitment process for December 2023:

- The expression of interest for experts and chairs for LPPs will commence in December 2023 and run into the new year.
- Existing chairs and members will be contacted."

Council is unable to appoint or renew any of its expert panel members, nor the chair and alternative chairs, until the Department has completed its expression of interest and nomination of chairs.

At the time of writing this report, no notification had been received from the NSW Department of Planning on how to extend the appointments to cover the interim. However, it is noted that the current appointment will cover the period between now and the Ordinary Meeting of Council in February. It is expected that we will have received more information from the Department by February and a report will be tabled at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in February to extend the current appointments until May, once notification has been received from the Department of Planning.

Community representatives will also be required for the next three (3) year term. It is recommended that the process for seeking expressions of interest and selecting community representatives be conducted concurrently with the appointment process for the expert members.

In the meanwhile, it would be appropriate for Council to reaffirm its intention to extend the term of the panel for 3 years until 2027.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

Expressions of interest will be sought for community representatives to be part of the panel.

Internal Communication and Consultation

The Development Assessment team have been made aware of the current progress on the appointment of the independent members to the Local Planning Panel.

External Communication and Consultation

Advertisements will be placed notifying the public of the Expression of Interest period. Letters will also be sent to the current community representatives inviting them to reapply.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

There are no environmental issues raised in relation to this report.

Social

There are no social issues raised in relation to this report.

Broader Economic Implications

There are no broader economic implications raised in relation to this report.

<u>Culture</u>

There are no cultural issues raised in relation to this report.

Governance

A report will be tabled at the February meeting of Council outlining the process and timeframes for the appointment of Panel members for the next 3-year term. That report will also propose interim arrangements to ensure that Development Applications can continue to be determined by the Local Planning Panel in the first half of 2024 until the new Panel term commences.

COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The remuneration of Panel members and operational costs of administering the panel are included in the current budget. There are no impacts on Council's budget raised as a result of this report.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

Nil

CONCLUSION

The members of the Wingecarribee Shire Council Local Planning Panel were appointed until 24 February 2024. In order to appoint a new Local Planning Panel the Minister of Planning needs to create a pool of independent persons to allow Council to choose the members for the next three (3) year term.

The Department of Planning is recruiting a new pool of experts and chairs for the next 3-year term.

The Department of Planning will advise councils on how to extend their existing chair/alternate chair and panel appointments until May 2024. Councils will be notified shortly regarding options to extend existing appointments to cover the interim (February to May) period.

A report will be tabled to the February meeting of Council to advise of the options to extend the existing appointments to cover the interim and to seek Council's endorsement.

In the meanwhile, it would be appropriate for Council to reaffirm its intention to extend the term of the panel for 3 years until 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SA3.2 Licence to Discharge Water into Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure with ARTC - 21 Ferguson Crescent Mittagong

Report by: Salomon Kloppers

Manager Business and Property

Authorised by: Carmel Foster

Director Corporate Strategy and Resourcing

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval to enter into a Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor (specifically in relation to a retaining wall, sewer pipeline and stormwater pipeline) with Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited (ARTC) benefiting the property at 21 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong together with a Deed of Indemnity between Council and the owner/developer of 21 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- 1. Council enter into a Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor with Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited (ARTC) benefiting the property at 21 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong, such Licence to have an expiration date in 2064.
- 2. All costs associated with the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor referred to in item 1 above (including rental) be borne and paid-up front by the owner/developer of 21 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong.
- 3. The owner/developer of 21 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong enter into a separate Deed of Indemnity with Council in relation to the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor referred to item 1 above and all costs associated with the Deed of Indemnity be borne by the owner/developer.
- 4. Authority be delegated to the General Manager to negotiate the terms and conditions of the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor referred to in item 1 above and the Deed of Indemnity referred to item 3 above.
- 5. Authority be delegated to the Mayor/Administrator and General Manager to execute the Licence to Discharge Water and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor into a Rail Corridor referred to item 1 above and Deed of Indemnity referred to in item 3 above under the Common Seal of Council.
- 6. Authority be delegated to the General Manager to execute any documents associated with the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor referred to item 1 above and Deed of Indemnity referred to item 3 above not requiring the Common Seal of Council.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council issued Notice of Determination of a Modification Application to Sett Homes Pty Limited on 25 February 2021 (Development Application No. 19/0922). The Modification Application included the following condition:

