we embrace learning as a way of life

Becoming a Learning City

Empowering and Connecting our People to be Lifelong Learners

Working to become a member of UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities
as a benchmark for our longer learning journey

Australian Learning Communities Network Forum February 23, 2024

Dianne Hillier, Project Leader

wollongong
city of innovation

Learning City Project

Acknowledgement of Dharawal Country

The name Wollongong is said to originate from the Dharawal word Woolyungah, meaning five islands.

Photo by Bernie Fisher. Wollongong Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, 2021-23, p.6,7, cropped

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians
of the land on which our city is built,
Dharawal Country.

I recognise and appreciate their deep connection
to this land, waters, skies and the greater community.

I pay respect to
Elders past, present and those emerging
and extend my respect to all
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
who call these lands home.

I recognise
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
as the first people to live in this area

and I respect
their living cultures
and recognise the positive contribution
their voices, traditions and histories
make to our city.

Learning City Project

Oola Boola Woo – the West Wind

The Wadi Wadi People's Dreamtime story of the West Wind and his six daughters:

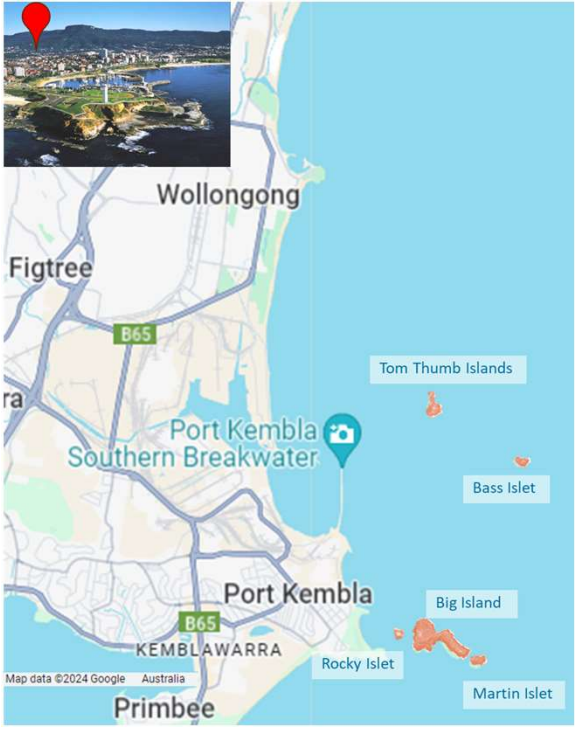
Mimosa, Wilga, Lilli Pilli, Wattle, Clematis and Geera

The Five Islands dreaming story as told by Wadi Wadi women

Walking Together | ABC Australia

ABC Illawarra / By Sarah Moss
Posted Sat 11 Jul 2020 at 12:15pm
https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-11/five-islands-dreaming-story-text/12436032

We have a long history of inter-generational learning and connection.



Today's Time Together

Presenting:

- Dianne background
- Introduce Wollongong
- Picking up a project mid-stream:
  - Staff fluctuations
  - Project Management approach and documentation
  - Gathering and understanding project achievements
  - Bodies of Knowledge to Digest
- Examples of communications for internal teams
- What's been achieved to date
- Currently working on
- Next Steps
- Questions

Questions:

- Are we heading in the right direction?
- Learning can be perceived as a soft value. 'Social capital' is not as easy to measure and sell as jobs or roads or revenue - How did you establish influence within Council and beyond?
- On what basis have you established partnerships/a network of Learning City stakeholders? Cork City example
- Writing a strategy to include mobilisation and utilisation of resources across the city: How to achieve when starting as a learning city?

What does Di bring? What are the gaps?

My work life:

- **project management**
  - Macquarie University's Research Office, AMP Bank
- **partnership development w community and aged services**
  - Anglicare and 60+ external partners
- **office and small business management**
  - performing artists, industrial relations
- **education**
  - secondary teaching, VET sector admin, university projects
- **community work**
  - debt counselling, homeless person's hostel, hospital chaplaincy

My learning - formal:

- Australia, NSW Public K-HSC in Sydney's South-West
- B. Arts B. Education (with distinction): UNSW,
  in Education, English, Theatre and Performance Studies
- Dip. Creative Arts in Music with Honours
- Cert IV Assessment & Workplace Training
- Cert IV Pastoral Care

My learning - informal:

- Prince 2 Project Management
- Database design
- Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI) Practitioner
- Intro & Foundations for Life Coaching
- Understanding Dementia - UTAS MOOC
- Leadership Essentials - Macquarie Uni
- Into to TV & Motion Picture Production

