

Growth In and Around Appin; A WORKSHOP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Council holding this event?

The elected Councillors resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 16 March 2015 for Council to commence an independent consultation process to discuss community views on growth in and around Appin.

What is a workshop?

A workshop is a method of consultation that involves providing information and discussion groups. The workshops will be facilitated by an independent facilitator.

What is the purpose of the workshop?

The purpose of the workshop is to:

- enable residents and other local stakeholders to have a broader discussion about growth in and around Appin;
- identify the concerns held by residents and other local stakeholders about growth in and around Appin;
- further explore key identified issues in one of two focussed workshops;
- inform Appin residents about the strategic planning process and what current processes affect Appin;
- provide an independent report to Council on the issues raised in the workshop sessions.

Do I need to do anything at the workshop?

The workshop will focus around questions and activities to discuss growth in and around Appin; and to identify the key concerns held by the Appin community about growth. The discussion will involve all attendees. This is your chance to express your views.

Why is the number of people who can attend limited?

To ensure this is a meaningful event, the facilitator has requested that ideally the initial workshops should be limited to up to 30 people. This is to ensure everyone can be involved.

How will the workshop attendees be selected?

The initial workshops have been promoted by Council in the following ways:

- Council's Facebook page;
- Emails to people or organisations who have made a submission to any current planning proposals in the Appin area;
- Emails to identified stakeholders;
- Emails to people who have recently contacted the Council about growth in and around Appin.

Reservations have been taken on a first come first serve basis.

How will the workshop outcomes be documented?

Once the workshops have been undertaken the facilitator will provide an independent report to Council on the issues raised in the workshop sessions. This report will be made public and will be reported to a future meeting of Council.

It may also inform and influence future strategic planning processes in and around Appin such as planning proposals; the Draft Wollondilly Growth Management Strategy; and Council submissions on regional strategies being prepared by the Department of Planning & Environment.

What weight will be given to the independent report?

The Appin Workshop event is not being undertaken as part of a statutory process and nor is it specifically intended as part of any single planning proposal or policy development process. So it has no formal status.

One of the outcomes for the workshop is to improve communication with Appin residents and the report will reflect the outcomes of the workshop.

It is likely that the report will inform and influence future strategic planning processes in around Appin. Its relevance to any particular process will need to be determined on a case by case basis.

Why is an independent facilitator being used?

An independent facilitator has skills in designing and running workshop events to encourage effective discussion by everyone attending. The facilitator is also 'neutral' which means that they have no view on the topic being discussed and this helps them to build consensus between different views.

Who is the independent facilitator?

Wayne Nugent from Deconstructing Conflict will be the facilitator.

How was the facilitator selected?

Council approached [LEADR & IAMA](#) to provide a list of suitably qualified and experienced professionals to facilitate the event. LEADR & IAMA is a not-profit-organisation of mediators and related practitioners.

Three names were provided and Council then approached these professionals and sought quotes. Wayne Nugent was the successful facilitator from this process.

How many workshops will there be?

The workshop series will involve two (2) initial workshops with residents and other stakeholders and a third workshop to focus on key issues.

The two (2) initial workshops will be held on June 10 & 17 and the third workshop will be held on 24 June 2015.

Will Council staff attend the workshops?

Council Planning staff will attend the start of the two initial workshops to provide a presentation on the strategic planning process and will then leave and will not be present for the group discussion.

However, there may be community engagement staff present to assist the facilitator.

Council staff may attend the third workshop as participants or observers depending on the outcome of the initial workshop and the decisions made by the participants.

Will the Councillors be attending the workshops?

No, the Councillors will not be attending any of the workshops. This event is an opportunity for the Appin community to discuss their views in an informal environment.

The facilitator will provide a report to Council on the outcomes of the event.

Who is paying for the workshop?

Council are funding the workshop.

What stakeholders have been invited to the initial workshop?

The following stakeholders have been invited:

- Appin Historical Society
- Appin Men's Shed
- Appin Scouts
- Appin Chamber of Commerce
- Local Sporting Groups
 - Appin Sports Aeromodellers Club
 - Appin United Soccer Club
 - Appin Netball Club
 - Appin Rugby League Football Club
 - Appin Touch Association
 - Macarthur Motorcross Club
- Landowners for the Appin Bulli Road & Brooks Point Road Planning Proposals

How will Council ensure the vested interests of “developers and commercial land owners etc” can’t hijack the workshop?

The workshop will be run by a professional and independent facilitator. One of the facilitator's roles will be to ensure a balanced discussion.

Promotion of the workshop has been directed towards residents and local stakeholders.

Council has not accepted a registration from people known to be representing stakeholders such as larger development companies. It may be appropriate for these stakeholders to attend the workshop on 24 June 2015 depending on the outcome of the initial workshops.

However, Council has not vetted each and every person who has registered for the event.

Will the identified stakeholders be legally trained staff of developers?

It is not yet known who the “identified stakeholders” will be for the second workshop which will focus on key issues identified in the initial workshop.

These will be determined by the key issues identified in the initial workshop.