



WILTON

...a GREAT new town or NO town at all



WILTON

A GREAT NEW TOWN

“It’s not every day that you get to plan and build a new town from scratch. We have a unique opportunity to create a GREAT new town that will benefit the whole of Wollondilly. If we don’t get this right our future generations will have to deal with the consequences. Let’s make sure Wilton New Town is something our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren can be proud of!”

– Judith Hannan, Mayor, Wollondilly Shire Council

Proposals for new masterplanned towns are rare. The proposal to build a new town at Wilton with an eventual population of up to 50,000 is a unique opportunity to plan a great new community, an exemplar of what good planning can achieve.

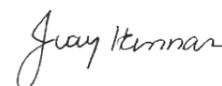
Planning for growth on the fringe of Sydney must overcome several significant challenges including the lack of infrastructure, limited employment, lack of social services and poor public transport. These challenges, if not met, will further compound other problems facing Western Sydney communities such as, higher car dependency, poor health, lower education, higher unemployment and social exclusion generally.

Without strong and determined advocacy by Council and the community for good urban design and infrastructure delivery, Wilton New Town will struggle to cope with these issues. In fact, because of its separation and distance from Sydney’s metropolitan area, these risks are potentially heightened.

Wilton New Town supports the NSW Government’s housing supply agenda but all levels of government must share the vision for a well-planned community and to work together towards that vision.

The purpose of this paper is to clearly and strongly express Wollondilly Council’s longstanding position that best practice design and infrastructure delivery are essential for achieving a healthy, vibrant and sustainable new community.

Our ongoing commitment to Wilton New Town depends on this.


Judith Hannan,
Mayor


Luke Johnson,
General Manager

BACKGROUND

In August 2011, the NSW Government's Potential Home Sites Program (PHP) called expressions of interest for owners of landholdings greater than 100Ha to nominate their projects for priority rezoning to increase housing supply.

In response to the program, developers nominated twelve sites in the Wollondilly Shire, with 3 being in the Wilton area. Several projects within the Shire were nominated.

In February 2012, Council resolved in relation to projects nominated at Bingara Gorge, Wilton South and Wilton West that *"if the State Government proposes to support any major new land releases for housing developments in the Wilton area, any such releases should not be on an ad hoc basis but should be part of a coordinated master planned approach for the entire Wilton area..."*

Council's resolution went on to stress that this would involve the following:

- Preparation of a joint master plan for Wilton in partnership with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and support from key infrastructure providers and all relevant state agencies.
- The strategic objective of the master plan being to provide housing, employment, all supporting infrastructure and services, and a full range of complimentary land uses to support livability and sustainability.
- An infrastructure strategy for all current and future infrastructure requirements and an associated funding strategy supported by an overall structure and staging plan.

Council then entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the three PHP proponents for land at Wilton and over the course of 2012 developed a high-level masterplan for Wilton to provide 11,000 homes.

Following two rounds of community consultation and an independent review Council resolved to give 'in principle support' to the master plan in December 2012.

Among a number of matters, Council's support of the master plan was conditional on the following:

- The NSW Government coordinating the rezoning and state infrastructure agencies and resolution of mining related issues.
- Identifying designs and funding for the upgrade of Picton Road and the Hume Highway to accommodate the development.
- Seek 1 job for each lot created through the master plan.
- The NSW Government building a new hospital to service the new town and the broader Shire.
- A number of issues relating to flora and fauna and indigenous heritage be investigated in the master plan process.

At the request of Council, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in February 2013 agreed to lead planning for the project and coordinate relevant agencies to achieve Council's vision.

A Project Control Group was established which included the following partners:

- NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
- Transport for NSW.
- Wollondilly Shire Council.

In July 2016, the Minister for Planning (former), Rob Stokes MP declared Wilton a "Priority Growth Area" for the development of a new community of up to 16,600 homes.

