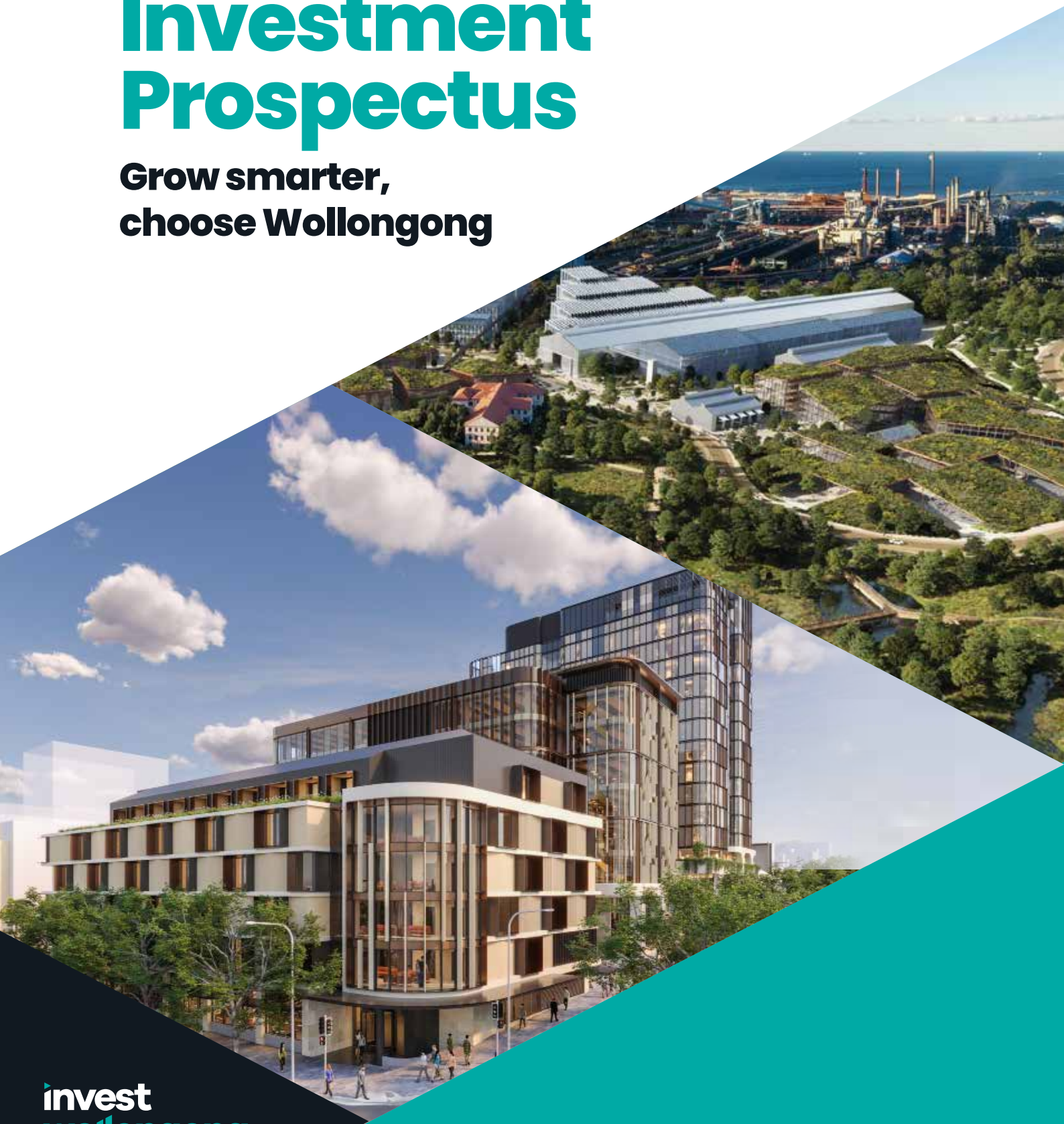


# 2025 Wollongong Investment Prospectus

**Grow smarter,  
choose Wollongong**



**invest  
wollongong**





# A message from the Lord Mayor



Welcome to Wollongong, a city proudly situated on Dharawal country, building momentum like never before. Recent population projections suggest the Illawarra-Shoalhaven will be the fastest-growing region in NSW, and it's no surprise why.

Wollongong offers a rare blend of opportunity and balance— with metropolitan amenities without the drawbacks, where commutes are shorter, where businesses thrive and people build truly satisfying lives. Increasingly, we're seeing businesses take advantage of these opportunities and choosing Wollongong.

Wollongong City Council is proud to support this growth. Through our Economic Development Strategy 2019–2029, we've set an ambitious target of 10,500 net new jobs of which we have already achieved 96% of the target within the first five years.

As we move into 2025, we're happy to report that Wollongong businesses indicate they are more optimistic about their financial future than they are about the broader Australian economy in the twelve months ahead.

Our city is on the move. Over the past decade, Wollongong's CBD has seen over \$1.1 billion in investment. With an additional \$1.8 billion in mixed-use, residential, and commercial projects in the pipeline, Wollongong is cementing its position as a dynamic city for growth, investment, and wellbeing.

There's something special happening here —a momentum fuelled by collaboration and ambition. Whether you're looking to invest, start a business, or relocate, Wollongong is ready to welcome you. Together, we're shaping a city where people and businesses can truly thrive.

**Lord Mayor of Wollongong  
Councillor Tania Brown**

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Image: WIN Stadium and Wollongong City Beach



# Wollongong is the regional capital of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region

Wollongong is a vibrant coastal city that is home to a supportive business ecosystem, a pipeline of world-class talent, and a growing number of businesses with increasingly global footprints.

**The Illawarra-Shoalhaven is the fastest growing region in NSW, with an extra 130,000 people by 2041<sup>1</sup>**

Wollongong has a workforce of more than 700,000 people within a one-hour commute. The region's population is expected to grow by 130,000 new residents by 2041, with increasing demand for more local employment opportunities.

**The Wollongong CBD has seen a 50% uplift in A-grade office space in the last 5 years**

Wollongong's A-grade office space is 50% more affordable than premium office space in the Sydney CBD.

## Strategically located for growth

Wollongong offers proximity without the drawbacks. Just 70 minutes from two major international airports, direct connections to Sydney CBD, dedicated cargo rail and port facilities, Wollongong provides the accessibility of a major metropolitan area but with space and support to grow.

## Home to the largest industrial land transformation on the Eastern Seaboard

BlueScope's Master Plan at Port Kembla will see over 200 hectares of industrial land transformed for the community – that is the equivalent size of Circular Quay to Central Station in Sydney.

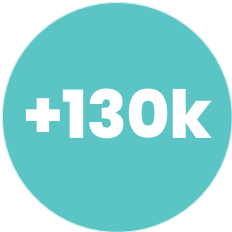
## A flourishing entrepreneurial scene

Wollongong's supportive business ecosystem is attracting a growing number of entrepreneurs with a global footprint, a growing tech hub, and rapid developments in clean energy.

# Wollongong economic snapshot



Fastest growing region in NSW<sup>1</sup>



Additional residents by 2041<sup>1</sup>



Gross Regional Product



Businesses



Jobs Growth 2018 to 2023



Fastest growing regional working age population<sup>1</sup>



Recently completed major energy projects



Top rated global university<sup>2</sup>



Increase in A-grade office space since 2020

<sup>1</sup>Projected by 2041, NSW Population Projections, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Nov 2024

<sup>2</sup>QS World university Rankings 2025

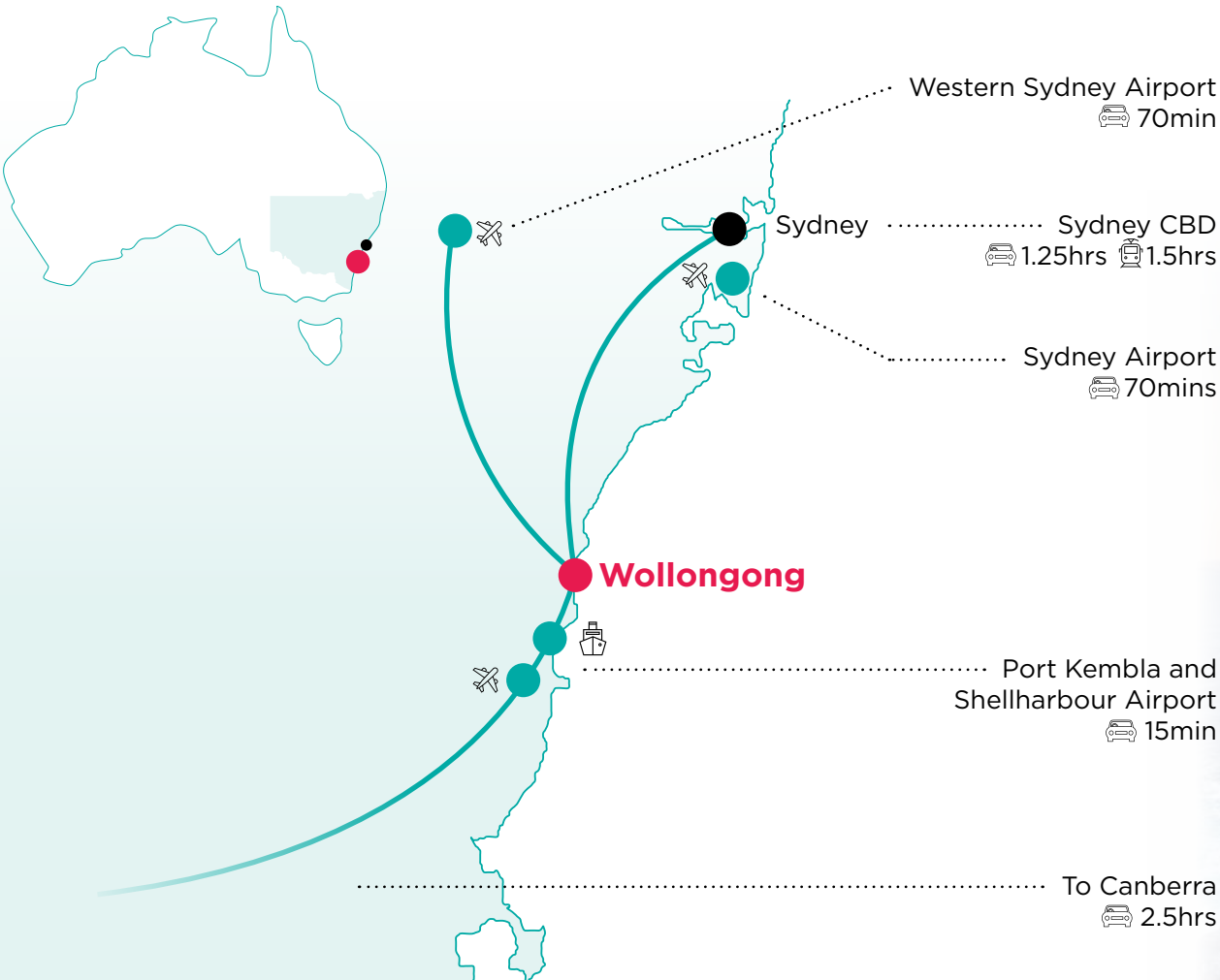



Image: Wollongong Harbour





# Grow smarter, choose Wollongong.


Discover a better way to grow your business and lifestyle.


## Unlock a rare blend of opportunity and balance:


- 

**Large, skilled talent pool**  
More than 700,000 working adults within a one-hour commute, offering diverse expertise across industries
- 

**Top 1% global university**  
Home to the University of Wollongong, a world-class research and teaching university
- 

**Supportive business ecosystem**  
Collaborative business community and access to well-established professional networks
- 

**Lifestyle worth moving for**  
A city that combines natural beauty, community and modern amenities for an exceptional quality of life
- 

**More cost effective**  
More affordable premium office space and typically lower staff turnover rates provide low-risk environment for investment
- 

**Proximity to Sydney**  
Strategically located just over one hour from Sydney and its airports, and 2.5 hours from Canberra

Wollongong is the perfect location to establish a new HQ, satellite office or start-up. With a dynamic business community, a globally ranked university and shorter commutes, Wollongong has all the ingredients for strong business growth and employee attraction - without the big city complications.



## Large, skilled talent pool

Wollongong has a large, experienced workforce whose skills range from traditional and advanced manufacturing expertise, to creative industries, to digital technology-based capabilities.

**Key highlight**

**More than 700,000 working adults within a one-hour commute of Wollongong CBD.**

**The Illawarra-Shoalhaven is projected to have the highest growth in working age population among all regions of NSW by 2041\*.**

Top 5 regions of NSW for projected growth in working age population			
Region	2021	2041	Change %
Illawarra-Shoalhaven (Wollongong)	259,468	346,624	34%
Greater Sydney	3,294,397	4,096,326	24%
Hunter	474,820	575,388	21%
Central Coast	209,061	239,674	15%
Riverina	170,910	192,927	13%

\*Source: Nov 2024 Population Projections, NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

## World-class talent pipeline

The University of Wollongong and local TAFE network produce a strong graduate pool for businesses to cultivate success with home grown talent.

Currently, there are more than 23,000 students studying at the University of Wollongong campus in subjects including engineering, information sciences, medicine, health, law and business.

## Access to top graduate talent

UOW Graduate Numbers (2024)			
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total
Faculty of Business and Law	615	1089	1,704
Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences	530	788	1,318
Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health	903	413	1,316
Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities	1,216	649	1,865
UOW College	230	0	230
Total	3,494	2,939	6,433

Source: University of Wollongong

Image: Mount Keira lookout





## Industry-focused global university

The University of Wollongong is among the top 1% of universities globally (equal 167th in QS World University Rankings 2025).

UOW is distinguished for the quality and impact of its education, research, industry and community engagement.

**UOW graduates are highly rated by employers.** UOW is consistently ranked in the top 5 nationally in the Australian Government's Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Employer Satisfaction Survey. UOW graduates are recognised for their capability and quality in the global workplace.

**More than 150 companies and government institutions are engaged in commercial research with UOW.** Commercial research focus areas include power, energy and infrastructure; healthy living; biomedical science; future manufacturing; and social change and public policy.

**UOW has a dedicated research, innovation and commercial precinct.** The Innovation Campus is home to research institutes and a well-established community of innovative multinational and national companies.

**270+ academic and research collaborations across the world, with institutions in 50 countries.** UOW is a leader in developing breakthrough technologies for clean energies and advanced manufacturing, alongside the creation of advanced, sustainable materials for construction and biomedical applications.

### Research institutes and facilities:

- Institute of Cybersecurity and Cryptology
- Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
- Institute for Innovative Materials
- Molecular Horizons
- Sustainable Buildings Research Centre
- Defence Materials Technology Centre
- Translational Research Initiative for Cellular Engineering and Printing
- Early Start

23,800+

Students at the Wollongong campus

=167th

World ranking  
\*QS World University Rankings

2nd in NSW

For UOW graduate employer satisfaction  
\*QILT Employer Satisfaction Survey



Image: University of Wollongong



## Supportive business ecosystem

Due to our tight-knit community, Wollongong boasts a uniquely collaborative business ecosystem supported by easy access to professional services and engaged industry networks.

### Business Support

Wollongong offers a full range of professional services, including legal, accounting, HR, marketing, and IT, alongside government initiatives that encourage business development and investment.

### Entrepreneur Support

Located at UOW's Innovation Campus, iAccelerate provides start-ups and scale-ups with the resources, mentorship, and community to grow at any stage of development. (Read more on page 23.)

## Network Support

Wollongong's strong professional networks and regular business events provide opportunities to learn, connect, and grow, helping new businesses integrate quickly.

### Invest Wollongong works closely with various peak business organisations including:

- Business Illawarra
- i3net (Illawarra Innovative Industry Network)
- Property Council of Australia
- Destination Wollongong
- RDA Illawarra Shoalhaven
- Siligong Valley
- Screen Illawarra



Image: i3net networking event





**More cost effective**

**Wollongong’s office space is over 50% more affordable than Sydney CBD.**

Wollongong offers businesses significant cost advantages. Office space is over 50% more affordable than Sydney CBD and 30% cheaper than Parramatta, enabling businesses to scale profitably while enjoying premium facilities.

Businesses in Wollongong tend to enjoy lower staff turnover due to Wollongong’s exceptional lifestyle and shorter commuting times.



**Proximity to Sydney**

**Wollongong is only 70 minutes drive from the new Western Sydney airport.**

Wollongong is strategically located just one hour from Sydney, its major airports, and global markets.

The city is also only 2.5 hours from Canberra and 70 minutes from both the Sydney and the new Western Sydney Airport in development, creating a unique advantage for businesses with national and international reach.

**Shellharbour Airport** – local airport 15 minutes south of the city with daily flights to Brisbane and Melbourne.



Image: Shellharbour Airport



**A lifestyle worth moving for**

**Wollongong combines natural beauty, cultural vibrancy and accessibility to create an integrated lifestyle that’s difficult to match.**

**90% of residents call Wollongong a great place to live:** With residents reporting high satisfaction across safety (87%), personal relationships (86%) and standard of living (84%), it’s no surprise that Wollongong businesses report higher employee satisfaction.

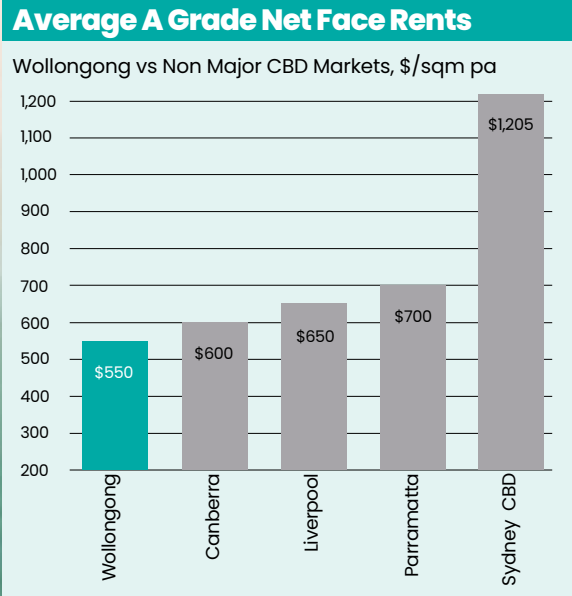
**Less time commuting for higher quality downtime:** Most residents can access work, education and recreation within 20–30 minutes, supported by shorter commutes and a growing cycleway network. This means happier, healthier, and more productive teams.

**World-class infrastructure and amenities:** The city is home to a major teaching hospital, private healthcare options, 89 quality schools, TAFE, and a top ranked university, ensuring access to top-tier services and education for the whole family.

**Stunning coastal setting:** With 17 patrolled beaches alongside the Illawarra escarpment, employees and loved ones can enjoy outdoor activities, social sport networks, coastal paths, and parks within minutes from home.

**Vibrant culture:** Wollongong CBD boasts a thriving evening economy with 180+ small bars, cafes, restaurants and breweries, plus festivals, live music, and a growing foodie scene. For more information, visit [wollongongcbd.com.au](http://wollongongcbd.com.au)

\*2024 Wollongong Community Wellbeing survey



Source: Colliers Wollongong Office Leasing Report, Sep 2024

Image: City Beach Wollongong



# A city on the move: The Wollongong CBD

Contrary to other cities in Australia, the Wollongong CBD has seen a 50% uplift in new A-Grade office space in the last 5 years.

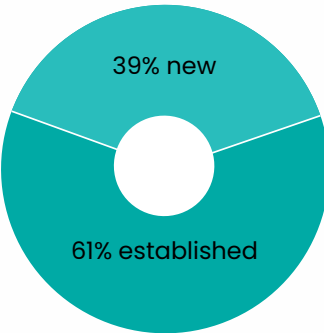
The Wollongong CBD is the largest employment hub in the region, accounting for 30% of the Wollongong region's employment (28,000 workers).

The CBD is the region's hub for health and government services, alongside ICT, financial and shared services covering local, national and international customers.

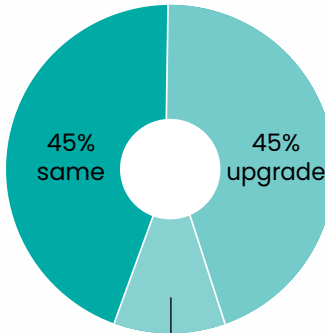
There is over 40,000sqm of potential A-Grade office space in the pipeline, including the

10,000sqm 111 Crown St building under construction, making Wollongong a great location to establish a satellite office, new business or remote work hub.

CBD office stock grade, last 5 years			
	2020	2025	5-year change (%)
A-Grade	57,329	87,660	53%
B-Grade	42,830	43,580	2%
C-Grade	47,418	41,060	-13%
D-Grade	4,641	4,641	0%
Total Stock	152,218	176,941	16%



**Established vs new**  
39% of new leases in Wollongong CBD in the last three years were new businesses to the region



**Office space upgrades**  
45% of businesses relocating within Wollongong in the last three years upgraded their office space

Source: Colliers Wollongong Office Leasing Report, September 2024

# A-grade office developments: now seeking pre-commitment leasing



**111-119 Crown Street**  
Under construction, A-grade office building;

- 12 storeys
- 10,089sqm floor plan
- Ground floor shop front



**The Quarters on Crown - 72 Crown Street**  
DA approved A-grade office building;

- 10,000+ sqm of contiguous space
- Floorplates ranging from 1,034 sqm - 1,581 sqm
- Secure basement parking
- Flexible fit out options



Image: Globe Lane Wollongong



# A-grade developments in the pipeline

There are a number of exciting, approved A-grade office developments within the Wollongong CBD that have yet to commence construction.



## WIN Grand Development

The WIN Grand site is located at the western end of Crown Street close to Wollongong railway station. In December 2022, WIN Grand received planning approval for Wollongong's largest ever mixed-use development.

In March 2024, the site sold in a record setting \$70M land transaction. In October 2024, the new owners revealed revised plans for a \$500M State Significant Development project including 578 apartments, a 204-room hotel and an 11-storey 7,000sqm commercial office building.

The two largest projects are the WIN Grand Development and The Globe, both on Crown Street, Wollongong.



## The Globe

The Globe is another large \$230M mixed-use development approved in December 2024, across two city blocks bordered by Crown Street Mall, Church Street, and Burelli Street in the heart of the Wollongong CBD, with demolition now underway.

**The project will encompass three distinct buildings, each designed to serve a unique purpose:**

- A 6-storey registered club and motel building (114 rooms)
- An 8-storey commercial office building with over 8,300sqm of floor space
- A 15-storey 5-star hotel with a 'Sky Bar' (236 rooms/suites)



Image: Artist impression, The Globe, ADM Architects and Jackson Teece Architects

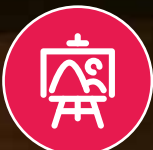
# A city with a flourishing arts and culture scene

Wollongong's fast-growing inner-city population has propelled the CBD's arts and culture scene. With more than 180 small bars, cafes and restaurants, Wollongong's thriving arts and evening economy continues to attract people.

As a founding member of the NSW Night Time Economy Councils Committee (NTECC), Wollongong City Council has been heavily

involved in planning reforms in NSW to support a thriving night time economy and live music scene.

In 2024, 32 businesses across six Wollongong districts secured positions in the Office of the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner's Uptown District Acceleration Program designed to help businesses attract visitors to the local evening economy.



## Wollongong Art Gallery

One of the largest regional art museums in Australia with a collection of more than 3,500 works. Located in the heart of the CBD, this creative hub showcases diverse exhibitions, a range of public programs and events.



## Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC)

Hosts internationally renowned theatre, music and comedy shows and a wide range of community events.



## Music Festivals

Wollongong continues to attract a number of large music festivals including the annual, homegrown Yours and Owls festival.



## Local film festivals

The Creative Wollongong Short Film Competition provides opportunities for amateur filmmakers to hone and showcase their craft.



Image: Black Cockatoo



# Key sectors: the diversification of Wollongong's economy

Wollongong has been busy building on its 'steel city' legacy. Although advanced manufacturing is still an important part of our region's DNA, Wollongong's growth comes from the diversification of the economy across key sectors.

Discover case studies and opportunities across key sectors:



Image: Hysata, Port Kembla

## A dynamic tech hub driving national and global impact

Wollongong is home to a dynamic tech sector with successful companies serving national and international markets.

The city's established expertise in technology and strong pool of highly educated ICT professionals make it an ideal hub for tech businesses to innovate, grow, and thrive.

**At the heart of Wollongong's tech community is Siligong Valley**, a network of almost 1,800 tech professionals, entrepreneurs, and digital marketers to connect and scale. By fostering collaboration and showcasing local talent, the network is cementing Wollongong's place on the global tech map.



### Case study: Scalapay

**'Unicorn' buy now pay later fintech founded in 2019 by Johnny Mitrevski and Simone Mancini.**

Named a 'unicorn' valued at over \$1.9B in 2022, Scalapay services 8 million customers across Europe and employs over 190 staff globally.

With their technology headquartered in Wollongong, Scalapay is a magnet for tech talent in the region and is dedicated to the ongoing growth of the sector.

**"Engineering is in Wollongong's DNA, you can really see that mindset in the talent here"** Johnny Mitrevski

Image: Johnny Mitrevski, Founder & CEO and Amanda Guest, Head of People & Talent, Scalapay

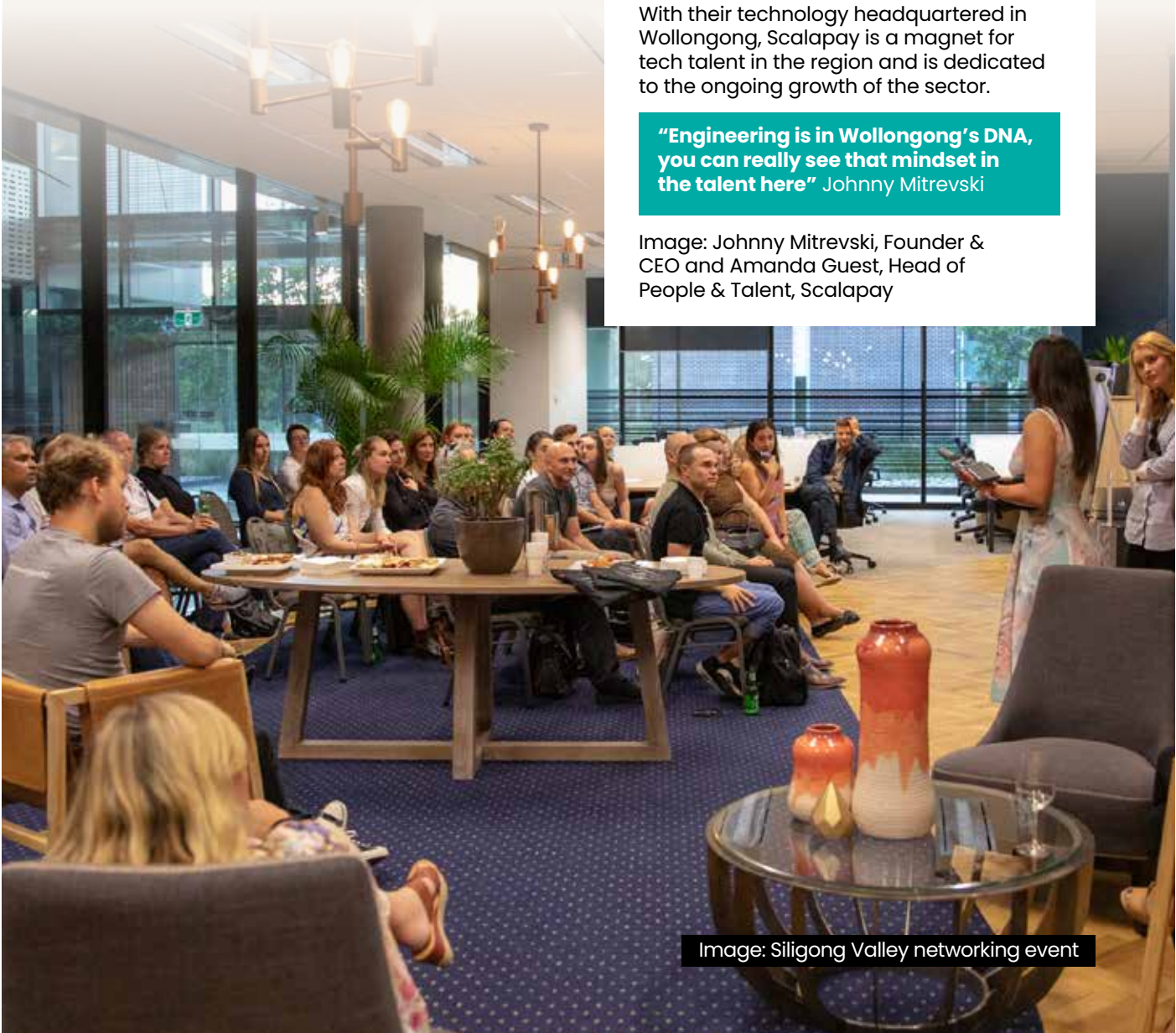


Image: Siligong Valley networking event



# Professional Services

Wollongong is a dynamic and growing hub for professional services, offering a compelling alternative to major capital cities.

With a highly skilled workforce, competitive operating costs, and seamless connectivity to national and international markets, the city has a large footprint of financial, legal, consulting, and shared services firms.

Businesses based in Wollongong benefit from a supportive business environment, access to a pipeline of top tier university graduates and a lifestyle that enhances productivity and talent retention. Whether operating on local, national or global scale, Wollongong provides the ideal environment for professional services to thrive.



The diversity in the team drives innovation on critical issues like climate change, digital transformation, and future-proofing infrastructure. 100+ team of Illawarra locals are invested in building a resilient Wollongong for today, and for generations to come.

Stantec's involvement in notable projects in the Illawarra region includes the Independent Certifier for the Port Kembla Energy Terminal, supporting Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation find a new facility, community sports fields at Tahmoor and Myimbar or master planning new communities at Tallawarra.

## Case study: Stantec

Stantec is a leader in sustainable engineering, architecture, and environmental consulting.

**"I love working in the Illawarra on diverse, complex projects with passionate professionals, whilst maintaining a relaxed coastal lifestyle."** Ryan Adams

Image: Ryan Adams and Justin Smith



## Case study: Peoplecare

Peoplecare Health Insurance is a member-owned not-for-profit health insurer based in Wollongong, that exists purely to benefit its members.

Peoplecare takes pride in genuinely caring about the health and wellbeing of members; united by a commitment to providing exceptional service and support. This unwavering focus has resulted in consistently high member satisfaction ratings.

Peoplecare Health Insurance currently has 234 employees.

Peoplecare Health Insurance has been a proud part of the Wollongong community since 1952. The city's prime location provides access to a skilled workforce, a thriving innovation sector, and a supportive business network. Wollongong's strong sense of community allows Peoplecare to stay true to its Illawarra-based roots, supporting local projects, events, charities, and sporting teams while successfully operating on a national scale.

**"Wollongong's beautiful coastal setting and high quality of life makes it an attractive place to live and work, helping to draw and retain top talent".** Louise Leaver, CEO

Image: Peoplecare contact center

Image: UOW Innovation Campus SmartSpace



## Clean energy

Wollongong is emerging as a global clean energy hub, with major projects in green hydrogen production, dual fuel power generation, offshore renewable energy and gas infrastructure, driving the region's transformation.

These transformative projects and assets are the cornerstone investments in NSW and Australia's decarbonised energy future.

### Major energy projects:

More than \$750M in the following recently completed supportive major energy projects have transformed the region's energy ecosystem.

**The Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub** has an ambitious vision to create Australia's first 5 gigawatts green hydrogen hub. That vision is being realised with significant investment in major energy projects being delivered.

**Coregas** Hydrogen Refuelling Station has enabled Australia's first zero emissions heavy vehicle trials, including the Remondis hydrogen refuse truck.

**Squadron Energy** LNG Terminal at Port Kembla is Australia's first gas importation facility with potential to support gas exports in the future.

**Jemena** Port Kembla Pipeline Duplication + Eastern Gas Pipeline upgrades have delivered increased network capacity to east coast gas markets.

**EnergyAustralia** construction of Tallawarra B and the Tallawarra A upgrade have delivered Australia's first dual fuel capable power stations.

### Port of Port Kembla:

Port Kembla is an international trade gateway, New South Wales' largest motor vehicle import hub and is prepared to take on the role as the State's next container terminal once Port Botany nears capacity. Its proximity and access to Sydney's west and south west means Port Kembla is well positioned to handle the expected growth in freight volumes.

### Offshore renewable energy:

The Australian Government in June 2024 (after a period of public consultation) declared a 1,022 km<sup>2</sup> offshore wind zone off the coast of Wollongong, with the potential to generate up to 2.9 gigawatts of renewable energy.

A dedicated 30-hectare wind turbine assembly precinct has been proposed to support the assembly and floating of turbines to offshore locations. This area sits within the Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone and aligns with the Australian Government's proposed offshore wind development zone.

## Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone

**In February 2023, the NSW Government declared the Illawarra a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), which could unlock a prospective 44 projects in the region worth \$43B in potential investment.**

The Illawarra region is an ideal location due to its major energy, port and transport infrastructure coupled with a highly skilled workforce. The Illawarra has the advantage of not only becoming a source of clean energy production, but also an industrial user of clean energy, including hydrogen.

Since September 2023, over one thousand people have completed a Clean Energy Tour supported by Wollongong City Council and the NSW Government. These tours form a key element of the Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub education program.

### New Projects:

**BOC** has received NSW Government funding to construct a 10 megawatt electrolyser to produce green hydrogen at their Port Kembla facility. The project will produce up to 4,000kg daily of green hydrogen that will be used to power some 40 fuel cell electric buses and trucks.

**ATCO** has received ARENA funding through the German-Australian HyGATE initiative to undertake feasibility on establishing a one gigawatt green hydrogen facility in the region.

**Hydrogen bus trial** – beginning in December 2023, a new zero-emissions NSW hydrogen bus trial started on the free inter-city Gong Shuttle bus route. The bus refuels at the new Coregas hydrogen station at the Port Kembla Hydrogen Hub.



Image: Artist impression, offshore wind turbine assembly site, Port Kembla outer harbour





## Case study: Green Gravity

### Repurposing Wollongong's disused mineshafts to store renewable energy.

Founded in 2021, Wollongong-based Green Gravity has developed innovative technology that repurposes disused mineshafts to store renewable energy. Their Gravitational Energy Storage System (GESS) converts gravitational energy into electricity, offering a cost-effective solution for long-duration renewable energy storage.

Green Gravity leverages Wollongong's pipeline of skilled engineers and UOW graduates to drive innovation and expansion. Collaborating with national and global partners like Glencore in QLD and the Romanian government, they are scaling their impact. In October 2024, they raised \$9M in Series A funding from investors including BlueScopeX, HMC Capital, Pacific Channel, and Sumitomo Corporation to accelerate commercialisation.

Image: The Gravity Lab™, Port Kembla NSW



## Case study: Hysata

### Redefining the economics of green hydrogen production.

Hysata, founded in 2021, is commercialising an ultra-efficient capillary-fed alkaline electrolyser system, which will produce lowest cost green hydrogen.

Electrolysers split water into green hydrogen and oxygen using green electricity. Hysata electrolysers will accelerate deployment of green hydrogen as a chemical feedstock and support decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors such as steel, chemicals manufacture and long-distance heavy transport.

In May 2024, they raised US\$111.3M (AU\$172M) in Australia's largest-ever Series B funding for clean tech. The funding will expand their Wollongong-based manufacturing facility and advance their mission to achieve multi-gigawatt scale production, accelerating the global shift to green hydrogen.

Image: Paul Barrett, Hysata CEO

## Entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-ups

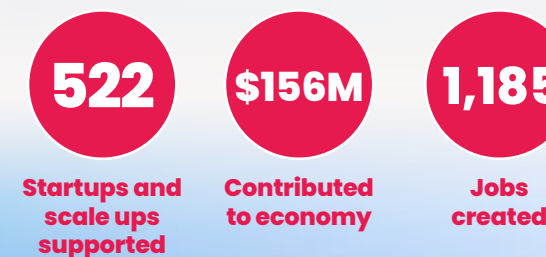
Wollongong is a sought-after destination for entrepreneurs to grow their businesses in a supportive, innovative community. Entrepreneurs choose Wollongong for its high potency of skilled talent and lower barriers to entry.

### iAccelerate is attracting more entrepreneurs to Wollongong.

Located at the UOW Innovation Campus, iAccelerate is one of Australia's largest and longest running incubators and accelerators. They provide affordable support for start-ups and scale-ups at any level of development or sector, including tech, clean energy, AI, health and social enterprise.

Leveraging top tier university research, future workforce and world class facilities, iAccelerate offers education, mentorship, business connections and the skills to build your business from Wollongong.

### Key achievements since 2016:



## Case study: V-DAQ

Founded by Paul Fenech & Rylan Kolb during their final year of Mechatronic Engineering at UOW, V-DAQ is a disruptive technology start-up providing transport companies with increased fleet visibility, payloads, productivity, and a simplified approach to managing regulatory and compliance obligations.

V-DAQ delivers an industry leading service to nearly 2,000 fleets across the Australian transport industry. With their entire team and proprietary technology development based in Wollongong on the Innovation Campus, V-DAQ provides a pathway for top talent (including UOW students and alumni) to pursue high-growth careers.

Their bootstrapped success showcases the opportunities for local founders. And this is just the beginning...

Image: Paul Fenech & Rylan Kolb



Image: UOW Innovation Campus



## Advanced Manufacturing

Manufacturing is part of Wollongong's DNA, with over 110 years of innovation and expertise. The region hosts a diverse range of advanced industrial manufacturing operations, with unique strengths in machinery, equipment design, and manufacturing.

Advanced manufacturing continues to be an important growth sector for the local economy with many companies using advanced business models, processes and technology to compete on a domestic and global scale. This is underpinned by highly skilled professionals in design, engineering, R&D, fabrication, and quality assurance.

Close collaboration with the University of Wollongong enhances innovation, giving these companies a significant international competitive edge.

