

**GO5 – Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2016**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2014 complements the Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033 by highlighting a range of priority issues that Council advocates for on behalf of its community.
- This report explains the purpose of the Issues Paper and the recent review of advocacy issues for the Wollondilly Area.
- It is recommended Council adopts the Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2016 and it be used as an advocacy document.

**REPORT**

Council's current advocacy document the *Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2014* is used to advocate for a range of key issues on behalf of our community.

The Issues Paper is reviewed and updated on a regular basis as new issues arise or as issues are progressed so as to ensure it remains relevant and up to date.

With the impending Local Government Elections in September this year and two years since the previous review, it is timely to review the Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper to ensure it remains relevant and useful as an advocacy tool.

The Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2014 complements the Community Strategic Plan 2033, by highlighting a range of priority issues that Council advocates for on behalf of its community. The paper highlights and advocates for issues and outcomes over which Council has limited, or no direct control – e.g. better health services, public transport improvements.

The Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2033 is designed to align with and support the strategic plans and directions of other levels of Government. In turn the agencies of State and Federal government listen and respond to the advocacy and strategic direction of Council. Council's ability to successfully work towards the CSP 2033 outcomes is therefore highly dependent on collaboration and partnership, particularly with other levels of government. To assist with this challenge Council has reviewed the current *Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2014* and has developed a new version titled *The Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2016*.

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Due to the unique constraints of the Shire, the number of advocacy issues can be overwhelming which can dilute a focus on key priorities and the chances of positive outcomes. *The Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2016* is clear and concise, focusing and outlining the transformational advocacy issues that if delivered will not only have outstanding economic, environmental or community benefit, but increases Wollondilly's position as a desirable place to live, work, experience, enjoy and aims to competitively position Wollondilly in relation to other Councils.

The revised document has clear linkages with the State Plan to enhance the ability to pursue and gain Federal and State support and funding. The format and graphics of the Issues Paper have also been updated to better align with and complement the CSP 2033.

**CONSULTATION**

The Issues Paper has not been the subject of direct community consultation. Nevertheless the issues contained in the Paper represent our accumulated "knowledge" of key issues, community aspirations which have been gained over time through previous community engagements and issues that have been resolved by Council to advocate for. During the development of Council's Community Strategic Plan, issues were identified to be included in the advocacy paper.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Issues Paper has significant indirect financial implications for Council as a number of the issues are related to matters of funding.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2016 (to be circulated under separate cover).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2016 and it be used as an advocacy document.