



FUTURE WOLLONDILLY



WOLLONDILLY'S STATE AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT ELECTION PRIORITIES

2025-2027

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Acknowledgement of Country*

Wollondilly Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land in Wollondilly, the Dharawal and Gundungurra peoples.

We acknowledge the living culture and spiritual connections to the land for the Dharawal and Gundungurra people and all Aboriginal Nation Groups that may have connections to the area; and that Wollondilly is remarkably placed as the intersection of many tribal lands.

We recognise the traditional Custodians who have occupied and cared for this Country over countless generations and celebrate their continuing contributions to the Shire.

We also acknowledge and remember the Dharawal and Gundungurra peoples who were killed in the Appin Massacre on 17 April 1816.

**We acknowledge our continuing collaboration with the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council.*

Wollondilly is a unique and special place - where historic villages, modern living, rural lands, and breathtaking landscapes come together. Our vision is for a prosperous, sustainable, and resilient future, where growth is well-planned, infrastructure keeps pace, and our Shire's character is protected for generations.

Our Advocacy is not about growth for growth's sake. We need roads, transport, schools, healthcare, and environmental protections to match the needs of our growing communities. Wollondilly is ready to contribute to Australia's National housing goals, but infrastructure must come first—because growth without investment will only deepen the housing crisis.

To unlock a thriving future, we need:

- A connected Wollondilly, with vital transport links like the Picton Bypass, upgraded interchanges, and expanded public transport.
- A well-serviced Wollondilly, with new schools, an Integrated Health Hub, and land secured for a future hospital.
- A protected Wollondilly, where our rural lands and biodiversity are safeguarded through initiatives like the Bargo River Gorge National Park and a Regional Koala Strategy.
- A well-planned Wollondilly, where growth areas like Wilton and Appin deliver infrastructure before homes, not after.

This is a defining moment. The time for action is now. Wollondilly stands ready to partner with State and Federal Governments to build a future where growth is balanced with investment and where people don't just live, but truly belong.

Matt Gould
Mayor, Wollondilly Shire Council



FUTURE WOLLONDILLY

- Wollondilly is a beautiful Shire, and one at an exciting and critical point in its growth journey. We are a focus for housing and population growth in NSW, a key link between the Illawarra and Western Sydney, and also home to productive rural lands, historic villages and extraordinary bush.
- Investing in Wollondilly's priorities will support the economic future of NSW and Australia, enabling our Shire's current and future 150,000 residents thrive.
- Wollondilly has been identified for TWO State-led growth areas, with Wilton a strategic centre soon to be home to 50,000 residents and Appin as part of Greater Macarthur.
- The majority of future housing in Wollondilly will be focused on these two State-led precincts, initially Wilton with 15,000 new homes, followed by Greater Macarthur with a further 20,000 new homes. Wollondilly is one of the few areas in NSW that continues to support much needed housing supply following the impacts from Covid.
- Our Shire as it grows will also retain the historic and natural beauty that makes it so loved by our community and a great economic and tourism asset for NSW.

INVESTING IN WOLLONDILLY PRIORITIES WILL:

DELIVER HOMES FOR THE HOUSING ACCORD

- The Macarthur Region has the capacity to deliver 120,000 homes if accompanied by supporting infrastructure. This is 10% of Australia's entire target, and 32% of NSW's contribution under the National Housing Accord. Wollondilly is a key player.

UNLOCK THE FULL OPPORTUNITY AND INVESTMENT IN WESTERN SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- Wollondilly is located 35km from Western Sydney International Airport (WSIA), with the northernmost areas located only 10km from the airport site. To fully realise the opportunities of the new airport, better enabling infrastructure is required to secure efficient and safe connections to the precinct, its job and services.
- This area will be attractive for professional services including agricultural businesses, manufacturing, logistics, hospitality and education, due to increased access to overseas markets.
- Tourism opportunities will also increase, with WSIA providing easier access to Western Sydney destinations, including Wollondilly.
- Essential infrastructure such as an upgraded and expanded road network, active and public transport, telecommunications and internet coverage networks is key to maximising the opportunities that WSIA will bring to the Shire.