### \$47M TAFE investment to strengthen Wollongong's talent pipeline

The Australian and NSW Governments are investing \$47M to establish the Illawarra Heavy Industry Manufacturing Centre of Excellence at TAFE NSW Wollongong.

The centre will focus on traditional and emerging manufacturing technologies such as digital, electrical, and robotic manufacturing. Courses will begin in 2025, with the full site refurbishment by 2027.

Wollongong also has a growing ecosystem of defence procurement, including manufacturing services and research. Combined with the capability of the Shoalhaven's defence assets, this highlights substantial opportunities in the region.

### Wollongong companies offer a range of capabilities to the Defence industry:

- Engineering design, project management
- Advanced welding and fabrication
- Armour plate steel
- Electrical isolators and enclosures
- Specialist protective coatings & blasting
- Ruggedised computers & communication
- Gearbox design, manufacture, servicing
- Cyber encryption capabilities

### Did you know?

The armoured steel used in the Collins class submarines, Adelaide class frigates and the Hobart-class Air Warfare Destroyers projects was manufactured in Wollongong.

## Case study: BlueScope National Product, Processing & Solutions Hub – state of the art plate processing

Opened in May 2022, the National Product, Processing & Solutions Hub provides end-to-end project management system of complex

steel processing, component manufacturing and steel kits ready for product assembly.

**Complex solutions:** The Hub supports customers with highly complex or significant projects in infrastructure, renewable energy, defence, transport, mining oil & gas, and agricultural industries.

BlueScope Distribution's new facility offers a **first-of-its-kind complex steel processing capability** right here in Wollongong, reducing the need for offshore services.



Image: BlueScope Distribution

## Transforming our city's industrial precinct

The BlueScope Master Plan is one of the most significant land transformation and jobs creation opportunities in Australia.

After 18 months of intensive research, analysis and community engagement, BlueScope has unveiled the Master Plan to develop 200 hectares of excess landholdings adjacent to the Port Kembla Steelworks.

The Master Plan will see BlueScope transform the surplus land, next door to its steelmaking plant, into a next generation multi-industrial precinct with potential to create 30,000 jobs in emerging industries like clean energy, defence and modern manufacturing.

In the near term, BlueScope's focus will be on working closely with the NSW Government's whole-of-government working group to guide the redevelopment of the Port Kembla site. This will ensure the appropriate planning framework is in place to unlock the full potential of the land and bring the Master Plan vision to life. The working group will explore the potential for a SuperTAFE at Port Kembla to enhance local skills and support future workforce development.

## \$2B pipeline of Major Projects in the region

As the Port Kembla Steelworks approaches its 100-year anniversary in 2028, BlueScope is planning for a low carbon emissions, modern manufacturing future.

BlueScope has approved over \$2B worth of major manufacturing projects in the region, which are either currently under construction or recently commissioned. These projects will deliver significant investment and growth in domestic manufacturing and product and service innovation, while also realising BlueScope's goal of being a low carbon emissions iron and steelmaker in Australia.

### The \$2B investment will have a number of benefits for the region including:

- 500 new jobs created during construction
- Supporting around 10,000 direct and indirect jobs
- Manufacturing essential components for the clean energy transition
- >\$100M environment improvement upgrades
- Maximum local participation by local contractors and suppliers



Image: Port Kembla Master Plan conceptual render



## A boom in creative industries

The Illawarra's natural beauty and skilled workforce have resulted in a booming local screen production industry, with 387 film permit applications in the last 5 years for increasingly larger productions.

**The Illawarra was the backdrop for the Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (2024)**

### NSW accounts for:

- **51% of Australia's screen production**, with
- **\$1.64B in drama production targeted for 2026** (excluding corporate, commercial and documentary).

\*NSW 'Screen and Digital Games 2024' report

### Government support for film:

- **30% location offset** makes Australia an attractive location for national and international productions.
- **'Revive' policy:** a directive to target regional film production.

### Screen Illawarra

Screen Illawarra is the local film body that builds and promotes the region's screen sector capabilities and has attracted several major film productions to the region. Screen Illawarra are working to attract the development of major production studios in Wollongong.

### Key Screen Illawarra Initiatives include:

- 400+ members
- Workshops and networking events
- Local and independent film screenings with Q&A's
- 3 members awarded at the 2024 AACTA's (the national film awards)
- Industry famil tours for national and international productions
- Film permit coordination to ensure opportunities for local cast, crew, locations and suppliers are maximised

## Case study: BBC Studios and the Death in Paradise spin off 'Return to Paradise'

**Return to Paradise** is an Australian-British television series and an original spin-off series of the global smash-hit murder mystery franchise Death in Paradise. The series premiered on ABC and ABC iview in September 2024 and is produced by BBC Studios Productions Australia with Red Planet Pictures.

**Screen Illawarra** assisted the first season of Return to Paradise with general consultation during pre production, including locations support, and scouted suitable local extras.

## invest wollongong

Invest Wollongong is a strategic partnership focused on economic development.



### Our Goal:

Increase business investment and job creation by showcasing Wollongong's capabilities and empowering decision makers.

### How we can help:

invest  
wollongong



### Promote

Showcase Wollongong's capabilities as a superior business location among key decision makers.



### Decision support

Tailored economic analysis, impact modelling, and workforce analysis done for you. Navigating Federal, State and Local Government, including application processes.



### Facilitate

Connecting you with relevant industry networks, local agents and training and education opportunities. Facilitate bespoke site visits and meetings with key stakeholders.

Image: Return to Paradise, courtesy of BBC Studio Australia

Image: Stuart Park and North Wollongong Beach



To find out more about Invest Wollongong

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This publication was produced on Dharawal Country. We show our respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land, Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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