



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Transport and Access Action Plan 2022-2024

University of Wollongong

Facilities Management Division

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Acknowledgement of Country

We Acknowledge that Country for Aboriginal peoples is an interconnected set of ancient and sophisticated relationships.

The University of Wollongong spreads across many interrelated Aboriginal Countries that are bound by this sacred landscape, and intimate relationship with that landscape since creation.

From Sydney to the Southern Highlands, to the South Coast.

From fresh water to bitter water to salt. From City to Urban to Rural.

The University of Wollongong Acknowledges the Custodianship of the Aboriginal peoples of this place and space that has kept alive the relationships between all living things.

The University Acknowledges the devastating impact of colonisation on our campuses' footprint and commit ourselves to truth-telling, healing and education.



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1. Introduction

This Transport and Access Action Plan has been developed to establish priorities and tasks to be actioned by the Estate Strategy and Transport Unit over 2022-2024 specific to transport, parking and access to UOW campuses.

The UOW Sustainable Futures Committee (SFC) oversees the pursuit and delivery of UOW sustainability objectives as well as the integration of Sustainable Development Goals and sustainability initiatives and targets across all aspects of University activities.

The Estate Strategy and Transport Unit's focus is on the environmental sustainability of UOW operations, implements initiatives and actions to reduce impacts and addresses relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Estate Strategy and Transport Unit is working with the Sustainable Futures committee to achieve common objectives.

Managing and planning for the transport and access needs of our campuses is complex. A range of factors influence travel demand and behaviours of our commuters such as:

- campus population and demographics.
- local geography and climatic conditions.
- quality and availability of public and active transport infrastructure and services.
- parking supply.
- commuter perceptions and cultural influences.
- teaching and learning delivery modes and timings.
- availability of flexible work arrangements.

Local and State Government requirements also influence the context and management options.

The objective of this Transport and Access Action Plan is to define strategies and actions to achieve the following:

- Meet the targets established by UOW.
- Assist with improving safety and equity in access for commuters to our campuses.
- Increase use of sustainable travel modes (active and public transport, reduce single occupant car use)
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the University associated with work related travel, parking, and transport infrastructure.
- Assist commuters to reduce their carbon footprint associated with commuting to the University.
- Maximise the use and flexibility of transport and parking related assets and services to meet current and future demands.

2. Background

Previous Transport and Access Plans have focused primarily on the Wollongong Campus where traffic and parking issues, community needs, local government requirements and demand have required prioritisation of actions to improve transport and access at this site. A range of actions have been implemented since 2007 including the following:

- Provision of University operated shuttle bus services
- Support for the continuation of the State government operated Free Gong Shuttle and contributing funding for it to continue.
- Lobbying for improved public bus services to the campus from areas such as Campbelltown.
- Carpooling initiative providing free parking for commuters with three or more people in the car