SCHEDULE 1

CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONSENT THAT MUST BE SATISFIED BEFORE THE CONSENT CAN OPERATE

1. Licence to Discharge Water

A licence to discharge water into the ARTC land is to be entered into prior to the consent becoming active:

- a) The developer shall enter into an "Infrastructure Licence Agreement" with benefitting Council for the stormwater discharge into the rail corridor. All costs associated with the formalisation of the agreement will be borne by the developer at no cost to Council;
- b) The developer entering an access licence for any access to the rail corridor required during construction;

Deferred Commencement condition 1 is required to be addressed to the satisfaction of Council within 24 months of 26 February 2020 prior to General Development Consent Conditions 1 -104 being acted upon.

Note: The consent shall operate from the date in which Council acknowledges compliance with the condition within Schedule 1 of this Deferred Commencement Consent and shall lapse 26 February 2025.

Note: Operational Consent issued by letter dated 13 March 2020.

CONDITIONS TO BE SATIFIED PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE SUBDIVISION WORKS CERTIFICIATE

4. Licence to Discharge

The developer (or nominated party) enter an Infrastructure Licence with ARTC and pay the applicable fees prior to the release of a Subdivision Works Certificate.

Attachment 1 to this report is a copy of the full Notice of Determination of a Modification Application (19/022).

Attachment 2 to this report is a letter from ARTC dated 6 March, 2020. This letter states "ARTC provides consent to the proposed drainage into the rail corridor subject to the relevant party entering a licence for the discharge of stormwater prior to the completion of works".

Attachment 3 to this report is the Operational Consent letter issued by Wingecarribee Shire Council dated 13 March, 2020 to Urbanesque Planning. This letter states that Council is satisfied with the additional information provided as to the deferred commencement condition of Licence to Drain Water.

The letter further states that "As provision of this information satisfies Condition A and B of Schedule 1, DA 19/0922, the Notice of Determination is now an Operation Consent pursuant to section 4.16 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979".

REPORT

The owner/developer of 21 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong has provided a Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor between Wingecarribee Shire Council and Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited (ARTC) ("the Licence agreements"). **Attachment 4** to this report is a copy of the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and **Attachment 5** is a copy of the Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor as currently provided.

The Licence agreements have been reviewed by Council's legal representative who has advised that, whilst an easement would be preferrable, the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor are acceptable, subject to the following:

- 1. The licence agreements with ARTC should be entered into for the longest possible term. ARTC have verbally confirmed they are able to enter into agreements until 3 September 2064, this date being in line with the agreements they hold for the rail corridor.
- 2. Wingecarribee Shire Council should be the licensee, not Sett Homes.
- 3. The Licence agreements should include a rolling option with the right to renew for further periods in accordance with the associated agreements held for the rail corridor by ARTC.
- 4. All costs, including all estimated licence fees, should be borne by the applicant (upfront).
- 5. A separate Deed of Indemnity should be entered into between Council and the owner/developer to identify Council in relation to the obligations under the Licence agreements.

A meeting was held with the owner/developer on 23 November 2023 at which time the above five (5) conditions were accepted by the owner/developer.

The owner/developer has advised that provision of the updated Licence agreements from ARTC, including an expiration date in 2064, is imminent.

Onsite subdivision works have been completed by the owner/developer. This report is submitted to Council to obtain the necessary resolution for Council to execute the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor and Deed of Indemnity, once available in its final form and in accordance with the resolutions contained in this report.

This is to ensure there are no delays in issuing a Subdivision Certificate for the development (caused by the delay in execution of the required Licence agreements).

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

This is an administrative matter and no consultation has been undertaken.

Internal Communication and Consultation

Development

Assets

External Communication and Consultation

ARTC

Owner/developer

Council's legal representative

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

There are no environmental issues in relation to this report.