FUND FOR FAIRNESS, NEED, EQUITY AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- There has been over \$20 billion in infrastructure spending over the past decade in Western Sydney and \$100 billion in Eastern Sydney. With the national housing and cost of living crisis, this investment must rebalance.

SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED DURING THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

- According to RMIT's Australian Urban Observatory, access to essential social and community infrastructure in growth areas is not the same as established suburbs in non-growth areas.
- The Liveability index score for residencies in growth areas is 97, compared to those in eastern Sydney at 101.
- Investing in infrastructure for growth areas is not without precedent. Research from Western Sydney University highlights international success stories, demonstrating how countries like the UK, The Netherlands, Germany, Canada and the USA, have successfully funded and delivered infrastructure in high-growth regions for decades. Australia can learn from these best practice examples - and do the same.
- We must work to rebalance affordable living.



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE AT A GLANCE

OUR SHIRE HAS

2 STATE GROWTH AREAS

161,350 ha of PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

MORE THAN **870kms** OF COUNCIL MANAGED ROADS
+ 3 STATE ROADS

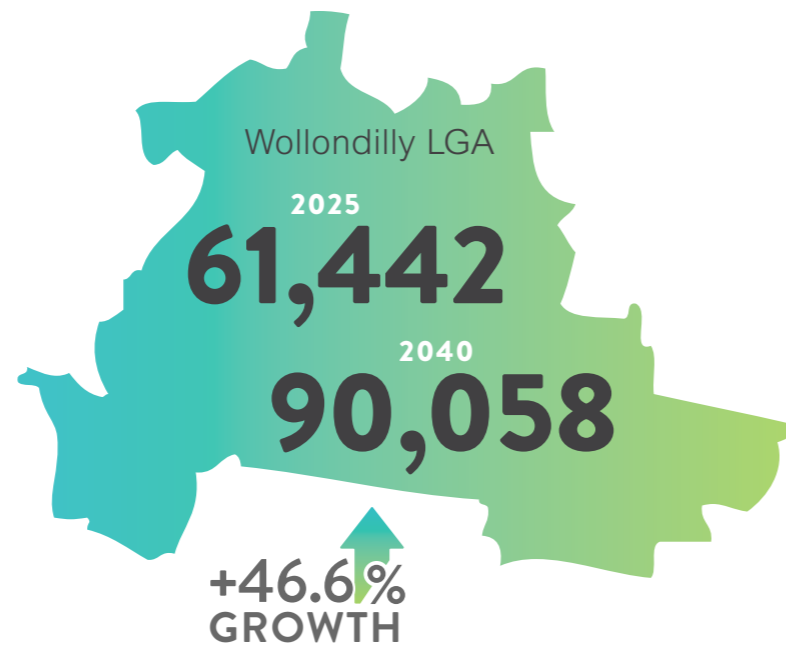
5 ICONIC DAMS

107 PARKS & RESERVES
& **33** PLAYGROUNDS

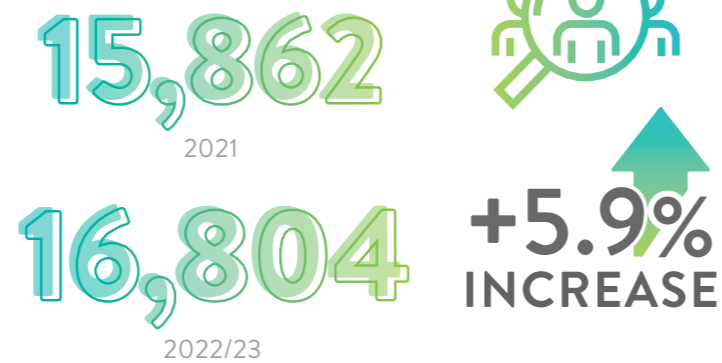
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8 | WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