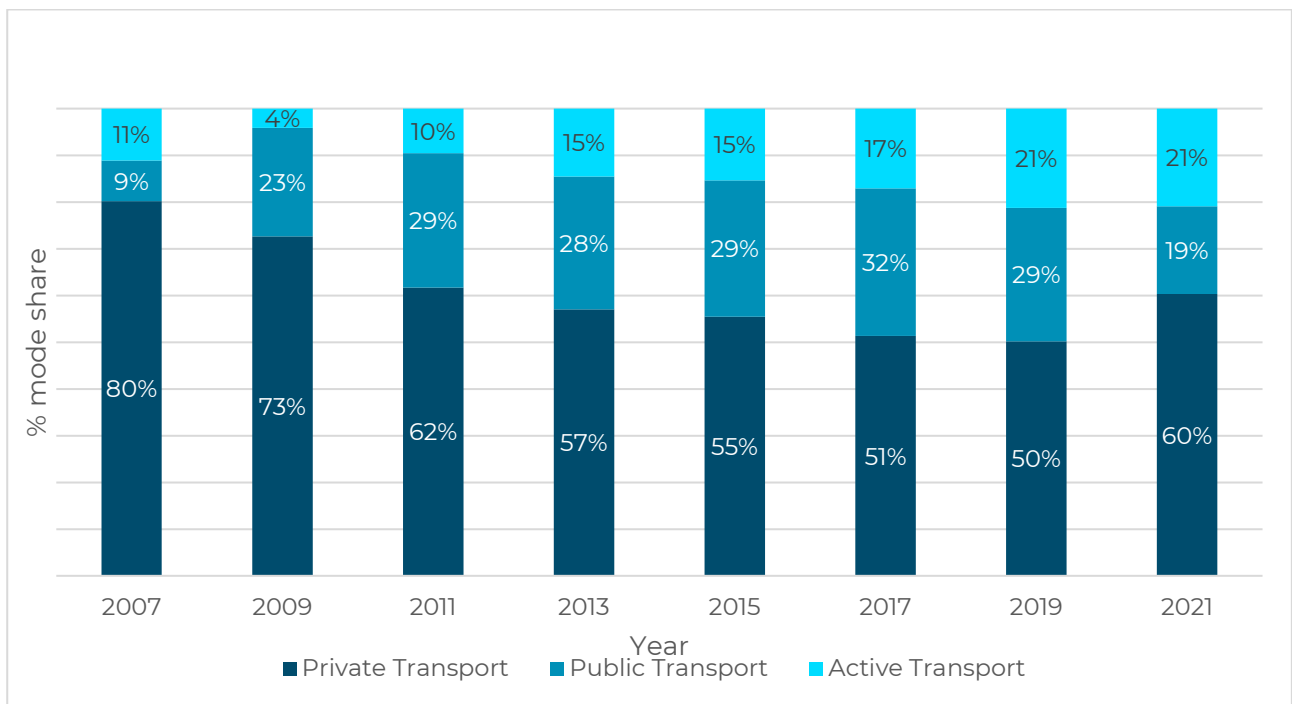


- Provision of end of trip facilities for cyclists, working with local government to improve cycleway links and wayfinding.
- Electric bike charging facilities.
- Use of low floor accessible buses for UOW Shuttle.
- Use of hybrid buses for UOW Shuttle.
- Promotion of alternative travel modes, transport access guides and Parking and Shuttle bus apps.
- Parking management system and signage.

Through the implementation of past Action Plans, private vehicle use to the Wollongong Campus decreased 30% between 2007 and 2019. However, over the last few years, the COVID 19 pandemic and remote teaching, learning, and working arrangements have had an impact on campus attendance and travel modes utilised by staff and students.

Figure 1 illustrates modal shift at the Wollongong Campus between 2007 and 2021:

Figure 1. UOW Mode Share Comparison 2007 - 2021



Paid parking was suspended several times during 2020- 2021 in response to changing teaching and working arrangements. Due to reduced travel requirements to the campus, the GK Shuttle was suspended at the end of March 2020. Service levels for the NG Shuttle have fluctuated throughout this period also to meet changes in demand.

In line with the Australian Government and NSW Government restrictions, initiatives such as signage, implementing bus capacity limitations, continuous monitoring of demand for parking and bus services, sharing of travel advice and information and availability of hand sanitiser for UOW Shuttle passengers were implemented.

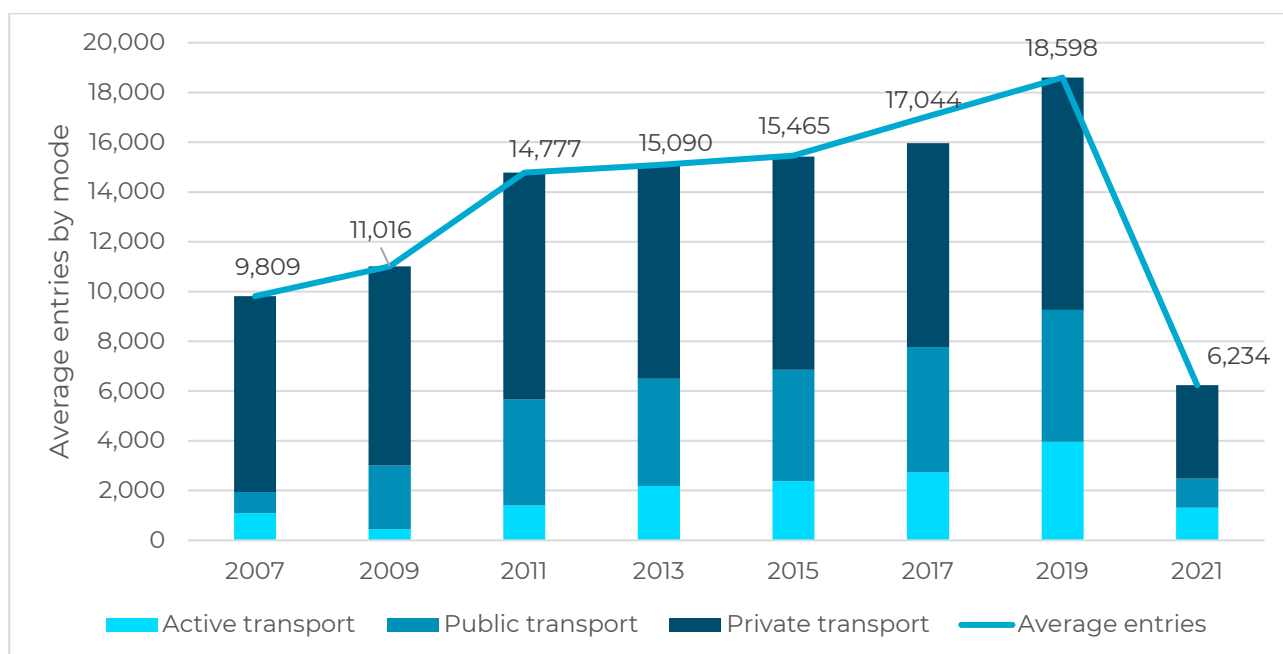


Data was gathered from available sources to understand the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and remote teaching, learning and working arrangements on campus attendance and travel modes. This data has indicated the following:

- Travel by bike reduced by 50% during 2020
- Parking occupancy also reduced significantly with a maximum carpark occupancy of 69% on average per week and a low of 18% of on average per week during 2020.
- UOW NG Shuttle passenger trips reduced from an average of 3,500 passenger trips to an average of 176 passenger trips each day in 2020 and 184 passenger trips during 2021.
- 20% fewer cars were parked in the streets around the campus in 2020 and 2021 during the survey period.

Figure 2 illustrates reduced utilisation of the Wollongong campus during 2021 in comparison to previous years.

Figure 2 : Wollongong Campus entries by mode 2007 -2021



In 2022, a mixed mode of teaching and learning arrangements and flexible work arrangements have continued. The resulting impacts on transport and travel modes are unknown, but monitoring will continue to provide an understanding of changes.

Since 2007 a range of actions have also been undertaken at other campus and accommodation locations to support active and public transport modes, improve parking management and review the needs of staff and students travelling between campuses. These include:

- End of trip facilities to support cycling.
- Advice and support provided with regards to parking management at accommodation and innovation campus.



- Participated in discussions regarding Health precinct planning with regards to traffic, parking and access at Innovation Campus.
- Lobbying for additional bus services to Shoalhaven Campus.
- Reviewing intercampus travel and needs.
- Car share and Bike share schemes for students at Bangalay and Kooloobong accommodation.

3 Strategic Areas

This action plan focuses on the following areas:

- **Active transport** – walking, skateboarding and cycling to campus. Transport strategies are intended to encourage greater take up of these modes instead of private transport.
- **Public transport** – encouraging greater utilisation of free shuttle buses, local bus services, and train travel and ease and equity of access to the campus.
- **Private transport, traffic management and parking** – driving and private vehicle related travel to campus including, carpooling and car share. Also includes parking technologies and carpark infrastructure and policies. Traffic congestion and management.
- **University Fleet management** –reduce carbon emissions and improve efficiencies associated with university transport services.
- **Engagement, communications and collaboration** – work with internal and external stakeholders, be involved in parking transport and access discussions for strategic level projects, provide information and advice about transport, parking and access, and communicate transport, parking and traffic information to the campus community.
- **Data analysis and reporting** –transport and parking surveys, analysis and reporting.
- **Monitoring systems and services** – includes shuttle bus contract, services and utilisation, Parking Guidance System contract, systems and technologies, and bike base locker and end of trip facilities. These services and systems are closely monitored by FMD to maintain effective performance.

4 Transport and Access Actions

The actions listed in the following tables have been identified as projects/initiatives to address the transport and access objectives.