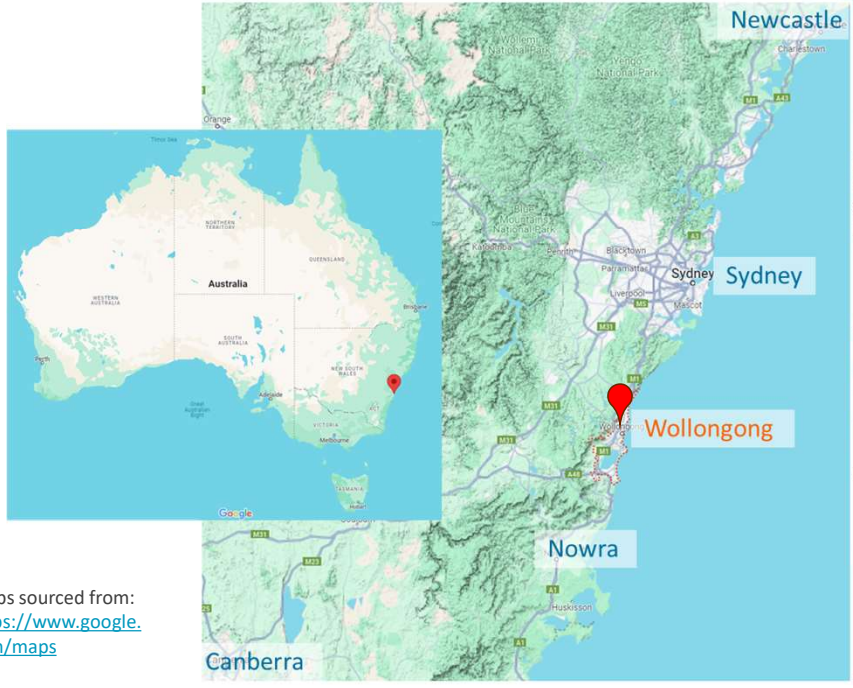
My learning - non-formal: some examples

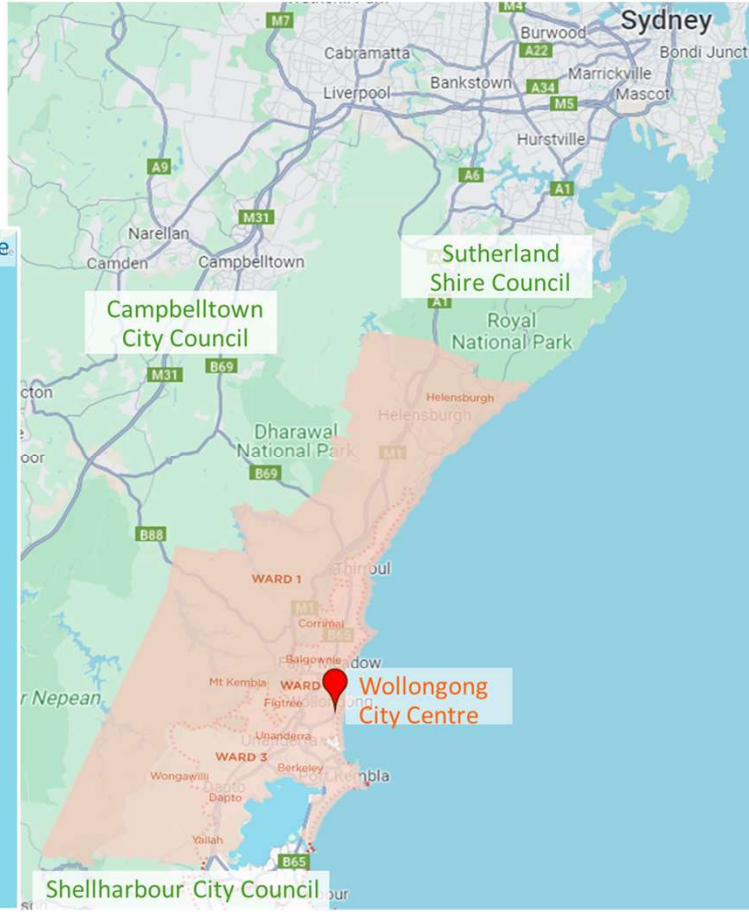
- Practical Dad - fixing things, painting, building things
- Registered Nurse Mum - health, first aid, common sense
- Friends - life wisdom
- Illawarra Woodwork School
- Linked In Learning courses, e.g. Learning Design Thinking
- Gym and Dance Classes - physical health
- Rowing

Where is Wollongong?

South of Sydney, NSW

The fourth largest city in New South Wales and 11th largest city in Australia in terms of population (ABS 2021 - significant urban areas).

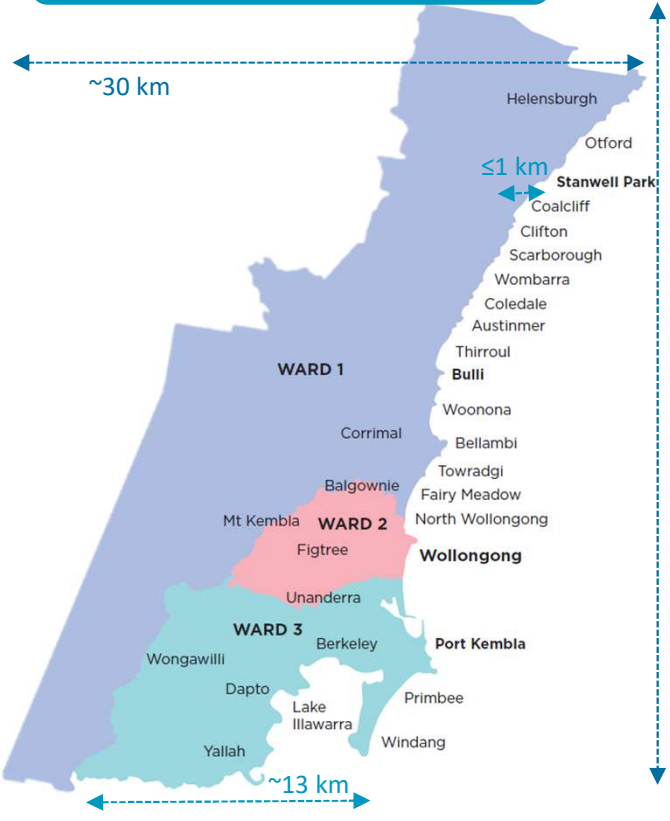


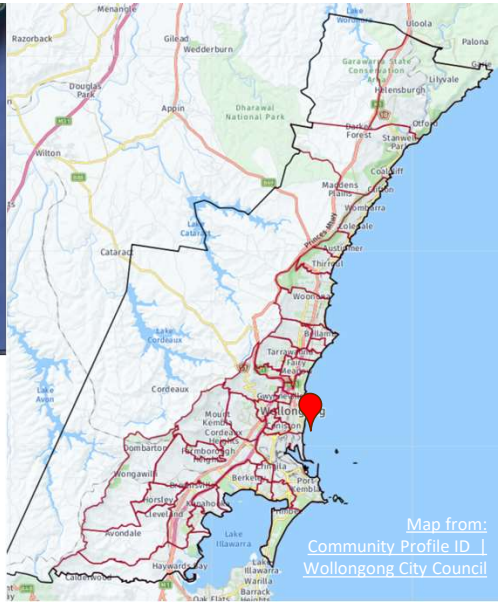


Maps sourced from: https://www.google.com/maps

Where is Wollongong?

South of Sydney, NSW





Our populated areas - distinct from our gorgeous bushlands, parks and dams - are:

- the villages of Helensburgh, Stanwell Park… in our north
- a very narrow strip (≤1km) bordered by the escarpment and sea from Coalcliff to Austinmer
- a still somewhat narrow strip down to Corrimal-East Corrimal
- a widening area as we head further south, including Lake Illawarra and Windang, to our major growth area in West Dapto (the escarpment shapes inland, giving more flat land suitable for housing).

Stanwell Park, looking South

Image from Wollongong Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029 | p 47

Wollongong North, looking north

Image from Wollongong Economic Development Strategy_2019-2029 | p 44

Wollongong Harbour and City Beach

Image: Wollongong harbour and City Beach

Image from Invest Wollongong Prospectus 2023 Sept, pp3-4

Port Kembla, looking north

Image from Wollongong Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029 p 48

Snapshot of the Wollongong Community

216,290 estimated resident population 2022.
246,042 projected population by 2032.

6,944 people identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing 3.2% of the total (2021)

75% (160,645) Australian born
21% (45,088) overseas born
4% not stated (2021)

80% speak only English at home. 16% speak a language other than English. Top 8: Macedonian, Arabic, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish, Greek, Serbian, Vietnamese

$500 Med week mortgage payment (500 NSW)
$390 Med week rent payment (420 NSW) 2021

29.3% were couple families with children
11.2% one-parent households
25.4% lone person households

66.3% separate housing
20.5% medium density housing
12.3% high density housing (LGA, 2021)

Socioeconomic Index for (dis) Advantage: at 1,000 Wollongong = Aus Average, but varies from 764 in Warrawong, to 1,111 in Coalcliff.

22.4% households: high income: $3,000/wk or ↑
23.7% households: low income:$800/week or ↓

Median age was 39 years.
18.6% of our community are age 65+ (2021)

2.8% unemployment rate was in March 2023 compared to 3.3% for New South Wales.

Source: .id Community Demographic Resources 2023, 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census of Population and Housing, compiled and presented by profile.id

How will we mobilise Wollongong's Resources?

… just thinking out loud here…

Wollongong is rich in Natural, Built and Learning Resources

Our Location:

- Beautiful natural resources between the sea and the escarpment
- Close to both Sydney and Canberra
- International port: coal, steel, grain, automotive…
- Major Sectors: education, health, mining, manufacturing, tourism, Information Technology, Finance

Some Learning Resources:

- Schools, TAFE, University(photo), Library, WEA, iTec
- Hospital(photo), Botanic Gardens, Music Conservatorium
- Illawarra Performing Arts Centre
- Art Gallery, Stadium - international acts
- Workplaces, Nan Tien Institute
- NGOs and social entrepreneurship, eg Makeshift (photo)
- Community and interest groups

…

Wollongong's Vision

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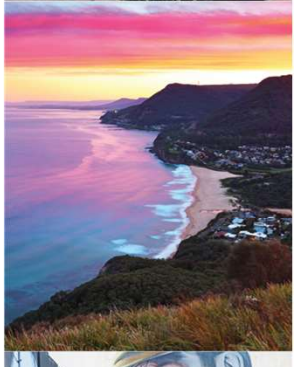
From the mountains to the sea,
we value and protect our natural environment
and will be leaders in building an
educated, creative, sustainable and connected community.

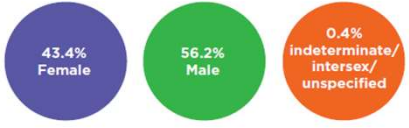


Learning City Project

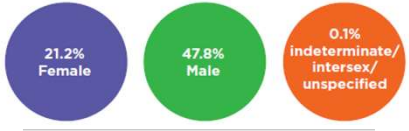
Wollongong Council Workforce

Includes all permanent, temporary and contract employees as at 30 June, 2023

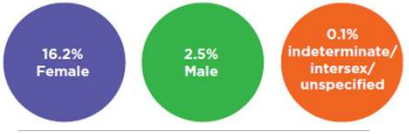
Our workforce is comprised of 1,297 employees



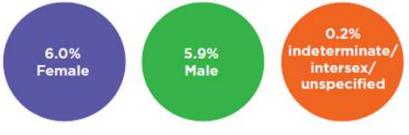
Full time permanent employees - 895



Part time permanent employees - 244



Total temporary employees (full time and part time) - 158



Generations

39% of employees are Gen X and represent the highest generational group.

	Female	Male	Indeterminate/ intersex/unspecified
Baby Boomers (1944 - 1966)	12.8%	15.0%	0%
Generation X (1967 - 1980)	17.6%	21.3%	0.1%
Generation Y and younger (Post 1981 – 1994)	9.5%	14.6%	0.1%
Generation Z (post 1994)	3.5%	5.3%	0.2%

39.7% of employees at Manager Level and above are women

	Female	Male
CEO		100%
Director	100%	
Senior Manager	33.3%	66.7%
Middle Manager	37.2%	62.8%

Job Families are dominated by

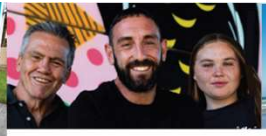
Females in Administration represent 71% and in Service Delivery represent 70%.

91% of employees in Trades and Labour are male and 72% in Engineering and Technical Services

Picking up a Project Mid-Stream

Picking up a Project Mid-Stream

- **Staff Fluctuations, including**
  - Many acting positions in Libraries, including many in leadership
  - Two changes of manager for Learning City Project Leader
  - Divisional Manager has moved out from Council
  - Library Manager soon leaving Council
- **Project Management approach and documentation**
  - 2021 Steering group was representative of a wider interest in Council
  - 2022 this had become quite niche, focusing only in Library and Community Centres
- **Gathering and understanding existing project achievements**
  - Aspirational language in documents
  - Inconsistent messages about what was and wasn't delivered
  - Lack of detailed project management plan or analysis of final criteria
- **Bodies of Knowledge to digest – and still learning**
  - UNESCO and Learning Cities
  - Wollongong Council's people and teams
  - Wollongong Council's strategic framework, operations, processes
  - Wollongong LGA's profile and learning environment
  - Learning City and Collective Impact methodology
  - Bridging between academic ideals and practical outcomes



Wollongong's Goals

Goal 1 We value and protect our environment

Goal 2 We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Goal 3 Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

Goal 4 We are a connected and engaged community

Goal 5 We have a healthy community in a liveable city

Goal 6 We have affordable and accessible transport

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Council's Community Strategic Plan [CSP link]

Council's CSP outlines these six goals and components

Goal 1 We value and protect our environment

1.1 The community is actively involved in the expansion, improvement and preservation of our waterways, green corridors and other natural areas connecting the escarpment to the sea.

1.2 Manage and effectively improve the cleanliness, health, biodiversity of land and water including creeks, lakes, waterways and oceans.