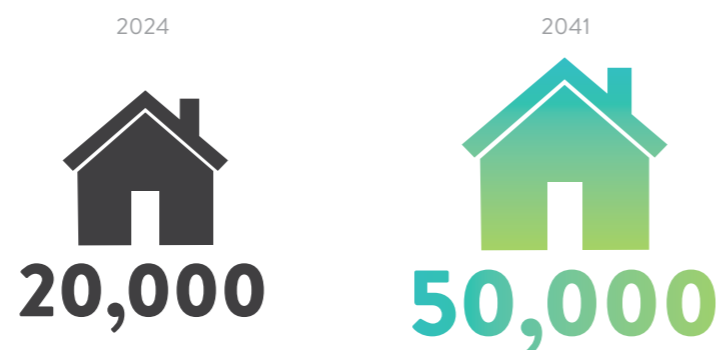
POPULATION



JOBS



HOUSES



GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT



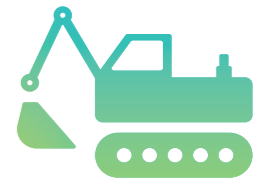
HIGHEST VALUE INDUSTRIES

2022/23

CONSTRUCTION

\$1,333.2M

+ \$361.3M value added



MINING

\$1,127.2M

+ \$499.7M value added



MANUFACTURING

\$618M

+ \$173.8M value added



EDUCATION



15 PRIMARY SCHOOLS



1 SECONDARY SCHOOL



1 COMBINED PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL

HEALTH



14 MEDICAL PRACTICES



0 HOSPITALS

VS 1 IN AVERAGE METRO AREA

TRANSPORT



56%

OF WOLLONDILLY RESIDENTS CURRENTLY TRAVEL TO WORK BY CAR



63.7%

OF THE POPULATION TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE LGA FOR WORK



24%

OF WOLLONDILLY RESIDENTS WORKING FROM HOME

+20% INCREASE SINCE 2016

TOURISM



2.2 Million

VISITORS FROM MARCH 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025

FUTURE WOLLONDILLY | 9

WOLLONDILLY'S PRIORITIES

1



CONNECT WOLLONDILLY

- Deliver the Macarthur Metro (North South Rail Link) before 2038
- Extend the T8 Line into Wollondilly
- Commit to the Macarthur - Illawarra Link (a.k.a the Maldon Dombarton rail line)
- Provide immediate Rapid Bus

2



WOLLONDILLY ROADS

- Build the Picton Bypass
- Reclassify Regional Roads to State Roads
- Build the Wilton Interchange

3



BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO UNLOCK NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HOUSING

- Build the Upper Nepean Treatment Plant before 2032
- Spend the Housing and Productivity funds in Wilton

4



PROVIDE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR WOLLONDILLY CHILDREN

- Deliver the Wilton K-12 School
- Commit to the Wollondilly North Public High School

5



ACCESS TO HEALTH IN WOLLONDILLY

- Wilton Integrated Health Care Hub with Urgent Care
- Secure land for a future Hospital

6



PROTECTING WOLLONDILLY'S UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

- Bargo River Gorge National Park
- Regional Koala Strategy
- Empower us to look after our Rural Lands

DELIVER THE MACARTHUR METRO (NORTH SOUTH RAIL LINK) BEFORE 2038

CURRENT STAGE

- Bi-Partisan election commitment for \$1B for land acquisition and planning.

