

Economic Development Cadet

Term Contract: 4 Years

Salary \$1,189.09 per week plus superannuation

Qualification: Degree in Economics, Business or related

Commencing: 1 February 2027

About the opportunity

As an Economic Development Cadet, you'll work with Council's Economic Development team to support projects that help strengthen and diversify the Wollongong economy. The team works on a range of initiatives, including supporting small businesses, attracting investment and jobs, and delivering outcomes for the Wollongong Local Government Area.

You'll gain practical experience while contributing to economic development projects, research, analysis and stakeholder engagement. This cadetship is designed for someone who has completed the equivalent of one full time year of study in Economics, Business or a related degree, and is eligible in 2027 to enter their second year of study.

What You'll Learn

- Economic development in a local government setting.
- Research, data analysis and trend interpretation.
- How local economies grow, change and diversify.
- Project support and coordination.
- Stakeholder engagement and communication.
- Written, visual and verbal reporting.
- Critical thinking and problem solving.
- How Council supports businesses, investment and local jobs

What You'll Be Doing

- Supporting economic development projects and initiatives.
- Researching and analysing economic data and trends.
- Preparing written, visual and verbal information.
- Working with teams across Council.
- Supporting engagement with internal and external stakeholders.
- Helping identify opportunities for economic growth.
- Contributing ideas and solutions to local economic issues.

Applications close 11:59pm Sunday 23 August 2026.

Interested?

Contact Emma Kilkelly, Senior Economic Development Officer on (02) 4227 8604 for questions related to the job or attend a session below which will cover what is involved in the program, expectations, tips on how to apply for the roles and the opportunity to meet your potential supervisor. Please come along and meet our team.

Session 1 (Online)	Session 2 (Face to Face)
When: Tuesday 11 August 2026, 5:30 – 6:30pm	When: 19 August 2026, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Location: Online Register here	Location: Wollongong Youth Services 85 Burelli St, Wollongong NSW 2500 Register here

Selection Criteria

Wollongong City Council uses a merit-based recruitment process.

To support the panel in assessing your suitability, please respond to the criterion in detail. Your responses should clearly demonstrate how you meet each requirement, using specific examples that highlight your relevant skills, experience, knowledge, and attributes.

Please ensure your answers are authentic and reflect your own experiences. Responses generated by AI or copied from generic sources are discouraged, as they do not provide the depth or relevance needed for effective assessment.

We also encourage you to reflect on how your approach and values align with Wollongong City Council's core values: Respect, Integrity, One Team, Sustainability, and Courage.

The more detail you provide, the better equipped the panel will be to understand your capabilities and alignment with the role and our organisation.

1. Have you completed the equivalent of one full time year of study in a Degree in Economics, Business or a related discipline and are you eligible to enter your second year of study in 2027? If yes, please provide details of your degree, university and the number of subjects or credit points completed
2. Why have you applied for the Economic Development Cadet position and what interests you most about economic development and the Wollongong economy?
3. This role involves strong writing skills and strong analytical / data analysis skills. . Tell us about a university, work or personal project where you used data to reach a conclusion or make a recommendation. What was your approach and what did you learn?
4. A cadetship is a learning journey where you will develop skills on the job and undertake formal studies which can sometimes be demanding. Provide an example of how you have successfully managed your time with uni/school/employment and or extra curriculum activities.
5. In this role, you will be given a lot of opportunity to develop skills and gain exposure to different areas of Council. How will you demonstrate that you are keen to grow in the role and make the most of the opportunity?

Note: Shortlisted applicants will be required to participate in an interview on the 8 September 2026 Please note these is the only date available for the assessment.



We are looking for someone who:

- Has completed the equivalent of one full time year of study in a Degree in Economics, Business or a related field and is eligible to enter their second year of study in 2027.
- Has a genuine interest in economics, business and the Wollongong economy.
- Demonstrates strong analytical, research and problem-solving skills, with the ability to interpret data and identify trends.
- Has well developed written, verbal and digital communication skills.
- Is reliable, self motivated and takes ownership of their learning and professional development.
- Works effectively as part of a team and builds positive working relationships with others.
- Has strong organisational skills and can manage competing priorities to meet deadlines.
- Adapts well to new challenges, changing priorities and different work environments.
- Demonstrates attention to detail and a commitment to producing high quality work.
- Seeks and responds positively to feedback from mentors, supervisors and colleagues.
- Has a commitment to understanding and applying Work Health and Safety principle

Learn more about our learning pathways program and the benefits of working at council [HERE](#)

Our cadetship program provides you with:

- Learning about local government and how we contribute to our community.
- Exciting and meaningful work that has a real impact.
- Regular mentoring with your supervisor to help develop your professional skills.
- A tailored professional development plan to help you succeed and be your best.
- Valuable industry experience
- Reimbursement of enrolment fees upon successful completion of subjects
- Paid time release to attend classes or undertake distance education required for your study.
- Work laptop provided for the duration of the cadetship
- A fun, friendly and supportive work environment!



2025 Winner
AHRI Awards:
Best Employee
Experience
Strategy



2025 Highly Commended
NSW Local Government
Excellence Awards:
Organisational Diversity
& Inclusion



**Veterans
Employment
Program**



Committed
to Carer
Inclusivity

Why you'll love working here

We're values based, and purpose-led

We care about our community and aim to create an extraordinary Wollongong. This is achieved by working toward the goals in the Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan 2035. Our work is guided by our values of Courage, Integrity, Respect, Sustainable and One Team.

Make a difference in your community

You'll be part of a team that makes a positive impact through the services they provide, the infrastructure they build and the community they create.

Be your authentic self

Our strength is the diversity of our people. Council is an inclusive workplace where everyone is welcome, valued and belongs.

Grow capability and opportunity

We'll invest in you to develop the next generation of leaders who'll deliver services, projects and infrastructure that can only be found in large complex organisations.

Create local and industry connections

As part of a large and complex Council in a major city, you'll establish networks with a range of Local Government Industry peers, bodies, associations and organisations.

Career growth and recognition

Reward and recognition, corporate learning opportunities, study assistance, and leadership development programs to help you grow and succeed.



Next Steps

How to apply

Click apply and submit your up-to-date resume and answer the selection criteria questions. Your application will be assessed following the conclusion of the advertising period.

We will keep you informed during the recruitment process to:

- Advise you of your progress through each stage;
- Explain assessments that you need to complete;
- Notify you of the outcome of your application by email or phone, and
- Provide you with feedback on your request.

For assistance in submitting your application, please contact the Talent Acquisition Team on (02) 4227 7065.

More information

We encourage applications from everyone regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, cultural background, faith, disability or gender identity. People with disability are encouraged to reach out so they can be supported to access adjustments in recruitment processes and in the workplace, to enable them to demonstrate their skills and capabilities to meet the requirements of the job.

Wollongong Council adheres to the principles of a child safe organisation and is committed to the care and protection of all children and young people in the community.

Suitable candidates may be placed on an eligibility list for future opportunities in the team, which may include full time, part time, temporary and or casual.

Suitable candidates are subject to relevant employment screening which includes reference checks, Identity and Medical History Checks, and may also include a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check and Working with Children Check. Employment is subject to clearance of all these checks.