Council has attempted to work with the Department of Planning and Environment and Transport for NSW since the Department originally agreed to lead planning for Wilton, however we are concerned that the lack of coordination and engagement across agencies will be detrimental to creating a 'great new town' for Wilton.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Department of Planning & Environment has failed to deliver on its commitment to develop a Land Use and Infrastructure Strategy which achieves the vision for Wilton New Town.

Specifically, the Department has not finalised critical infrastructure delivery plans which establish a clear staging and delivery plan for public transport, health and education infrastructure. Further, there is no plan for the sequential release of land for housing as local employment opportunities are created.

The Department now intends to rezone land for 3,000 homes south of Picton Road without having delivered on its commitment. This is contrary to Council's longstanding vision that an integrated masterplanned community would be released as one.

The release of any land for rezoning is premature at this stage as the State Government has not yet resolved many outstanding issues including:

- Provision of passenger rail transport services via the Maldon-Dombarton Rail Corridor with a new train station at Wilton.
- An integrated health care facility providing services from health clinics, wellbeing centres, specialist services e.g. radiology, allied health care facilities and ultimately, a hospital.
- K-12 public schools.
- Establishing strategies and mechanisms to ensure housing delivery aligns with job creation.
- Appropriate funding framework to support delivery of local infrastructure services.
- Adequate provision of an open space and recreation network.
- A Biodiversity Offset Strategy endorsed by Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage.
- A Water and Sewer Servicing Strategy.

Council does not support the ad hoc release of land at Wilton that cannot demonstrate that the future community will have access to the level of services required for a town the size of Port Macquarie.

Such an approach to housing delivery risks leaving a legacy that repeats the mistakes of many outer suburban subdivisions of the past which entrenches poor accessibility and socio-economic disadvantage. We cannot address housing affordability by creating housing that a community can ill-afford.



MEET THE

DE SOUSA FAMILY...

A Tale of Two Cities

It's the 2020s and the De Sousa Family have just moved to Wilton New Town. They are one of the first residents in an early land release stage.

David and Marie jumped at the opportunity to build a brand new house close to their extended family and have moved back into the area after many years living outside of the Shire. Moving into Wilton New Town along with David and Marie is their 11 year old son Jack and 4 year old daughter Audrey, as well as David's 18 year old daughter Jessica from his previous marriage.

What would the life experience be like for each De Sousa family member in a well-planned Wilton New Town (a "great new town") as opposed to a poorly planned Wilton New Town (a "not-so-great town")? Let's take a look.



Marie & David De Sousa...

...IN A NOT-SO-GREAT TOWN

David and Marie both work full-time to keep up with all their financial commitments including:

- Mortgage
- Cost of operating two cars
- Cost of travel to work each week
- Children's school
- Children's activities
- Day care
- Out of School Hours (OOSH) Care

When they chose to move to Wilton New Town they thought they would be better off financially but they hadn't realised how much all the fuel costs, car registration and OOSH care costs would mount up.

Marie went back to work after 6 months maternity leave after having her daughter Audrey, and both David and Marie work out of the area.

On a "good" day David drives 1.5 hours each way to work; while Marie drives at least 30 minutes into Campbelltown each day for work. Marie is often late to pick up Jack from OOSH care and Audrey from day care due to the traffic bank up on the Hume Highway getting back onto Picton Road. David's noticed that the commute time is getting worse and wonders when the new exit ramps and intersection that were 'promised' are going to be built.

Because David and Marie both leave so early to get to work on time. Jack and Audrey are often up at the crack

of dawn so Mum and Dad can get them ready for the day. Sometimes their older sister Jessica needs to help out which impacts on her studies.

Marie and David have to rely on Jack and Audrey's friends' parents to help get the kids to activities and would like to be able to return the favour but can't as they are time poor due to their long commutes.

Marie and David are frustrated with lack of quality time they have to spend with their family. They both keep vowing to get fit but just don't seem to find the time. There's a short bike track that's being progressively built around the edge of the subdivision so at least they can go for a short walk on the weekend but it doesn't really go anywhere yet.