THE ASK

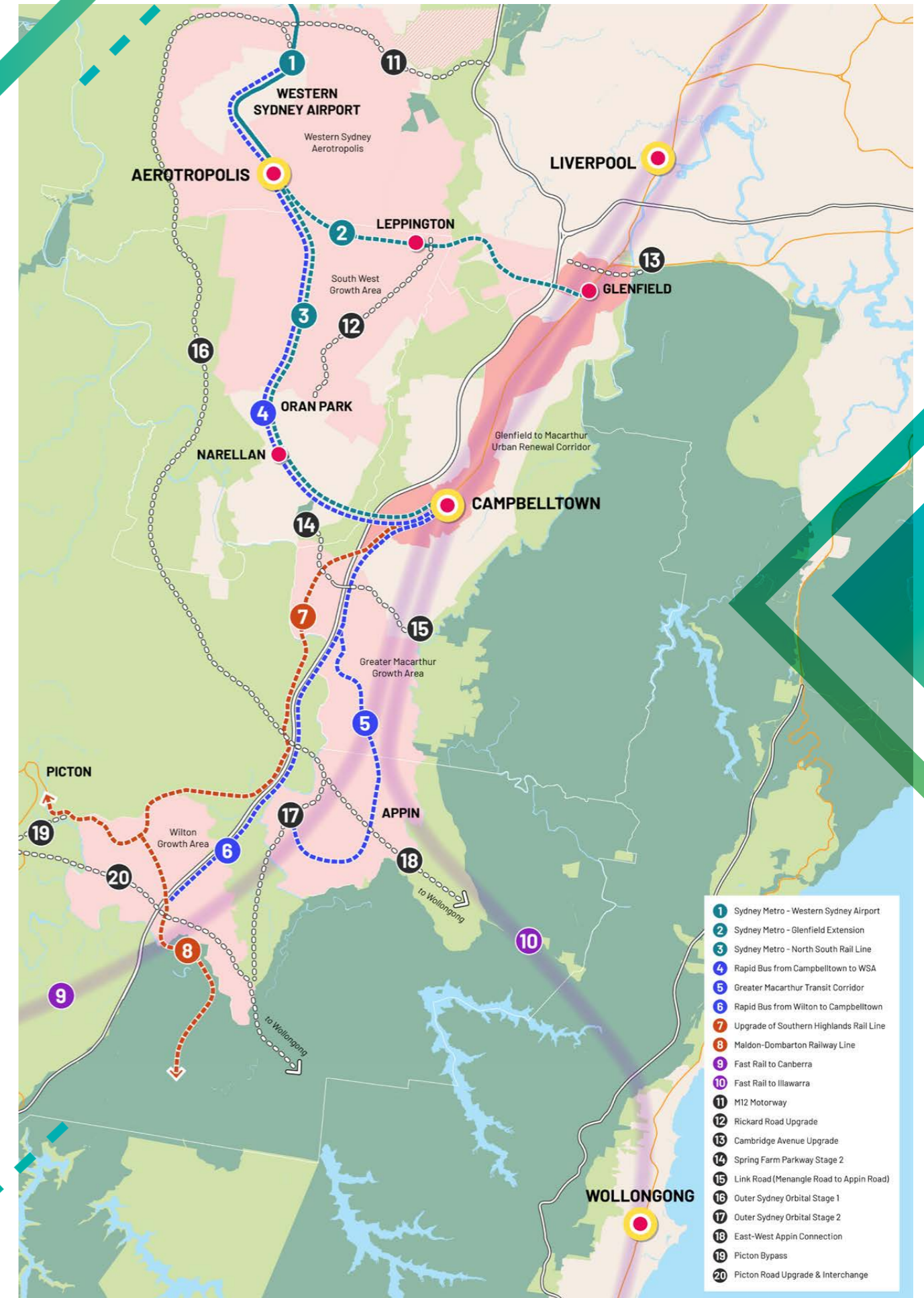
- Secure Federal and State Government commitment to build and operate the metro line from Campbelltown to Bradfield via Oran Park and Narellan before 2038. Deliver the full South-North Rail Link from Campbelltown/Macarthur to Tallawong via Bradfield. Connect Bradfield to Leppington.

WHY

- Western Sydney is experiencing rapid growth but receives a disproportionately low share of infrastructure investment.
 - The Western Sydney Transport Infrastructure Panel (April 2023) recommended prioritised funding for commencement between 2029-2032.
 - Recognised as a high-priority project in key transport reports and Infrastructure Australia's Priority List.

BENEFIT

- Expands transport capacity for the South West and Greater Macarthur Growth Areas.
 - Supports Net Zero targets by reducing car dependency and emissions.
 - Strengthens the regional economy by improving access to jobs, industry, and Western Sydney Airport.
 - Enhances connectivity for 500,000+ South West Sydney residents and reinforces Campbelltown as a metropolitan centre.





EXTEND THE T8 LINE INTO WOLLONDILLY

CURRENT STAGE

- Advocacy phase

THE ASK

- Extend the T8 Line to at least the Wilton Growth Area and Picton, integrating Wollondilly into the Sydney Trains network.

WHY?

- Wollondilly residents travel the furthest in Greater Sydney for work, school, and services, with extremely limited public transport options.
- The LGA has the highest car ownership per household, increasing congestion, emissions, and transport costs.
- Wollondilly is the only LGA in Greater Sydney without electrified train stations, creating social, economic, and environmental disadvantages.
- A comparative review shows similar-sized LGAs (Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains) have significantly better rail services.

BENEFIT

- Provides the first electrified rail service for over 150,000 future residents.
- Reduces car dependency, lowering emissions and improving reliability.
- Enhances connectivity to Greater Sydney and Western Sydney International Airport.



COMMIT TO THE MACARTHUR - ILLAWARRA LINK

CURRENT STAGE

- Project business case decision pending.

THE ASK

- Add the Macarthur - Illawarra (a.k.a. the Maldon Dombarton) Rail Link project to the Infrastructure Priority List.

WHY

- Port Kembla faces capacity constraints without improved rail access.
- The port is a vital economic asset, serving industries like steel and facilitating broader freight movements for NSW.
- Current rail access is limited and unreliable, with disruptions caused by passenger train prioritisation and slower alternative routes.
- The project was previously rejected by Infrastructure Australia, but the context has changed with new airport developments and changes in regional industry needs.

BENEFIT

- Enhances freight rail access to Port Kembla, improving efficiency and capacity.
- Supports NSW's economic growth by strengthening a critical international freight gateway.



PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RAPID BUS

CURRENT STAGE

- Advocacy phase.

THE ASK

- Deliver rapid bus solutions connecting Wilton to Greater Sydney.

WHY

- Wollondilly is severely underserved in public transport, with only 0.5% of the working population using it.
- The LGA has the lowest job self-containment in Greater Sydney, and 70% of cars parked at Campbelltown station come from Wollondilly.
- The Western Sydney Rapid Bus Project, promised as part of the 2018 Western Sydney City Deal, is essential to provide an interim solution, but it lacks clear funding and delivery timelines.
- Planning for a bus line between Wilton and Campbelltown has stalled, requiring government action to get the project moving.

BENEFIT

- Increases connectivity and accessibility for Wollondilly residents, reducing traffic congestion and emissions.
- Addresses the region's car dependency and supports better access to jobs, education, and essential services.
- Ensures the region is connected to key developments, including the Western Sydney International Airport.





BUILD THE PICTON BYPASS

CURRENT STAGE

- The design is underway, with \$18.3M allocated for planning.
- NSW Minister for Transport has committed to *beginning work within this term of government*.