1.3 Increase our resilience to natural disasters and a changing climate to protect life, property and the environment.

1.4 Work together to achieve net zero carbon emissions and reduce waste going to landfill.

1.5 Maintain the unique character of the Wollongong Local Government Area, whilst balancing development, population growth and housing needs.

1.6 West Dapto urban growth is effectively managed with facilities and spaces to support the future community.

1.7 Develop and implement programs and projects that achieve proactive heritage management, education and promotion.

Goal 2 We have an innovative and sustainable economy

2.1 Support educational and employment opportunities that retain young people and local talent, attract new workers and provide opportunities for the unemployed.

2.2 Continue to diversify and grow Metro Wollongong economy as the Illawarra's regional capital and employment centre.

2.3 Increase and attract new business investment and enterprise to Wollongong while supporting and growing existing local businesses.

2.4 Encourage an innovative economy, which drives entrepreneurship and research capability in the Wollongong Local Government Area.

2.5 Work with partners to facilitate sustainable and green industries.

2.6 Support growth sectors to assist in the ongoing transition of Wollongong's economy.

2.7 Promote the Wollongong Local Government Area as an event, conference and visitor destination.

2.8 Continue to build Wollongong as a vibrant, modern city with a revitalised city centre and an active evening economy.

Goal 3 Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

3.1 Using community art and cultural development practices, our places and spaces reflect the creativity, history and identity of our people.

3.2 We encourage innovation and creativity.

3.3 Museums and galleries are promoted as part of the cultural landscape.

3.4 We work in partnership to reduce inequity and build on opportunities to strengthen vulnerable communities.

3.5 Provide communities with access to quality local spaces and places to meet, share and celebrate.

3.6 Enable signature events and festivals where communities and visitors can gather and celebrate.

Goal 4 We are a connected and engaged community

4.1 Provide our community with equitable access to information and opportunities to inform decision-making.

4.2 Improve digital access and participation across all communities.

4.3 Partner with First Nations People and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities on programs and projects.

4.4 Build awareness and understanding of Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, heritage and histories.

4.5 Our community strives for social harmony and values and respects differences.

4.6 Support and strengthen the local community services sector.

4.7 Demonstrate responsible decision-making based on our values, collaboration, and transparent and accountable leadership.

4.8 Council's resources are managed effectively to ensure long term financial sustainability.

4.9 Excellent customer service is core business.

4.10 Wollongong's role as a Learning City is supported by lifelong learning initiatives.

4.11 Quality services, libraries and facilities are available to communities to access and gather.

4.12 Technology is used to enhance urban planning and service provision for our community.

Goal 5 We have a healthy community in a liveable city

5.1 Accessible and appropriate medical services are available to the community.

5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community.

5.3 Work towards enabling all people in our community to have access to safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainably produced food.

5.4 Provide a variety of quality and accessible public places and opportunities for sport, play, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community.

5.5 Provide safe, well-maintained and accessible beaches and aquatic recreation facilities.

5.6 Healthy, active ageing programs are provided and promoted in partnership with government agencies and community organisations.

5.7 Provide an appropriate range of active and passive open spaces and facilities to cater for traditional and emerging recreational pursuits.

5.8 Housing choice in the Wollongong Local Government Area is improved, considering population growth, community needs and affordability.

5.9 Integrated services are provided to residents in need of urgent shelter.

5.10 Partnerships continue to strengthen and achieve a safe, accessible and resilient community.

5.11 Local crime continues to be prevented and levels of crime reduced.

5.12 Plan and deliver an accessible, safe, clean and inviting public domain.

Goal 6 We have affordable and accessible transport

6.1 Plan for the delivery of multimodal public transport together with sustainable transport modes such as the Gong Shuttle, walking and cycling to meet the community's needs.

6.2 Wollongong continues to build infrastructure and programs to fulfill its role as a UCI Bike city.

6.3 Effective and integrated regional transport with a focus on road, bus, rail and freight movement (including the port of Port Kembla).

6.4 Plan and provide sustainable infrastructure for safe and liveable places integrated with the environment and accessible to key transport routes.

6.5 Advocate for strong transport links within the Local Government Area and connections to Sydney, the South Coast, and the Southern Highlands to provide physical and economic opportunities.

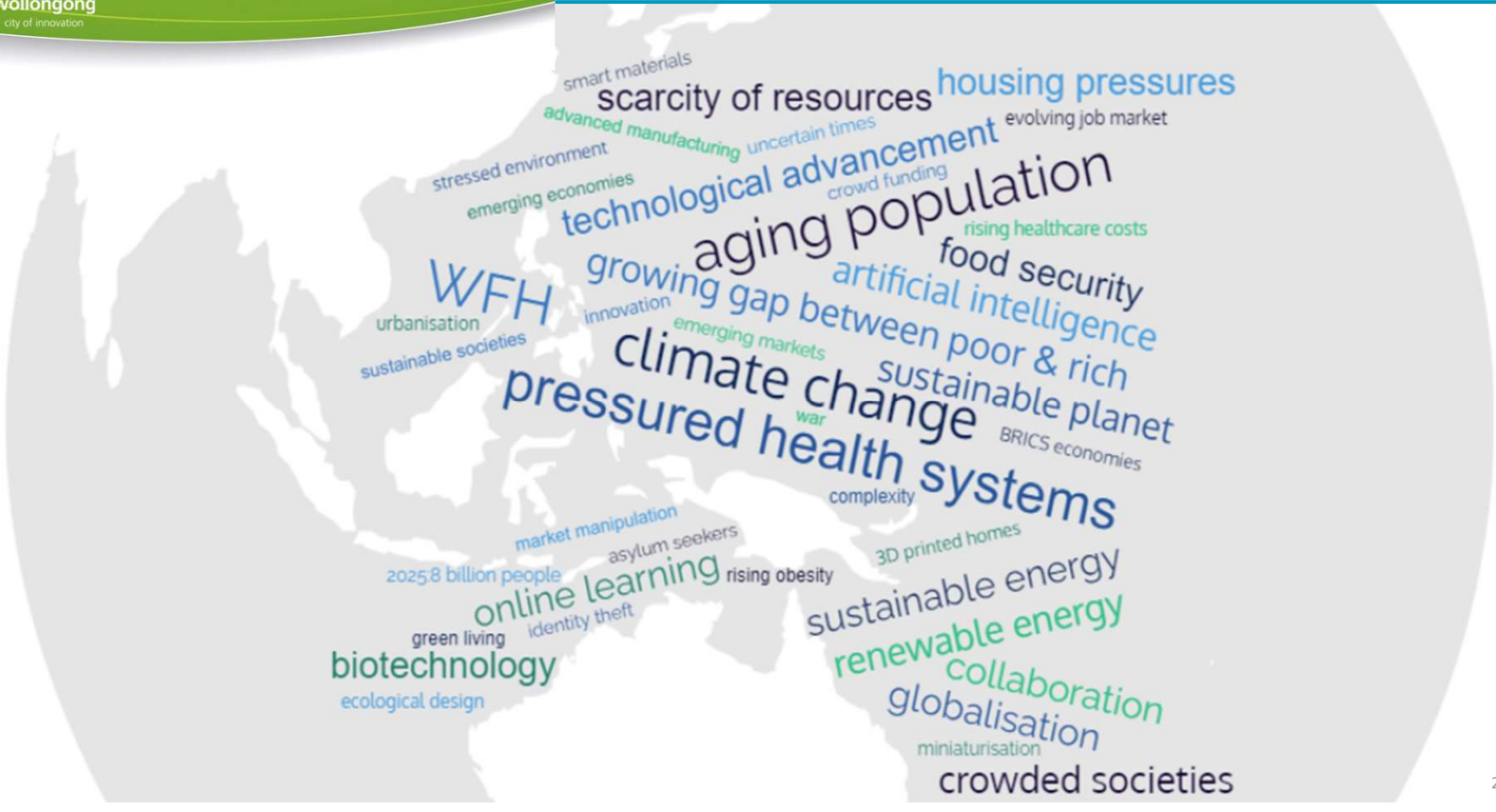
6.6 Improve active transport links and connectivity to our unique places and spaces, including marine access along the Local Government Area and accessibility from the Central Business District to the foreshore.