Socia

There are no social issues in relation to this report.

Broader Economic Implications

There are no broader economic implications in relation to this report.

Culture

There are no cultural issues in relation to this report.

Governance

There are no governance issues in relation to this report.

COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor (specifically in relation to a retaining wall, sewer pipeline and stormwater pipeline), including rental and the associated Deed of Indemnity are to be borne by the owner/developer.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

None identified.

CONCLUSION

This report is submitted to obtain the necessary resolution to enable Council to enter into the Licence to Discharge Water into a Rail Corridor and Licence for Existing Infrastructure within the Rail Corridor (specifically in relation to a retaining wall, sewer pipeline and stormwater pipeline) and associated Deed of Indemnity.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Attachment 1 Notice of Determination of a Modification Application **Under Separate Cover** [3.2.1 52 pages]
- 2. Attachment 2 Letter from ARTC **Under Separate Cover** [3.2.2 1 page]
- 3. Attachment 3 Operational Consent Under Separate Cover [3.2.3 1 page]
- 4. Attachment 4 Licence agreement **Under Separate Cover** [3.2.4 29 pages]
- 5. Licence Existing Infrastructure Mittagong Wingecarribee Shire Council **Under Separate Cover** [3.2.5 27 pages
- 6. Attachment 6 Letter from ARTC regarding proposed expiry date for licenses **Under Separate Cover.**[3.2.6 1 page]

SA3.3 Naming of new Community Hall, Penrose

Report of: Tim Bell

Acting Manager Assets

Authorised by: Katin Targa

Director Service and Project Delivery

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the naming of the new community hall at Penrose as requested by Penrose Community Association.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approves the name of the new Penrose community hall to "Penrose Village Hall".

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Penrose Community Association has undertaken the construction of a new "community hall" at Penrose Oval, 300 Kareela Road, Penrose. The development was granted Council planning approval in May 2022.

Penrose Community Association was awarded NSW Government Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund grant of \$1,697,000 in June 2021 to construct a new Community Hall. Penrose Community Association submitted a variation for a further \$429,124 in March 2023 for the grant to reach a total of \$2,526,124. Penrose Community Association applied for funding to Council for contribution to address estimated shortfall in budget of \$400,000 and a deed was signed in September 2022. This makes the project's total budget \$2,526,124. Despite of a few difficulties that Penrose Community Association have been facing during construction which caused some delays, the works are approaching completion, and the first Construction Certificate was issued in April 2023 and the occupation certificate is estimated to be issued in January 2024. The official opening of the new Hall is proposed for 23 March 2023.

It is worth noting that the existing hall carries the name "Penrose Community Hall"

<u>REPORT</u>

Penrose Community Association wrote to Council requesting that the name of the new building will be "Penrose Village Hall". They reiterated that request to Council's General Manager in October 2023. The request has been checked against Council's Public Memorial Policy and there is nothing that prevents the use of the proposed name "Penrose Village Hall" which corresponds with the site name "Penrose Village Park" where the building is located. It is also noted from the communication with community members that the use of the word "Village" avoids the confusion with two other places in the region and the surroundings:

- Penrose Park, Sutton Forrest where the Catholic Monastery is located;
- Penrose, a suburb of Dapto area, Wollongong has been renamed to be part of Avondale in 2015.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

Penrose Community Association initiated the request of the new building name.

Internal Communication and Consultation

Governance

Assets

General Manager

External Communication and Consultation

Both Penrose Community Association and the existing Hall Committee are in support of the new name.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

There are no environmental issues in relation to this report.

Social

There are no social issues in relation to this report.

Broader Economic Implications

There are no broader economic implications in relation to this report.

Culture

There are no cultural issues in relation to this report.

Governance

There are no governance issues in relation to this report.

COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no governance issues in relation to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

There is no conflict with Council's Public Memorial Policy, which is the policy that addresses naming of public places and buildings.

CONCLUSION

The proposed naming of the new Community building is in line with Council's policy and corresponds to the name of its location. It is recommended for approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil