



Mike Baird
Premier of NSW
Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW CITY OF GREATER WOLLONGONG COUNCIL

NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Local Government Paul Toole said residents of the new City of Greater Wollongong Council will benefit from better services and infrastructure.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is delivering the most significant reforms of the State’s councils for more than a century – and part of that is the historic decision to create the new City of Greater Wollongong Council,” Mr Baird said.

“Under our rate protection commitment, residents of the new council will also benefit by paying no more for their rates than they would have under their old council for four years.

“The new, stronger City of Greater Wollongong Council will harness the skills and strengths of its predecessors to deliver improved services and better infrastructure, such as footpaths, pools, playgrounds and roads.

“It’s time to get councils working better for local communities in the Wollongong region.”

Mr Toole said it will be business as usual for the residents of the new City of Greater Wollongong Council.

“Your library is still open when you need it and your bins still go out on the same night they always have,” Mr Toole said.

“Following a recommendation by the delegate to proceed with the new council, I have decided to create City of Greater Wollongong Council by merging the former Shellharbour and Wollongong councils.”

Mr Toole said that \$10 million from the NSW Government’s Stronger Communities Fund will go towards long-awaited community projects, such as pool refurbishments, new sporting or playground facilities, car park expansions and library upgrades.

“Importantly, the council will work with the local community to decide how this money is spent,” Mr Toole said.

“The financial benefits from the new council could be directed towards reducing the region’s high youth unemployment rate by revitalising the Wollongong, Warrawong and Shellharbour CBDs to attract more businesses to the area.

“The City of Greater Wollongong Council will receive \$10 million to streamline its operations. Unspent merger funds may be redirected into important community projects.”

For more information please visit: www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au