THE ASK

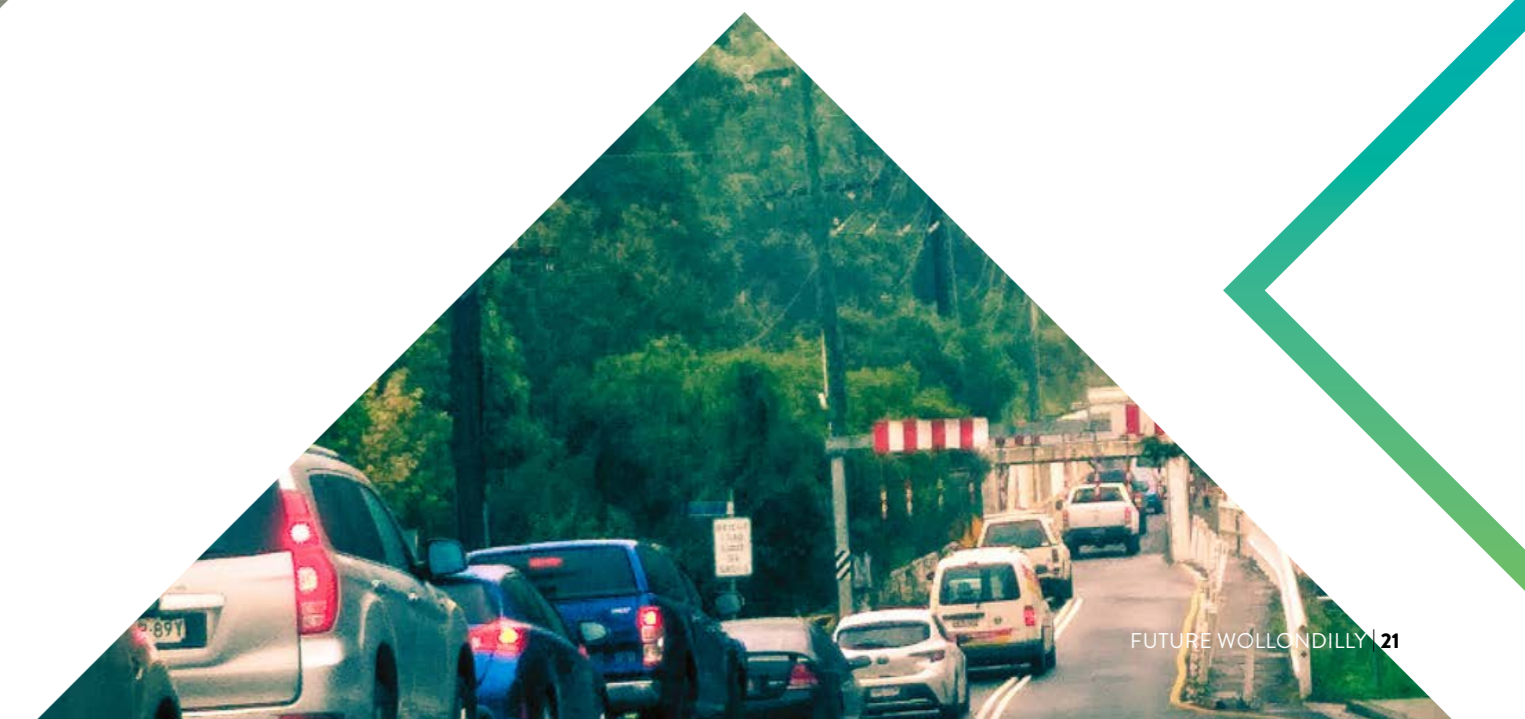
- Secure State and Federal Government funding for construction.

WHY

- The current road network is failing, with heavy vehicle congestion creating safety risks in a high-pedestrian area.
- Without the bypass, widespread traffic failures are projected by 2036.
- Following the Black Summer bushfires, evacuation concerns were raised - this project improves emergency resilience for bushfires and floods.
- Supports freight movement between Port Kembla and Western Sydney Airport, a growing logistics hub.
- Despite planning funding commitments (\$4M NSW, \$95.6M Federal), construction funding is now critical.

BENEFIT

- Enhances safety by reducing heavy vehicle traffic in Picton town centre.
- Improves travel times and road capacity while reducing congestion.
- Strengthens network resilience for emergencies and supports local growth in Wilton, Picton, Tahmoor, and Thirlmere.



RECLASSIFY REGIONAL ROADS TO STATE ROADS

CURRENT STAGE

- Advocacy phase.

THE ASK

- NSW Government to reclassify major connecting roads: Remembrance Driveway, Menangle Road, Silverdale Road, and Montpelier Drive.
- Federal Government funding to support State Government in resuming responsibility for these roads.

WHY

- Wollondilly is taking on significant housing growth (up to 100,000 new residents by 2041) and requires State-managed roads like its neighbouring LGAs.
- Roads like Remembrance Driveway and Menangle Road are State-managed in other LGAs but become Council-managed within Wollondilly, creating an unfair and fragmented road network.
- Wollondilly has high traffic volumes, often exceeding neighbouring LGAs where roads are already State-controlled.
- Severe weather events since 2021 have damaged the local road network—reclassification would allow Council to focus limited funds on true local roads.