Table 1: Active transport actions

Action	Priority	Indicative Date
Investigate bike share schemes and feasibility (e.g., expansion of existing accommodation bike share scheme, staff bike share scheme, or salary sacrificed bikes).	Low	2023
Encourage local and state government to improve bike/walking routes, crossings and general connectivity/amenity and wayfinding. (e.g., between Wollongong Campus and CBD, and student residences and Innovation Campus).	High	Ongoing
Review bike rack locations and suitability at our campuses (previous review conducted in 2020).	Low	2023
Participate in investigations into improvements to on campus paths, ring road, and pedestrian crossings to ensure cyclist and pedestrian safety and access.	High	2023-2024
Engage with the campus community regarding major changes to active transport routes e.g., new cycle ways.	High	Ongoing and as required
Review current facilities and provide input into new bike bases and end of trip facilities at key locations to encourage the take up of cycling.	High	2023-2024
Participate in local, regional, and national cycling events to raise awareness (such as Ride to Work Day) encourage use of active transport.	Low	Annually (October)
Participate in and promote cycling skills and bike maintenance workshops (in conjunction with stakeholders such as UOW Cycling club and Wollongong City Council).	Low	As required
Donate bikes abandoned on campus to the UOW Cycle Club's Give a bike program (or equivalent stakeholder groups and programs) to enable bike reuse and improved access for students to low cost/ free bikes.	Low	As required
Review the new connection points to be created by the northern entry and liaise with Transport for NSW to optimise crossing points and connections for cyclists and pedestrians to the campus via that entry and the Mount Ousley interchange works.	High	2023-2024
Contribute to improvements to wayfinding on and around our campuses.	Medium	Ongoing and as required
Investigate utilisation of e-bike charging facilities and consider need for expanding options.	Low	2023
Continue to prioritise pedestrian access at Wollongong Campus and on all our regional and metropolitan campuses through the Estate Strategy and Planning guiding principles, other policy documents, procedures, contracts, and enforcement and improve communication and awareness.	Medium	Ongoing



Table 2: Private transport, traffic and parking actions

Action	Priority	Indicative Date
Implement smart parking systems for the Wollongong campus, including app payments and virtual permits.	High	2022-2023
Investigate options to incentivise and encourage greater carpool take-up. (e.g., new carpooling technologies for connecting users, understanding behaviours and barriers).	Medium	2023
Investigate options to reduce reliance on cars (e.g., permit eligibility, availability of long term on street parking).	Medium	2023
Undertake a Parking systems review (e.g parking operations, fee structures and allocations and investigate alternative parking systems (i.e., electronic permits/tickets), exploring parking priority options to support commuters from areas that lack sustainable alternatives and to encourage low carbon vehicle use i.e., use of small fuel-efficient vehicles and carpooling)	High	2022
Participate in investigations into optimisation of the Ring Road and Northfields Ave including crossing points, planned northern entry, congestion issues, and drop off/pick up zones.	High	As required
Investigate options for electric vehicle charge points for commuters to the Wollongong campus, and metropolitan and regional campuses.	High	2022-2023
Review and update existing parking guidelines, procedures and policies (undertake once Parking systems review and implementation is completed).	Low	2023
Investigate feasibility of car share for the general campus community (e.g possible expansion of current accommodation car share scheme).	Low	2023
Review travel options for commuters from areas not well serviced by public transport.	Medium	Annually
Work with Transport for NSW to facilitate the building of the northern entry to Wollongong campus and review carpark operations, pedestrian and cyclist's access and safety and traffic flow that are likely to be impacted by these works.	High	2022 and as required
Support Transport for NSW in traffic management activities needed to improve safety of commuters during peak periods (e.g., start of session traffic management operations).	Medium	Annually, as required
Review needs and options to improve motorcycle parking (e.g., availability, access in more carparks, weather protection)	Medium	2023



Table 3: University fleet management actions

Action	Priority	Indicative Date
Work with Print and Distribution to investigate options for transitioning the University fleet to a green fleet (electric or hybrid vehicles) and associated electric charge points for these vehicles.	Medium	2023
Work with Print and Distribution to investigate options to enable better utilisation and other operational efficiencies of university fleet vehicles (e.g centralised pool cars, booking systems, maintenance).	Medium	2023