6.7 Maintain the service levels of our roads, footpaths and cycleways to an acceptable standard.

6.8 Community transport options for frail older people, people with disabilities and the transport disadvantaged are actively promoted and available.

What are we communicating to internal teams?

Our World is Changing Rapidly



United Nations' SDGs

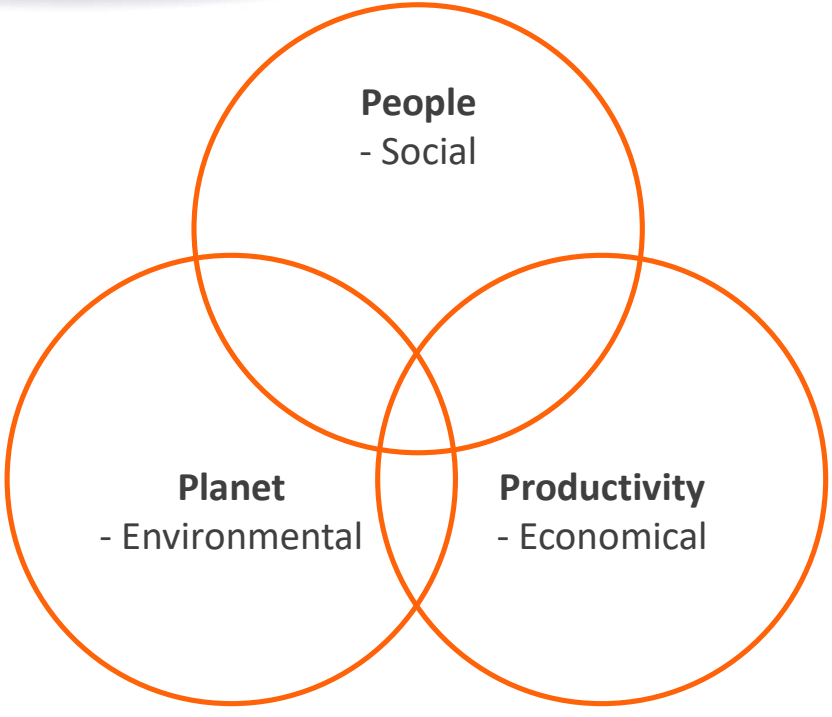
The United Nations' seventeen Sustainable Development Goals replace the 8 Millennium Development Goals and were developed under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SDGs provide a framework to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

They address global challenges, including:

- Health and wellbeing
- Demographic changes
- Implications from climate change
- Transformation in the world of work
- Developments in digital technologies
- Strengthening citizenship education

Sustainability in brief



Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future.

Balancing these three pillars:

People:

- People's human rights and basic needs are upheld
- Healthy, thriving communities

Planet:

- Use resources at a rate at which they can be replenished (see Earth Overshoot Day)
- Reduce and manage waste

Productivity:

- Secure sources of livelihood
- Communities have access to resources to meet their needs

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Council's Community Strategic Plan [CSP link] & Learning Synergies

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Where:

Learning City synergies highlighted in green

Learning City & Libraries highlighted in yellow

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SDGs flagged here

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Lifelong Learning and Learning Communities

A learning city ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning for all.

Cities should be both architects and executors of strategies that foster lifelong learning and sustainable development.

UNESCO Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities, 2013

"Learning City" "Learning Community" and "Learning Region" refer to the same concept.

Learning communities are an approach to describe how places respond to emerging challenges by bringing key organisations and people together to learn how to invent new responses to challenges their communities face.

Wilson, B. 2012 'Learning City Regions revisited': A new way forward, Melbourne Knowledge Week, Melbourne.

Lifelong Learning

university or TAFE

travel & adventure

in the workplace

at school

Learning in Life-Wide Contexts, Modalities, Levels & Spaces

family & friendships
-life skills

online

in family
-books & literacy

in community

Learning for a Variety of Purposes

- To reach one's potential
- To provide for self & family
- To grow or make food
- For fun
- For safety
- For social connection
- To grow expertise
- To comply with laws, e.g., driving
- To participate in society, e.g., voting

… and so many more…

This overview is based on pp 18-19: Making lifelong learning a reality: a handbook - UNESCO Digital Library

Learning at all ages

SDGs, Learning Cities & Quality Education

The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) supports the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular:

SDG 3: Ensure **healthy lives and promote well-being** for all at all ages

SDG 4: Ensure **inclusive and equitable quality education** and promote **lifelong learning** opportunities for all

SDG 8: Promote **sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work** for all

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements **inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**.

UNESCO's Learning City Framework

From the *Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities*, October, 2013

Learning City in other Communities

Innovation arising from learning city impetus

- Achieved
- Currently Working on
- Next Steps

Learning City Project

Project Progress Summary

Learned or Achieved: 2020-23

- Initial map of council's learning assets
- Pilot of Learning Evaluation
- Community engagement, informing
  - barriers to learning
  - places of learning
  - input to important themes for learning
  - desire for learning opportunities
- Learning City/Community lessons:
  - 2021 Global Learning Festival
  - 2023 Wyndham Learning Festival
  - Breadth of Learning City Measures
  - Other Cities' LC achievements
- Learning City networking:
  - Australian Learning Communities Network
  - Adult Learning Australia
  - Other Learning Communities
- Learning City resources:
  - Stakeholder analysis
  - Communications

2024 Goals

- **Develop a Strategy & Action Plan**:
  - Consult with Council teams
  - Consult with external stakeholders
  - Decide themes for Learning City: access learning imperative
  - Choose flagship programs and best practice
  - Decide approach to celebrating learning
  - Integrate UNESCO criteria: sust, health, work, tech, fam
  - Increase awareness of & access to learning: expand assets to become a directory?
  - Decide 3-5 & 5-10-year city plans and actions
  - Decide measures to employ
  - Initiatives/Policies improving access to LL Learning
- Est. city-wide Learning Network/Advisory Group:
  - Main/pillar partners
  - Wider network
- Reinvigorate WCC Learning Practice Community:
  - Revisit Evaluation Framework and deployment

Next Steps

- 2024 Working Group
- 2024 Steering Group
- Draft strategy and scaffold
- Start consultation on the Strategy and Plan.

Learning City Project

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities – Application

Del Type	Deliverable Description	Specifications for UNESCO App	Evid 4 UNESCO App
UN_Mandatory	**1. Basic Information (member application)**		
UN_Mandatory	Contact details: see Application Form		
UN_Mandatory	**2. Wollongong City Profile (member application)**		
UN_Mandatory	2.a Population	Population & year	
UN_Mandatory	2.b. Area	Area of your city (in square kilometres) &	
UN_Mandatory	2.c. GDP	GDP per capita in your city (in US dollars, if	
UN_Mandatory	2.d Average no of years in schooling	Average number of years of schooling in your	
UN_Mandatory	**3. Overall Strategy (member application)**		
UN_Mandatory	**3.a. General Information**		
UN_Mandatory	3.a.i. Introductory Statement (member application)	20-30 words	
UN_Mandatory	3.a.ii. Socioeconomic & Cultural Background (member application)	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	3.a.iii. Slogan: Lifelong Learning Vision (member application)	8 words	
UN_Mandatory	**3.b. Progress of Wollongong's Learning City Plan**		
UN_Mandatory	3.b.i. Medium-term - 3-5 year - Objectives (member application)	400 words	
UN_Mandatory	3.b.ii. Integration of Sustainability & Health (member application)	200 words	Sustainable Wollon
UN_Mandatory	3.b.iii. Integration of Equity & Inclusion (member application)	200 words	WCC Ageing Plan_2(
UN_Mandatory	3.b.iv. Integration of Decent Work & Entrepreneurship (member application	200 words	Wollongong-City-Co
UN_Mandatory	**3.c. Roles: Mechanism to est. Core Team/Forum to involve key stakeholders (membe**	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	**3.d. Resources Mobilization & Utilization Plan.**	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	**3.e. Accessibility to all Citizens**		
UN_Mandatory	3.e.i. Policies/strategies/initiatives of your city that improve access to	Max of three examples & 200 words	
UN_Mandatory	3.e.ii. Inform citizens informed about learning opportunities in your city?	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	**3.f. Celebratory Events**		
UN_Mandatory	3.f.i. How city is organizing and supporting public events and initiatives	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	3.f.ii. Impact of Celebratory Events.	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	**3.g. Mechanisms to Monitor & Evaluate development of the Learning City**		
UN_Mandatory	3.g.i.How city is monitoring and evaluating lifelong learning?	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	3.g.ii. Does city have key performance indicators/mechanisms to monitor	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	**3.h. Learning City Best Practice**		
UN_Mandatory	3.h.i. Outstanding or flagship innovative projects or best practices that	Max of three examples & 400 words	
UN_Mandatory	3.h.ii. What are the main impacts of these best practices on your city's	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	**4. Mayor's Quote**		
UN_Mandatory	Mayor's vision for lifelong learning	30 words	
UN_Mandatory	**5. Wollongong City and the UNESCO GNLC**		
UN_Mandatory	5.i. Priority Areas of focus as part of activities the UNESCO GNLC engages in.	200 words	
UN_Mandatory	5.ii. Wollongong City's contribution to the UNESCO GNLC?	200 words	

Our Learning City - What do we need?

A learning city promotes learning throughout life for all.

Learning City Framework

Major Building Blocks

- Facilitate effective learning for and in the workplace
- Promote inclusive learning: basic to higher education
- Foster a vibrant culture of learning throughout life.
- Enhance quality and excellence in learning. Do. Measure.
- Extend the use of modern learning technologies
- Revitalize learning in families and communities

Fundamental Conditions

- Strong Political Will & Commitment
- Governance & Participation of all Stakeholders
- Mobilization of Resources