BENEFIT

- Ensures a fair and consistent approach to road management.
- Strengthens freight and transport links while integrating housing and road planning.
- Reduces the financial burden on local ratepayers, allowing investment in critical local infrastructure.



BUILD THE WILTON INTERCHANGE

CURRENT STAGE

- Design and land acquisition underway.
- Approved to proceed by Transport for NSW.

THE ASK

- Commitment to fund construction of the Diverging Diamond Interchange in 2025.
- Commitment to plan the full motorway project by 2025.

WHY

- Essential to support the Wilton Growth Area, providing access for 50,000 new residents.
- Critical for improving safety and efficiency on a key freight corridor between Port Kembla and Western Sydney Airport.
- For network resilience on the Federal Highway

BENEFIT

- Enhances safety for all road users.
- Improves freight access and efficiency on the Federal Highway.
- Strengthens regional connectivity and supports economic growth.
- Ensures a resilient, environmentally considered transport corridor.



Proposal for Picton Road upgrade between Nepean River and Almond Street, Wilton

Images: Transport for NSW Artist impressions of Picton Road upgrade.



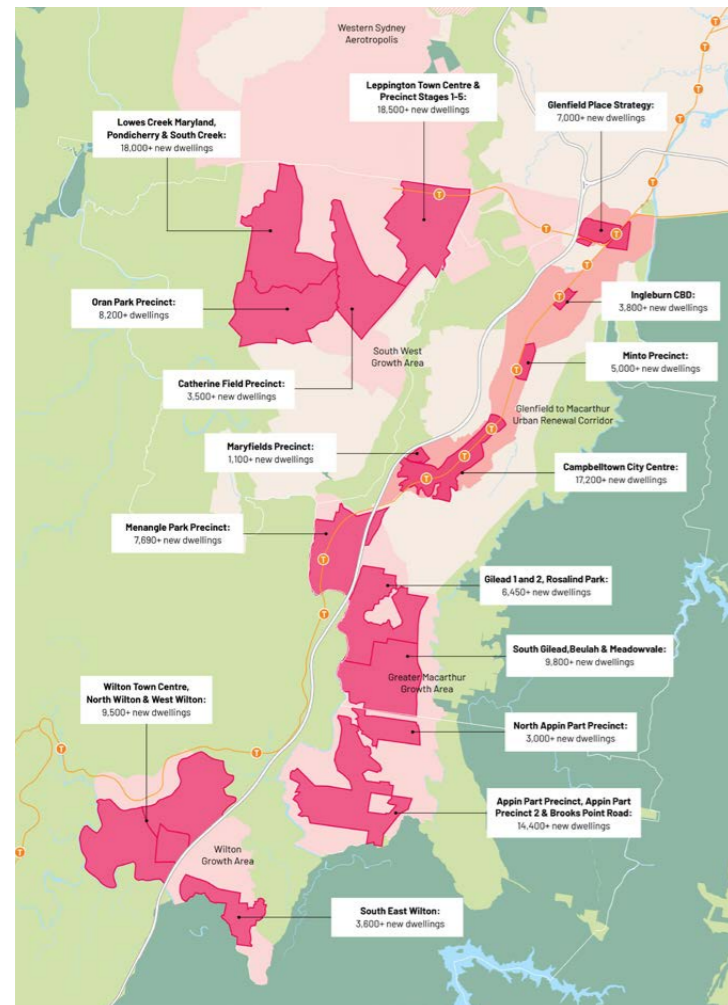
BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO UNLOCK NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HOUSING

CURRENT STAGE

- Various stages; decisions on HPC and UDP are delaying housing development.
- A promise by Sydney Water to deliver the Upper Nepean Treatment Plant by 2032, and connect Picton

THE ASK

- Bring forward and fund critical enabling infrastructure in Wilton and Appin to unlock housing.
- Prioritise regional and state infrastructure (sewer and roads).
- Build the upper Nepean Treatment Plant to be online before 2032
- Direct HPC funds to areas that need it most, like Wilton and Appin to deliver infrastructure committed on time in the draft SICs.
- Support developer-led infrastructure and Works in Kind, with a review of HPC governance and policy setting.