The new local supermarket in the neighbourhood centre opened recently but it's not really the place to do a big grocery shop. Marie can't shop at Campbelltown as she'd then get home even later, so she often drives into Coles at Picton late at night after the kids have been fed and done their homework. She's tired and wonders when the new town centre will start being built.

When they first moved in, a few of their friends from Sydney visited to check it out, but there's not much to do here and it's a long drive out. So despite being closer to their extended family, they feel a bit socially isolated.

Sometimes they wonder whether the move to Wilton New Town was the right decision.

...IN A GREAT NEW TOWN

David is able to work from home a number of days a week because he has fast connecting NBN at home and there is a business hub in the new town centre that he uses for his other work needs.

On the days he has to go in to work he takes the train from Wilton and then travels on to the City. The services are not that frequent but he's heard that City Rail are planning more express services next year as the population grows.

Marie is able to work close to home for the same pay and can drop Jack to school and Audrey to day care each morning before she walks to work. She loves her walk routine and is feeling the fittest and healthiest she's felt for a long time. One of her work friends often joins her on the morning walk as she lives nearby.

Marie and David are able to attend more school functions even though they work full-time as they both have family-friendly jobs that give them the flexibility to pop out when they need to.

Marie and David don't have to rely on Jessica to help get Jack and Audrey ready in the morning and now Jessica can concentrate on her own studies more, or sleep in!

Marie and David take it in turns with their children's friends' parents to drop Jack and Audrey and their friends to activities in the week.

David has spare time to help with Jack's footy training and Marie is able to volunteer at the canteen on game days.

David is looking forward to taking Jack to his first big footy game at Campbelltown. The Wests Tigers are playing the Cowboys. They need to get there early though as all the good seats often get taken by the hordes of fans that arrive on the 6pm train.

David's also recently taken up cycling and has become a MAMIL (middle aged man in Lycra!). Every Sunday he meets up with the Wilton Cycle Club members for a ride around the expanding cycle network. He and his MAMIL mates always finish off with a coffee in the town centre.

Although their home is 3 kilometres from the new town centre, they like the fact that they can get there easily and don't always have to drive. It's coming on well and has a great new town square where they have regular events that the whole family attend. And being a big movie fan, Marie is particularly excited about the new VRC (virtual reality cinema) opening at the end of the year.

They're really pleased with their decision to move to Wilton. The house and land package was a good deal compared to other parts of south western Sydney and financially they feel they're doing well. David's sister, who often visits on the weekend with her husband and kids, wants to move out to Wilton too and is now seriously considering making the move.

MEET THE

DE SOUSA FAMILY...



Jessica De Sousa (18 years old)...

Jack De Sousa (11 years old)...

...IN A NOT-SO-GREAT TOWN

Jessica just completed her first semester of university studies; however, she's decided to drop out because the travel costs were too high and the buses to Wollongong are so infrequent and weren't fitting in with her timetable. She also couldn't afford to live out of home and close to the university.

Jessica's grades were suffering as she regularly had to help out with her younger siblings Jack and Audrey.

David and Marie have told Jessica that she needs to get a job if she is no longer studying; however, there are very few local jobs. Jessica can't afford a car and public transport is unreliable so this is making the search for a job very difficult.

Jessica finds it hard to see her friends because there is no public transport. She's got a few friends in the area but there's not much to do. Most have moved away closer to uni or work and she doesn't really feel all that connected to them anymore.

David knows that his eldest daughter has struggled ever since the loss of her mother when she was very young. He's worried about her current lack of direction and social disconnection and knows he needs to find time to help her stay motivated and positive. But it's hard when she sees her old friends on social media sharing their adventures on their latest study abroad program. She is happy for them but it makes her feel like she is missing out.

...IN A GREAT NEW TOWN

Jessica has just completed her first semester of study at Wollongong Uni. She is enjoying her course and finds it easy to commute to and from University on the regular express bus service between Wilton and Wollongong that run throughout the day.

She's connected with a bunch of other students and is loving her new uni lifestyle.

Jessica also has also lined up a part-time job at the new VRC opening soon in the town centre and she plans to walk, ride or catch the bus to work.

Jessica regularly uses the library in Wilton to study. The library has great study facilities and even offers video conferencing facilities so she can do her group work with her fellow University students. Jessica is getting excellent grades and is on track to achieve to graduate with honours which in her field gives her the edge in a competitive job market.

Jessica is able to keep up to date with her school friends regularly as she can catch the train to Campbelltown for nights out. Her school friends as well as her new uni friends regularly come to Wilton for group dinners and nights out too.

...IN A NOT-SO-GREAT TOWN

Jack goes to primary school on the other side of Wilton. He desperately wants to ride to school but his Mum and Dad won't let him as there is no safe way for him to ride across Picton Road.

Both his parents work full-time and commute long distances to work. His friend's parents sometimes take him to footy training but sometimes he has to miss training because his parents can't get him there.

The football fields are located in Picton which makes it even harder for his parents to get him to training. He resents that his parents don't seem to take the time to help him stay involved in sport like other parents do.

Jack and his parents are starting to look into which High School he will go to. Picton High School is the only public high school in Wollondilly but it's full. Jack's very bright and is keen to go to a selective academic school so will most likely have to go to a high school out of the area which will take him at least an hour each way.

Jack would like to start martial arts lessons but the local instructor can't offer lessons in Wilton as there are no community facilities available to run them in.

The mobile library attends Wilton once a week but not at a time Jack can visit. Jack has to travel to Picton if he wants to borrow books.

...IN A GREAT NEW TOWN

Jack is able to ride his bike to school as there is a pedestrian bridge across Picton Rd that he can safely ride across every day.

He takes himself straight to footy training after school because there are safe path connections from his school to the multifunction sports centre.

Jack's been attending a number of orientation days at the high schools in Wilton to decide where he will go to high school.

On Tuesdays he attends martial arts lessons at the community hall near his house and while his sister has ballet lessons in the other room at the hall at the same time.

Wilton has a multifunction library and Jack loves to go there with his Mum and sister to borrow books. He is even looking to sign up for an upcoming ANIME workshop there with his best friend Tom.

He's super excited about going to his first big footy game at Campbelltown this weekend. Tom will be there with his Dad too. Go the mighty Tigers!!

MEET THE

DE SOUSA FAMILY...



Audrey De Sousa (4 years old)...

...IN A NOT-SO-GREAT TOWN

Audrey attends day care 2 days per week. The day care centre is at capacity so she is on the wait list for the other 3 days a week.

Her grandparents live in Tahmoor and look after her the other 3 days per week.

Audrey's on the autism spectrum and gets some support through day care; however she needs more access to services to prepare her for school. Her parents work full-time and her grandparents can't drive so they need access to local services or outreach services which are unavailable in Wilton.

Audrey doesn't see that much of her Dad during the week as he leaves for work very early and gets home quite late.

She loves to dance however there are no ballet classes in Wilton as the community hall hasn't been constructed yet.

...IN A GREAT NEW TOWN

Audrey goes to day care 5 days per week and has a special teacher who is helping with her learning needs and integration.

Audrey will be able to attend a mainstream school because she's had support at day care.

Every Tuesday, while her brother does his Martial Arts class, Audrey attends ballet classes at the community hall near her house.

Her Grandpa picks her up from day care twice a week and they walk to the inclusive play space near her house to play.

Dad's got one of those child seats on his bike and often finishes work early to pick her up. She loves the ride home with him and they usually stop at one of the lookouts on the way. Sometimes they go to the leisure centre for a swim.



The De Sousa's Grandparents...

...IN A NOT-SO-GREAT TOWN

Grandma and Grandpa De Sousa live in Tahmoor and play a significant role in caring for their granddaughter Audrey. They rely on the bus to get to Wilton to look after Audrey but it can sometimes take up to an hour and is unreliable.