Major Project Deliverables: breakdown of UNESCO application

- St04 WCC Learning Practice Community
- SP06 Plan: Comms & Promote Learning Opportunities
- Her01Public Celebration/s of Learning
- Ms03 Measure Impacts of Celebratory Events
- Ms01 Measure Key Learning City Indicators: design, deploy
- Ms02 Measure Impacts of Best Practice
- St01 Commitment from Wollongong Council
- St02 City-Wide LLL Governance & Advisory Group
- PF1 Initiatives/Policies improving access to LL Learning
- St03 Resource mobilize & utilize plan, inc. embed for future
- St05 City-Wide LLL Working Group/s. Distinct events/proj
- St07 Partnering with NSW Departments & Agencies
- C01 City Learning Stakeholder Register
- C02 Directory of City Learning Providers
- C03 Inventory of Council's Learning Assets
- C04 Log existing Learning Programs
- SP00 Wollongong Learning City Strategy & Plan
- SP01 Intro, Purpose, Approach
- SP02 Wollongong Profile - Stats
- SP03 Wollongong Socioeconomic & Cultural Profile
- SP04 Medium-Term Plan: 3-5 years
- SP05 Long-Term Plan: 5-10 years
- Int04 Integration of Decent Work & Entrepreneurship
- Int05 Integration of Modern Learning Technology
- Int06 Integration of Learning in Families & Communities
- Int07 Integrate Learning in Council's CSP & Ops Plan
- Int01 Integration of Equity & Inclusion
- Int02 Integration of Sustainability
- Int03 Integration of Health
- Her02 Focus Areas/Approach – from UNESCO GNLC Activities
- Her03 Contribution to Global Network of Learning Cities
- Her04-06 Flagship/Innovative Projects or Practices
- PF2 Council Learning & Evaluation Framework
- St06 Community Engagement & Collective Impact

Learning City Vision

... a draft ...

we embrace learning as a way of life

WCC Vision

From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and will be leaders in building an educated, creative, sustainable and connected community. [26]

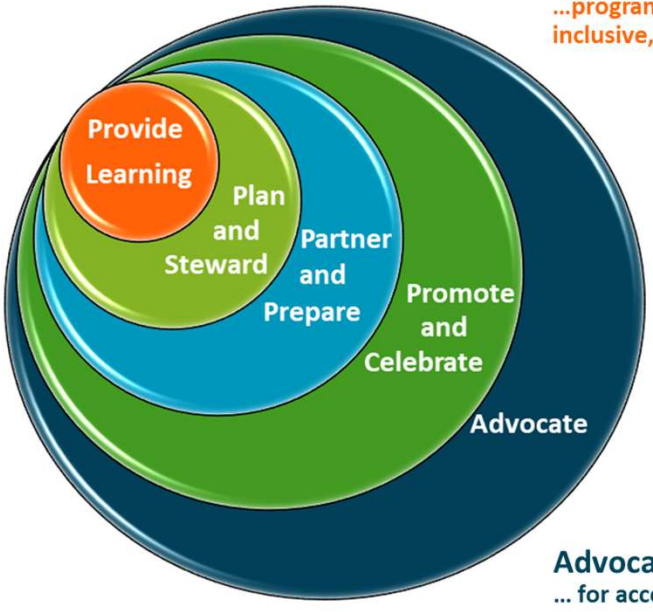
Wollongong Learning City Vision

We embrace and celebrate learning throughout life so people can grow, connect and thrive.

We foster accessible and sustainable solutions, equipping communities with the knowledge, skills and resources they need. [30]

Wollongong Council: Our Role?

... a draft ...



Provide Learning
...programs, activities and events that are accessible, inclusive, learner-centric and meeting community needs

Plan and Steward
... the collation, curation and dissemination of lifelong learning knowledge and resources

Partner
... across Wollongong to enhance connection and cooperation among learning providers

Prepare and Equip
... communities to create new solutions

Promote & Celebrate Learning
... as a means of personal growth and empowerment, social connection and community prosperity

Advocate
... for accessible, inclusive, quality learning

Learning City Project

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Foundation & Themes for Wollongong Learning City

... a draft with samples ...

Themes

- Local community participation & action • Book Week
- First Nations' learning and cultural interchange
- Library Early Literacy program • Community Publishing?
- Cross-cultural interchange: MCCI Homework Help
- Old Boys Club, Home Libraries, Living Connected
- Young Players • Intergenerational Learning?

- Water and surf safety programs, swimming: pools & beaches
- Lifeguards, Surf Lifesaving, Little Nippers
- Sports & playing fields
- Leisure Centres
- Cringila Park Mountain Bike Park

- Art Gallery & Exhibitions • Museum
- Aboriginal Art Trail • Family History Group
- Sculpture in the Gardens • Local History Pri
- Local Studies • Living Books • Public Art
- South Coast Writers Festival
- IPAC • Events • Visitor Destination
- Revitalised City Centre

- Sustainable Wollongong
- Green Team •
- Botanic Gardens
- Bushcare
- Carpooling Workshops
- FOGO, Community Recycling

- Tech Savvy Skills • Improve Digital Access
- Community Facilities
- New Warrawong Library
- 1.5 Balance development, population growth & housing needs

- Council Cadets, Trainees, SBATs, work placements
- Staff Development Day
- Consult People & Culture.
- Business Illawarra,
- 2.5 partners, sustainable & green industries

Foundations

Promoting, Celebrating & Supporting Learning

- Comic Gong • City of Wollongong Awards
- Multiverse Challenge: Bulli High + other schools
- Gong Talks | UOW – AI & Job Security 2023
- Culture Mix | Wollongong City Council

Connecting & Building Partnerships

- Business • Community Providers
- Education Providers • Interest Groups
- State & Fed Govt

Accessible, Inclusive, Quality Lifelong Learning

- Adult Literacy Programs - WCC: Library + WEA
- Transport: see Annual Report
- Refresh learning lens & language in existing programs
- ..

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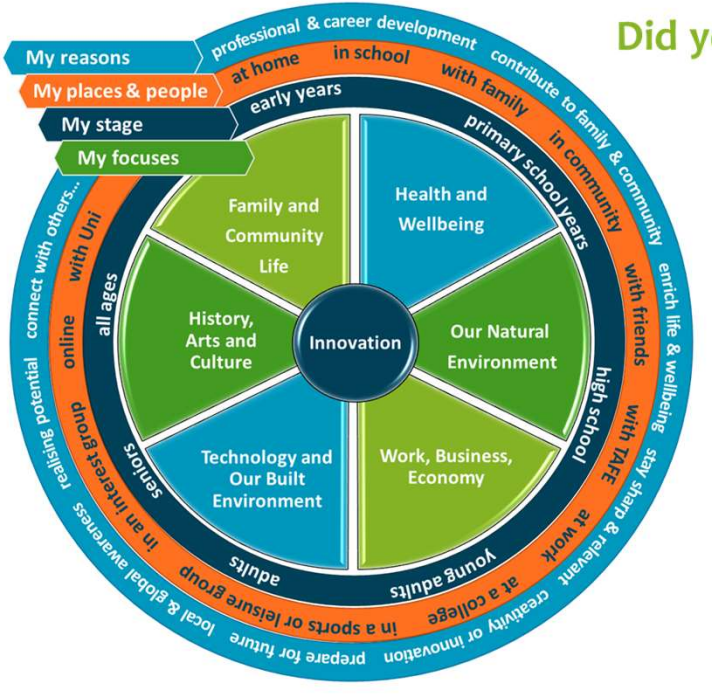
Learning City Project

Helping Learners reflect on their Learning

... a draft ...



