



Australia's property industry

Creating for Generations

Property Council of Australia
ABN 13 00847 4422

Level 1, 11 Barrack Street
Sydney NSW 2000

T. +61 2 9033 1900
E. nsw@propertycouncil.com.au

propertycouncil.com.au
 [@propertycouncil](https://twitter.com/propertycouncil)

20 October 2020

Mr Greg Doyle
General Manager
Wollongong City Council

Email to: engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Doyle

Wollongong CBD Night Time Economy Policy

The Property Council of Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on Wollongong City Council's CBD Night Time Economy Policy.

As Australia's peak representative of the property and construction industry, the Property Council's members include investors, owners, managers and developers of property across all asset classes. We also represent a diverse group of members spread across all parts of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region.

The Property Council supports the initiative by Wollongong City Council to provide further clarity to local operators regarding operating hours permitted in the CBD and development application requirements for these businesses. There is ample opportunity in the CBD to extend night time trading hours for smaller venues in a safe way and this policy is a good step in the right direction to enable this to occur.

Overall, we believe Council has a key role in helping to activate and sustain the CBD's night time economy, as well as supporting its growth. Over the last decade we have seen many new bars, restaurants and cafes commencing operation in the CBD and we would like to see this continue in the months ahead as we enter into the summer months.

With the NSW Government's current focus on our state's COVID-19 recovery and boosting business through the summer months, we would encourage Council to also support the efforts of the state government and explore other opportunities and projects as part of the COVID Summer Safe Program. Opportunities for alfresco dining and outdoor entertainment is a great way to encourage people back into the city centre and support local business.

We would encourage Council to explore further ways to reduce red tape, loosen restrictions on trade and eliminate fees, charges and application fees for things such as outdoor dining (including on footpaths and verges) to attract more business for small venues and to provide new opportunities to operate within a COVID-19 context.

As mentioned in other submissions to Council, we believe there is also a real opportunity in the lower end of the Mall from Church Street to Kembla Street to enable more alfresco dining and socialising outdoors and extend this activity into Lower Crown Street which is already supporting a vibrant night time economy with many cafes, restaurants and small bars.

By revitalising the lower mall and enabling more alfresco dining on the ground level, we can encourage a new mix of businesses to enter this part of the CBD to help activate the night time economy. Extending trading hours would support this initiative and also the vision for this precinct, as major investment and redevelopment continues in this area.

We welcome any opportunity to support our local businesses in the CBD to thrive and look forward to continuing to work with Council on these important initiatives.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself on 0437 315 198.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Guido', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michelle Guido

Illawarra Regional Director
Property Council of Australia