Table 4: Public transport actions

Action	Priority	Indicative Date
Monitor need for and explore options for inter- campus shuttle services (e.g., between Wollongong and South West Sydney Campus, Shoalhaven, and Wollongong Campus).	Low	Annually
Ensure future UOW shuttle bus contracts include low floor wheelchair accessible buses and hybrid or other “green” fuel options for UOW Shuttle bus services.	High	2022
Review the need for and explore “park and ride” options (based on campus attendance levels and parking demand).	Low	As required
Participate in review of bus stops/ bus interchange to meet demand, and improvements to infrastructure at bus stops.	Low	2024
Review options to incentivise public transport for commuters and prepare recommendations.	Low	2024
Review inter-campus travel options and demand – i.e., Liverpool, Shoalhaven, Loftus, and Innovation campus commuters.	Medium	Annually
Continue to promote and encourage appropriate bus etiquette (e.g bus marshals to establish bus queuing at the Northfields Avenue interchange) to support the safety of commuters	High	Annually
Review public transport services and capacity, frequency and alignment to on campus activities and work times.	High	Ongoing



Table 5: Engagement, communication and collaboration actions

Action	Priority	Indicative Date
Contribute to the implementation and review of an accessible transport strategy.	Medium	As required
Participate in local and state government discussions and projects (i.e., Keiraville Gwynneville study, Mt Ousley Interchange).	High	2022 and as required
Integrate transport and access objectives into the Estate Strategy and Planning guiding principles and Universal Design Guidelines, and other relevant policy documents (including Campus Access and Order rules)	High	2023
Liaise with campus managers/relevant staff and other stakeholders to review transport options for staff and students at other UOW campuses.	Medium	Annually
Liaise with Student accommodation and provide advice in relation to alternative transport, parking and access at student residences.	Medium	As required
Provide advice in relation to alternative transport, parking and access at Innovation campus in relation to current operations and future development plans (e.g Health precinct).	Medium	As required
Network and liaise with other universities to understand common issues and opportunities.	Low	Annually
Develop and implement behavioural change and awareness programs for commuters.	Medium	Ongoing
Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to support and encourage safe travel by UOW staff and students (e.g., UOW safe and respectful communities and the bus travel ride with respect project, Transport for NSW and Police safety campaigns and initiatives about road use, rideshare and carpooling and cycling)	Medium	As required
Monitor and update <i>Getting to Campus</i> website and transport information on UOW intranet.	Medium	Weekly
Provide transport information and promotion bus and train services, and active transport options through print and digital methods.	Medium	Ongoing
Support Accommodation in providing information on alternative transport options to new student residents (as per Local Government development approval requirements).	Low	As required
Facilitate and attend events to provide information to future and current staff and students (e.g., Enrolments, O week).	Low	Ongoing and as required
Provide advice to event organisers on transport, parking and access.	Low	As required
Transition to new alternatives to the UOW Parking and UOW Shuttle app options.	High	2022



Table 6: Data analysis and reporting actions

Action	Priority	Indicative Date
Carry out the 2023 transport headcount and access survey and analyse data.	High	First Quarter 2023
Monitor and report on progress towards mode share targets and other KPIs.	High	Ongoing
Review current processes for survey collection to ensure improvement and efficiencies prior to next headcount and access survey.	Medium	Last Quarter 2022
Facilitate future transport surveys.	High	2023 and as required
Carry out annual neighbourhood parking surveys and analyse data (as per Local Council requirements).	High	Annually (Feb-Apr)
Provide data and reports as required for enquiries and business needs (e.g., NGER, TEFMA etc.).	Low	As required

Table 7: Monitoring systems and services actions

Action	Priority	Indicative Date
Monitor parking guidance system, infrastructure and carpark operations, and contract management of existing systems.	Medium	As required
Review existing parking guidance systems operation, infrastructure, and contracts. Prepare tender for future parking guidance system contracts and undertake tender review and selection process.	High	2022
Monitor and respond to feedback, enquiries and complaints.	High	As required
Contact management for UOW Shuttle buses (including optimising the existing services and preparing future contracts).	High	As required
Monitor and review bike base utilisation, condition for users, card and key access, lockers, DIY tools and pumps.	Low	Weekly
Current UOW Shuttle and UOW Parking app servers need to be decommissioned. Work with IMTS to find a suitable alternative to these apps that will involve no loss of information, provide improved user experience and ease of back end updating.	High	2022
Monitor parking space allocation and numbers to ensure compliance with development approval requirements of local government.	Medium	As required

5 Delivery

The prioritisation and implementation of tasks and actions defined in this Plan depends on feasibility, priorities, and the availability of resources. A structured approach will be taken to assess, develop and implement actions in consultation with relevant stakeholders and following UOW processes.