They've both retired and would love to do some travelling, but they can't because David and Maria rely so heavily on them to look after Audrey three days a week. David and Maria wouldn't be able to afford to pay someone to look after Audrey if they went away.

They struggle to take Audrey to her appointments as they have to use the limited public transport and the appointments are usually in Campbelltown.

Grandma suffers from hypertension and is beginning to develop other associated health issues. She has been going to Campbelltown Hospital for a series of tests on her kidneys which is an added burden, as there are no options for her to receive tests and treatments locally.

She's worries that this will be another reason why they'll never get to travel to Europe.

...IN A GREAT NEW TOWN

Maria and David are able to put Audrey in full-time day care, so Grandma and Grandpa can choose when they spend time with their grandkids.

They can easily get to Wilton via the train, and they can either walk from the train station to the De Sousa's home or they can get a bus if it's raining.

If they need to help out and take Audrey to an appointment they are usually within walking distance or a short bus trip away from the services; and Grandma can go to her Healthy Seniors program that they run at the Integrated Community Health Care Centre in the Wilton Town Centre.

Grandma's health has gone from strength to strength ever since she's been on the Healthy Seniors program. Her doctor has given her an all-clear to fly so next month they're off to Europe for a cruise down the Danube. She's always dreamt of visiting Vienna.

Grandpa has started going to U3A (University of the Third Age) which is held on Thursday mornings at the multifunction centre.

There are lots of smaller medium density housing options available in Wilton and Grandma and Grandpa are thinking of "downsizing" - selling the family home and moving into Wilton. This will allow them to be even closer to their family and have greater access to the services in Wilton Town Centre.

NOW

**WHAT NEEDS
TO HAPPEN...**

EVERYBODY WORKING TOGETHER

We need a coordinated approach with all key proponents and agencies working together.

TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED...

- All major development proponents working together in a coordinated manner with a single coordinating entity, within a framework that allows integration with other land owners.
- A Department of Planning and Environment that refocuses on delivering good planning outcomes as sought by the Greater Sydney Commission, rather than the Department's narrow focus on delivering housing with little regard for quality outcomes.
- Council and State Agencies (i.e. planning, health, education and transport) collaborating to facilitate Council's vision of delivering an exemplar new town.
- Recognition that Wollondilly's short term housing targets are being easily met by other proposals, and therefore we have time to plan Wilton properly.
- A Land Use and Infrastructure Strategy that requires certain infrastructure (i.e. health, education and public transport) to be provided prior to release of land at agreed thresholds.
- No land rezoned ahead of the finalisation of the Western Sydney City Deal and finalisation of local infrastructure servicing agreements being in place.
- Provision of passenger rail transport services, integrated health care facilities, adequate public primary and high schools, local employment opportunities.
- An appropriate funding framework to support delivery of local infrastructure services.
- Adequate provision of an open space and recreation network.
- A Biodiversity Offset Strategy endorsed by Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage.
- A Water and Sewer Servicing Strategy.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The coordinated approach to the provision of passenger rail transport services, integrated health care facilities, public primary and high schools as well as local employment opportunities is essential if we are to achieve positive outcomes for Wilton.

The fragmented approach to the development of Wilton experienced to date, coupled with the lack of a single coordinating entity is of great concern and can only be detrimental to creating a 'great new town' for Wilton.

To release land at Wilton without having addressed these critical issues is to compound the problems facing outer-urban communities which are poorly serviced. We do not want this for Wilton New Town.



WILTON NEW TOWN
alone provides 53 years of land supply based on the targets established by the Greater Sydney Commission's Draft South West District Plan



PUBLIC AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

We need people to be able to get to and from Wilton without always relying on cars.

TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED...

