

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE
WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL'S DRAFT LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN
2009
SPONSORED BY WOLLONGONG AGAINST CORRUPTION (WAC)
FRATERNITY CLUB, FAIRY MEADOW 28 FEBRUARY 2009**

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

In response to broad ranging community concern across the Wollongong region, and involving a number of concerned local community groups and individuals, a 'Community Engagement' Conference was hosted by Wollongong Against Corruption at the Fraternity Club, Wollongong, on 28 February 2009. It was the purpose of the Conference to review Wollongong City Council's (WCC) Draft Local Environment Plan 2009 (DLEP). The Conference was attended by **150 local citizens** who **agreed unanimously** on the following Resolutions:

This Conference of concerned local residents:

- (1) **Fully supports responsible, ethical development** and the generation of **employment**.
- (2) **Welcomes** the advent of a **new Local Environment Plan** for Wollongong.
- (3) **Calls on the NSW Government-appointed Wollongong City Council Administrators** however to order a **Public Hearing** under Section 68 of the Environmental and Planning Act to *examine the wide-ranging concerns raised throughout this Community Engagement Conference* and the need to *re-start the planning process* in order to develop a Plan for the people that is truly based on community aspirations, health, wealth and infrastructure requirements at both local and city level rather than untested bureaucratic population growth assumptions and a 'one-size fits all' philosophy.
- (4) **Calls on Wollongong City Council Administrators to immediately postpone the newly announced 31 March 2009 deadline for public submissions** to a date which allows adequate time for initial submissions, for the Public Hearing to then take place, for the findings or report of this Public Hearing to be published (including details of all submissions received) and the community to have the right to respond to any amendments made by Council to the LEP after the Public Hearing.
- (5) **Demands the NSW Government conduct democratic elections for Wollongong City Council** before the Plan is returned to community consultation in order for the peoples' *democratically elected representatives to guide the community consultation process* at local neighbourhood levels and take care of local issues and the interests of their constituents.

- (6) **Calls on Wollongong City Council Administrators** to therefore **defer finalisation of the DLEP** until after this Hearing is held, elections are conducted, and the concerns of the people detailed at this Community Engagement Conference are fully addressed.
- (7) **Demands** that after the **above conditions are met** and when the revised DLEP is again released for public exhibition that the document,
- (i) clearly states that the DLEP is a statement of *standards* rather than potentially flexible guidelines;
 - (ii) is based on full interactive **community engagement**;
 - (iii) is written in **plain English**;
 - (iv) includes associated **infrastructure requirements** and **studies of impact** on local residents, their lifestyles and their community neighbourhoods;
 - (v) clearly **identifies changes** in previous zoning definitions and zoning;
 - (vi) identifies all **lands owned by developers** who are likely to gain capital advantage from the zoning changes; and,
 - (vii) is exhibited along with its accompanying **Draft Control Codes** in plain English.
- (8) **Calls on the NSW Minister for Planning to monitor this review, consultation and revision process** in order to ensure that the Wollongong DLEP 2009 *is* based on community *engagement* at local levels, takes full account of the wide-ranging and deep concerns raised by the present Community Engagement Conference, and is reformed in the context of a fully democratic process.
- (9) **Supports**, in principle, the measures to protect native vegetation and the escarpment, but seeks to have **climate change response, sustainability, biodiversity, bushfire prevention and maintenance of the integrity of local residential areas** as **focal aims of the Plan**. An example of this is the Wollongong Futures Project which does not appear to have been effectively taken into account. We ask Council to take into account all relevant and appropriate research, Council and State commissioned studies including the Escarpment and Sandon Point Commissions of Inquiry.
- (10) **Considers** that the **provisions for residential areas** generally should be modified significantly so they enhance the characteristics and quality of existing

areas, whilst allowing more intensive development of a reasonable scale in appropriate locations but not next to schools and dwellings.

(11) Considers the following specific proposals unacceptable and in need of full re-appraisal:

- (i) *Tallawarra Lands* – to test the integrity of employment lands rather than residential, and the likelihood of their being developed as well as to ensure that all appropriate environmental and aesthetic considerations have been accounted for;
 - (ii) *Vellar Mansions, Corrimal* – Council should refuse the proposal to rezone the Vellar Land E3 in favour of the developer, order the demolition of the Vellar Mansions, and order the owner to restore the escarpment forest and fix the risks of land slip and flooding;
 - (iii) *Excelsior* - to require the environmental studies recommended by the Commission of Enquiry to be carried out before re-zoning;
 - (iv) *Gwynneville East* - to respect the single storey residential and flood prone environment;
 - (v) *Keira/Kenny Streets* - to use the land for residential, not industrial purposes; and,
 - (vi) Medium density proposals at *Corrimal East and Woonona East* to allow more respect for existing residential environments.
 - (vii) Council should refuse to rezone land next to the new Port Kembla School from Private Recreation to IN1 (General Industrial) and the old Port Kembla School site that was once zoned Educational to IN2 (Light Industrial). Both sites have dwellings adjoining them.
- (12) Calls on Wollongong City Council to immediately review the stalled Belmorgan Fairy Meadow development and order the developer to fix identified safety issues then complete or demolish.**