Did you know you're a lifelong learner?

How would you answer these questions:

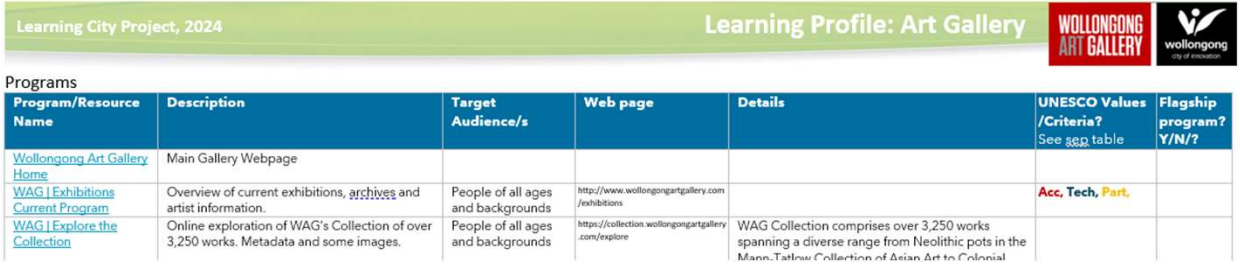
- What are my learning reasons?
- Where and with whom am I learning?
- How am I contributing to others' learning?
- What stage/s of my learning journey am I at?
- Which segments of learning am I into now?
- What would I like to be learning next year?
  ... or in five years?
- In what ways am I being innovative, adaptable, resilient and future-prepared?

I'm steering my learning approach!

Learning Profiles for each service or customer-perceived area

Questions to create Learning Profile

- **List Strategic Context: Policies/Strategies**
- **Approach to Accessibility:** already happening/how to enhance?
- **Learning Programs, including Flagships:** see accompanying table
- **Learning Place/s**
- **Learning calendar: Major Events**
- **Measures of Learning**
- **Celebrating Learning**
- **Use of Lifelong Learning Language:** already happening, how to enhance?
- **Existing partnerships/cooperations?** Network/coordinate/cooperate/collaborate? With other parts of Council? OR External providers?
- **Perceived/known Community Needs:**
- **Perceived future training needs:**
- **Age/Stage of Learning Audiences**
- **Working well?**
- **Pain points?**
- **Magic wand?**
- **Contact Details**



Learning City Project, 2024 — Learning Profile: Art Gallery

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY

wollongong city of innovation

Programs

Program/Resource Name	Description	Target Audience/s	Web page	Details	UNESCO Values /Criteria? See sep table	Flagship program? Y/N/?
Wollongong Art Gallery Home	Main Gallery Webpage					
WAG | Exhibitions Current Program	Overview of current exhibitions, archives and artist information.	People of all ages and backgrounds	http://www.wollongongartgallery.com/exhibitions		Acc, Tech, Part,	
WAG | Explore the Collection	Online exploration of WAG's Collection of over 3,250 works. Metadata and some images.	People of all ages and backgrounds	https://collection.wollongongartgallery.com/explore	WAG Collection comprises over 3,250 works spanning a diverse range from Neolithic pots in the Mann-Tatlow Collection of Asian Art to Colonial		

Drafting a Learning City Calendar

Wollongong Learning Calendar DRAFT 01

Major Learning Events across Wollongong LGA - 2024 example

The major learning and education events and celebrations with emphasis on **accessible and inclusive quality learning in**:

- family and community
- our natural environment
- technology & our built environment
- health and wellbeing
- work, business & economy
- history, arts, culture

embracing local identity, sustainability, diversity and innovation.

Month	Days	Event, Program or Activity	Learning Elements
January	17	WCC | City of Wollongong Awards announced	
February			
March		Clean Up Australia Day	
	11-24	WCC | Seniors Festival	
	19	UOW | Graduate Careers Expo	
	20	Illawarra Aged Care Expo 2024	
	Last Fri	WCC | Youth Week Awards Nominations	
April	11-21	NSW Youth Week. WCC | Wollongong Youth Week Awards	
	18-9 May	Heritage week Welcome to the Australian Heritage Festival in New South Wales - National Trust	
May	7-8	Workplace Learning | Illawarra Careers Expo	
	11	Wollongong City Libraries | Comic Gong	

Next steps…

Next Steps

- New Library & Community Facilities Manager -
  - Re-visit Steering Group and our Approach
- Continue with Learning Profiles
- Keep working on Measures and Datasets
- Draft Learning Strategy with Internal Teams
  - Make application for Supporting Document Development
  - Book Community Engagement Team

Becoming a Learning City is a journey

Establishing a learning city is a gradual and continuous process.
It requires determination, patience, imagination and assistance from others.

Unlocking the Potential of Urban Communities: Case Studies of Twelve Learning Cities
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, 2015
Edited by Raúl Valdes-Cotera, Norman Longworth, Katharina Lunardon,
Mo Wang, Sunok Jo and Sinéad Crowe

Today's Time Together

Presenting:

- Dianne background
- Introduce Wollongong
- Picking up a project mid-stream:
  - Staff fluctuations
  - Project Management approach and documentation
  - Gathering and understanding project achievements
  - Bodies of Knowledge to Digest
- Examples of communications for internal teams
- What's been achieved to date
- Currently working on
- Next Steps
- Questions

Questions:

- Are we heading in the right direction?
- Learning can be perceived as a soft value. 'Social capital' is not as easy to measure and sell as jobs or roads or revenue - How did you establish influence within Council and beyond?
- On what basis have you established partnerships/a network of Learning City stakeholders? Cork City example
- Writing a strategy to include mobilisation and utilisation of resources across the city: How to achieve when starting as a learning city?

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

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unesco Global Network of Learning Cities

Questions & Suggestions…

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Wollongong - Becoming a Learning City

Empowering and Connecting our People to be Lifelong Learners
Working to become a member of UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities
as a benchmark for our longer learning journey