- A reliable electric train link to Macarthur (via the Maldon-Dombarton corridor) that includes express services that connect from Wilton town centre to key destinations in the city network.
- Development of a new station at Wilton New Town, integrated with a bus interchange and commuter parking.
- Separation of freight trains from passenger trains either by duplication of train lines or the creation of a new rail corridor.
- A reliable, regular bus service connecting to both Campbelltown/Macarthur and Wollongong, particularly while rail links are being developed.
- The planning, design and costing to be undertaken now and timed for delivery as Wilton grows beyond the capacity of existing services.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

There is a growing consensus that urban sprawl promotes a sedentary lifestyle that contributes to poor mental and physical health. At present, almost a third of our residents travel to Campbelltown, Camden and Liverpool for employment while our school children are travelling to 17 different schools outside the Wollondilly Shire.

Car dependency has been linked to a number of negative impacts including:

- Environmental degradation;
- Social exclusion and 'time-poor' lifestyles;
- Reduced public health;
- Economic inefficiency.

Features of good urban environments that promote greater physical activity:

A growing body of research suggests there is a positive association between physical activity and urban form. Good design can play a critical role in addressing these issues by:

- Increasing proximity and access to public transport;
- Designing compact, pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods;
- Providing multiple destinations such as schools, shops, public transport nodes and recreational facilities with walking and cycling links;
- Providing a greater diversity of land uses.



“YOU CAN’T have the housing without the infrastructure, that’s the essential issue”

- The Hon Angus Taylor, Member for Hume, the Sydney Morning Herald, 30 January 2017



3 JOBS

We want access to a range of local jobs.

TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED...

- Jobs at Wilton that grow as the town grows.
- An active working party focusing on job creation and including the main developers.
- A clear understanding of what government services will be there in the long term and commitment regarding the timing of these services.
- Controls in place that prevent other centres from usurping the long term role of the Wilton town centre.
- The NBN in place and other smart city strategies adopted and implemented.

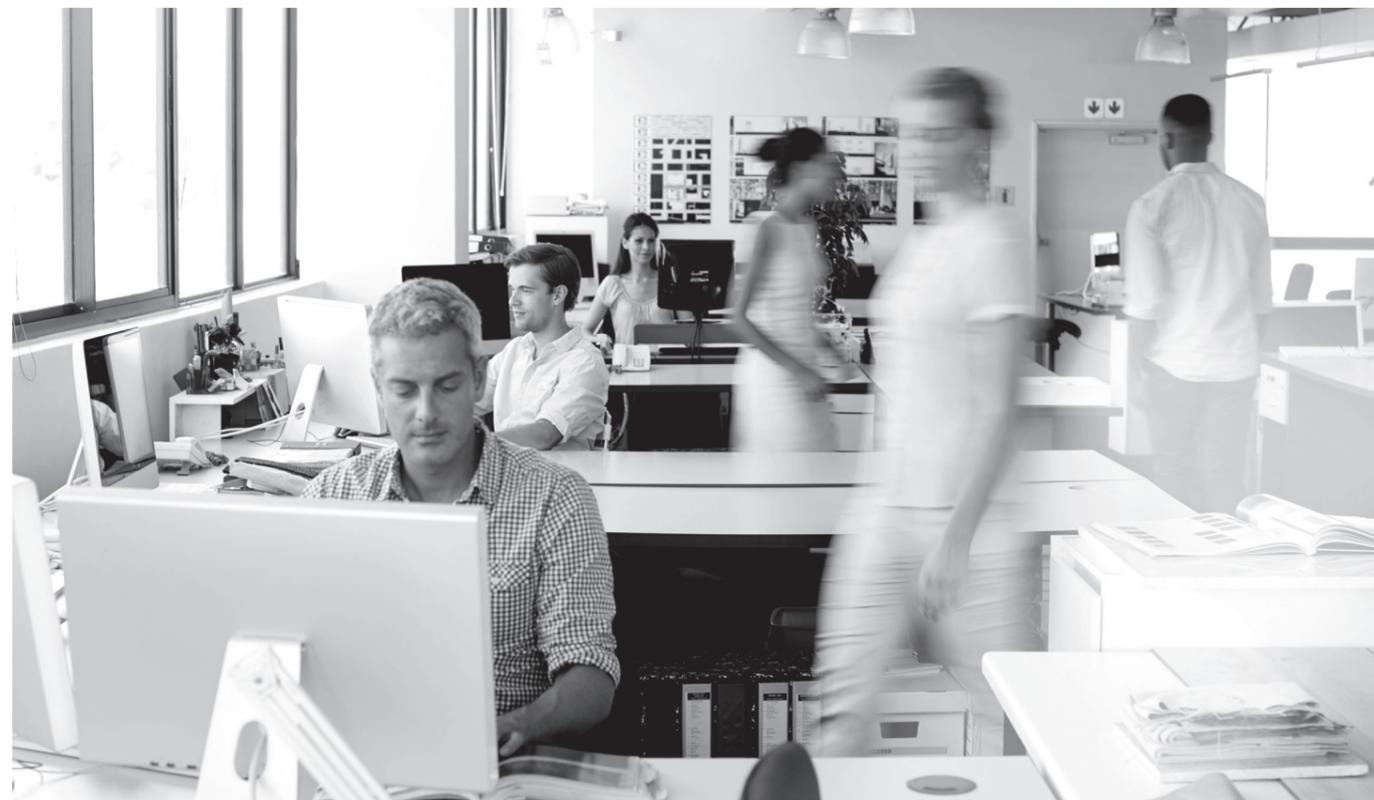
WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