Housing opportunities Macarthur region

WHY

- The Macarthur Region has the capacity to deliver significant housing and meet the Australian Government's Housing Accord goals.
- Delays in infrastructure funding and policy are constraining housing supply, particularly in areas like Wilton and Appin, which are already zoned for growth.
- Current policy on HPC and WIK is hindering the delivery of enabling infrastructure and impacting housing supply in key growth areas.
- There's a risk that HPC funds collected in Wollondilly may be redirected to other established areas, worsening the infrastructure deficit in the Macarthur region.

BENEFIT

- Unlocking infrastructure in Wilton and Appin will facilitate housing growth in one of the few regions capable of supporting market housing during the current housing crisis.
- Proper infrastructure investment will ensure that the region meets its obligations under the Housing Accord, supporting sustainable growth.
- Timely delivery of infrastructure will prevent an infrastructure deficit and help meet the projected housing needs for the rapidly growing region.

SCHOOLS FOR OUR GROWING COMMUNITY

CURRENT STAGE

- K-12 School announced for Wilton, with first intake in 2027, advocacy for North High School.

THE ASK

- Fund four public schools (three primary schools and one high school).
- Investigate a new high school in Wollondilly's North Ward and review school catchment areas

WHY

- Wollondilly currently has only one public high school for 54,000 residents, with 1,300 students traveling outside the Shire for education.
- Wilton is growing rapidly and the population is at a level that a new High School is needed for the local area and to take pressure off Picton High
- Government's position that Glenmore Park High School services North Wollondilly is unrealistic, with travel distances up to 43km.

BENEFIT

- Ensures access to local education, reducing long commutes for students.
- Supports a rapidly growing population that is set to double by 2033 and triple by 2041.





WOLLONDILLY NEEDS ACCESS TO HEALTH

INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE HUB WITH URGENT CARE & LAND FOR A FUTURE HOSPITAL

CURRENT STAGE

- Advocacy phase, with site identification and suitability in progress.

THE ASK

- Work with NSW Health to identify suitable land for an urgent care facility and integrated health care hub in Wilton.
- Secure land for a future hospital in Wilton, noting the growth of the region in advance of Bradfield.

WHY

- Wollondilly's growing population (150,000 residents) requires access to primary and emergency health services.
- The rapid regional growth, particularly in Wilton, Appin, and North Appin, will generate demand for 124 hospital beds (in addition to 100 planned for Wilton).
- Wilton's population is expected to rival or exceed that of other regional towns with hospitals, such as Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie, and Ballina.
- The nearest hospitals are over 25 km away, creating a significant gap in healthcare accessibility.
- Future planning must secure land now before the area is fully developed.

BENEFIT

- Provides essential healthcare services close to home for rapidly growing communities.
- Future-proofing health infrastructure ensures adequate care as the region expands.
- Prevents lost opportunities by planning ahead for vital health services, improving the region's overall health accessibility and resilience.



PROTECT WOLLONDILLY'S UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

CURRENT STAGE

- Advocacy phase

THE ASK

- Fully support the creation of the Bargo River Gorge and Nepean River National Park.
- Fund a Council-led South West Sydney Regional Koala Strategy.
- Empower Wollondilly to look after its rural lands by continuing to support the Metropolitan Rural Area.

WHY?

- Wollondilly's unique natural areas are under increasing threat from urban expansion, habitat loss, and climate change—strong protection is needed now.
- The Metropolitan Rural Area (MRA) must be preserved to protect biodiversity, productive farmland, and Sydney's green lungs.

BENEFIT

- A new national park will safeguard vital ecosystems, protect threatened species, and preserve Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Enhancing conservation efforts will support eco-tourism, drive local economic benefits, and ensure long-term environmental sustainability.





Wollondilly
Shire Council

IN PERSON 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton NSW 2571

PHONE 4677 1100

EMAIL council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

WEB www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

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