In supporting the master plan in 2012, Council expressed its strong support for the provision of transport infrastructure and delivering an employment target of 1 job for each lot generated.

Currently, around two thirds of Wollondilly's employed residents travel outside the Local Government Area to work. Without provision of local employment opportunities this will only increase which has detrimental impacts on our community's social physical and emotional well-being.

Effective and efficient transport links will ensure a community that is well serviced and an attractive location for business investment. This in turn leads to more local jobs.

Failing to provide sufficient local employment opportunities only exacerbates the problems associated with inadequate public transport infrastructure as it consigns future residents to long car commutes to work.



“JOBS WILL BE CREATED in the school, health services, civic precinct and retail opportunities... it (Wilton New Town) will reverse the flow of traffic - people will live and work in the same area.”

- Jai Rowell MP, Member for Wollondilly, Wollondilly Advertiser, 22 September 2015



4 HOUSING FOR ALL

We all want to be able to live there.

TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED...

- A diversity of housing types.
- A reasonable percentage of affordable housing products.
- Higher density living around the town centre.
- Well-designed walkable neighbourhoods.
- A competitive residential construction environment, with more than one development front.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Housing diversity is an important part of building a sustainable and diverse community, ensuring a range of housing types and choices that accommodate the changing needs of the community over time. These choices include housing for younger people to own or rent close to services, family homes as couples mature and raise a family and then smaller, lower maintenance accommodation as people grow older and enter retirement.

We need higher density housing to be well located within walking distance of schools, public transport and the town centre – enabling residents to be less car dependent.



“WE ARE DETERMINED

to boost supply by releasing new land for homes and making people’s lives easier by creating opportunities for jobs close to these homes and that’s what we’re doing here in the Wollondilly and Macarthur district.”

- The Hon. Rob Stokes MP, (former) Minister for Planning, NSW Ministerial Media Release, 29 July 2016



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We want those that live in Wilton to be healthy and happy.

TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED...

- A Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan for Wilton that reflects best practice, sets out clear strategies and actions to support social sustainability and meets the emerging needs of the new Wilton community.
- Walking and cycling infrastructure in place early that encourages people to leave the car at home and live a more active lifestyle.
- Suitable health service, in place early that are adaptable to the growing population and focused on preventative health.
- Investment in soft infrastructure (e.g. community workers and social programs) focused on community building activities.
- Public spaces that encourage social interaction and healthy life choices, and foster a connected and engaged community.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Urban planning alone cannot create cohesive local communities with strong social networks and high levels of community involvement. Developing a new community must involve more than just hard infrastructure. We need to stimulate and support 'community building' in new neighbourhoods, by providing resources for community development workers and programs. We need a coordinated approach to creating a healthy, happy and connected community.

Evidence shows that neighbourhoods that are walkable can lead to increased physical activity levels and a greater sense of community connectedness. Community involvement in the planning of public urban space can also lead to improved health and wellbeing outcomes as a result of participation.

Good urban design can have a positive influence on physical activity thus reducing the long term impact on health services. Without access to public transport or local employment opportunities, Wilton is at risk of developing as a car dependent satellite suburb with significant implications for the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of its future residents.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan is crucial to delivering a coordinated approach with regard to achieving social sustainability for Wilton. Ideally this document would become integral to driving the implementation of social programs and settlement initiatives designed to build communities and foster a more cohesive, healthy and happy community. It would also provide a framework around reviewing and adapting initiatives to respond to the changing needs of the community as it establishes over time.



“LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

are healthy and inclusive. They are well connected by public transport to cultural and economic opportunities near and far.”

- Urban Growth NSW (Website)



6 EDUCATION

We want to be able to learn and grow there.

TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED...

- A new public high school, a K-12 private school and 3 more public primary schools.
- Shared use of school spaces so that these community assets are better utilised.
- Schools near playing fields to provide better opportunities for physical activity.
- A road and shared pathway network that facilitates kids walking and riding bicycles to school.
- Access to tertiary education at Campbelltown, Liverpool and Wollongong by suitable public transport connections.
- Strategies to support tertiary campuses being established at Wilton (e.g. TAFE/UWS).
- Facilities to support informal life-long learning (Library, community education hubs etc).

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Our schools are currently over or near capacity. We have school children travelling outside the local government area to 17 different high schools. This is inequitable and disadvantages the learning and development of our current and future younger generations.

People should have access to education close to where they live so that they can maximise their learning potential and have time to contribute to community life, rather than spending time in transit to education facilities elsewhere.

Local education options mean that talent is retained within the town thus avoiding a 'brain drain'. It also means that Wilton becomes a destination of choice where the educational needs of individuals can be met within the town itself, rather than forcing people to seek opportunities elsewhere.



“WE WANT TO CREATE

great places, not just to build houses... we need to manage the scale of urban growth and renewal to deliver high quality urban design, housing diversity and choice, as well as affordable housing.”

- Sheridan Dudley, South West District Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission, Macarthur Chronicle, 23 November 2016



PLACE

We want to meet there, shop there, eat there, play there.

TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED...

- A town centre that is a destination, with entertainment and cultural activities.
- Excellent urban design and best practice approaches to place making and public domain activation.
- A wide retail offering.
- Public art.
- Cultural facilities and spaces suitable for performing and visual arts.
- Sufficient sports fields to cater for a regional centre.
- Walking trails, bike paths, lookouts, views.
- Protection of significant views such the Razorback Range from incremental development outside Wilton.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Providing attractive public spaces that create opportunities for people to meet and connect with one another or participate in community events has a direct relationship with achieving a sense of community.

A sense of community has significant positive impacts for individuals and groups. Community connections, networks and social cohesion play a significant role in an individual's health, wellbeing, and mental health outcomes. Community interaction and social contacts reduces the risk of stroke and depression.

Well-designed urban spaces with shopping, dining and recreational attractors will encourage visitors thus contributing to the economic sustainability of the town and it's capacity to provide jobs.

The unique features of Wilton and its urban/rural interface should be developed and Wilton marketed as a key destination for regional recreational pursuits.

Not fulfilling these opportunities will result in a community that fails to reach its potential as a thriving, healthy and happy destination of choice.



“A CO-ORDINATED APPROACH to delivering city-scale economic, social and environmental outcomes is required”

- Lucy Turnbull, Chairperson, Greater Sydney Commission, The Australian Business Review, 28 April 2017

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571 Australia

E council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

P 02 4677 1100

www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

