

15TH WENDWG MEETING

18 – 20 February 2025, Wollongong, Australia

Travel Information and Logistics

The Australian Hydrographic Office is pleased to welcome WENDWG Members and interested observers to Wollongong, Australia for the WENDWG-15 meeting.

LOCATION

Wollongong is a coastal city in Australia, just over an hour's drive south of Sydney. The local area offers a coastline of beautiful beaches and rocky headlands, all with the magnificent forest backdrop of the Illawarra Escarpment. Surfing, swimming, boating and numerous water activities are available. Stunning lookouts occur along many parts of the escarpment, and trails encircle the forests and rocky cliffs of Mt.Keira, which stands overlooking the city. Wollongong has a vibrant culture and thriving urban scene, including eats, arts, golf and iconic attractions. The CBD, restaurants & cafes, and many local attractions are all within easy walking distance of the meeting venue.

For more information visit: <https://www.visitwollongong.com.au/>



We look forward to welcoming you to Australia.

MEETING VENUE

Location:

City Beach Function Centre

1 Marine Drive, Wollongong, NSW 2500, Australia

Telephone: +612 448 3188

Website: <http://citybeach.events>

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2ueyCGRukLUsV5Fb6>



MEETING SESSIONS

The official event will commence on the morning of Tuesday, 18 February and conclude on Thursday, 20 February. Morning, afternoon tea and lunch will be provided each day. Wireless internet access will be provided by the venue in the meeting room.

REGISTRATION

All members and/or observers intending to attend the meeting must register via the new IHO Portal (refer to WENDWG15 invitation Letter 03/2024 for further details).

Please note the registration deadline is **20 January 2025**.

MEETING DRESS

The meeting is being held in the Australian Summer and the weather is likely to be pleasantly warm. Given the weather and that WEND is a Working Group it is recommended that participants dress in business casual clothing, specifically service uniforms, suits and ties are not required.

SOCIAL EVENTS

A no-host get together / ice-breaker is planned for **MONDAY, 17 February** details will be advised closer to the meeting date.

ACCOMMODATION

There are hotels and apartments within 10-15 minute walk from the meeting venue which can cater for every budget. Below is a list of suggested accommodation within a 7-10 minute walk of the meeting venue. Please note that the Sage Hotel has a direct and flat walk and good proximity to dining and services.

- Sage Hotel, 60-62 Harbour Street, Wollongong. Discounted direct booking link: [Sage Hotel Wollongong - City Beach Function Centre Booking Link](https://www.sagehotels.com.au/booking-link) (10 minutes walk) <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sFkXf2XEfyj5G2ez9>
- Novotel Wollongong, Northbeach, 2/14 Cliff Road, North Wollongong, <https://www.novotelnorthbeach.com.au>. (15 minutes walk)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vrpQ7RPuKn3anm5v6>
[Novotel Discount information](#)
Company name: City Beach Function Centre
Company code: SCP17873
Access code: CI218AU134
- Adina Apartment Hotel, 19 Market St, Wollongong
<https://www.adinahotels.com/en/> (8 min walk)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/h5HFsbJi2ozeuZVn9>
- Surfside22 Apartments, 22 Crown Street, Wollongong
<https://www.surfside22.com.au/> (5 minutes walk)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ErpuszQMYyb1igVGA>

SMOKING AND E-CIGARETTES (VAPING)

Australia has strict rules about smoking in public places and within premises. Smoking and Vaping is not permitted within public buildings, including clubs and pubs, and is also not permitted on any public transport, including domestic air flights. There are also restrictions on outdoor smoking including designated smoking areas and no smoking is permitted within 4 metres of the entrance to any public building.

TIPPING

Tipping is not common in Australia and is not expected.

CONTACT DETAILS

The local point of contact for conference details, specific logistics, visa and accommodation queries is:

Michael Andrew

Email: michael.andrew1@defence.gov.au

Please also cc emails to hydro.licensing@defence.gov.au

Mobile: 0434 229 675

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS INFORMATION

Please check the latest information from the Australian Department of Home Affairs website, <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au>. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from entry into Australia. Vaccinations are not required unless you have come from, or have visited, a yellow fever infected country or zone within 6 days prior to arrival.

For information about visa requirements, please visit the immigration department visa tool at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/visit>. If you need a letter of invitation to support your visa application, please contact us using the email address above. Meeting participants that require a visa should ensure it is approved and granted before travelling to Australia, otherwise you will be refused at airline check in.

ENTERING AUSTRALIA

Australia is an island continent, well protected from most animal and agricultural pests and diseases. To help maintain this, strict quarantine regulations apply, and the importation of food, seeds, animals, plants and animal or plant products is **strictly prohibited**. Quarantine regulations are strictly enforced, and penalties are very high. When you arrive in Australia, if you have any doubts about an item in your possession, **declare it**, and one of our helpful Customs Officers will assess it. Australia allows inbound passengers to import modest amounts of duty free alcohol, tobacco and perfume. High value gifts imported into Australia may be subject to a tax, **more**

information at: <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/can-you-bring-it-in>.

TRANSPORT TO WOLLONGONG FROM SYDNEY or SYDNEY AIRPORT

Trains: run approximately hourly, and it is about a 90 minute journey depending on the time of day. Wollongong is on the South Coast line out of Sydney. From Sydney Airport, follow the signs to the train station, located directly below the terminals. You will need to catch the train to Wollongong, then switch at this station to a train on the South Coast Line to Wollongong.

Airport specific Train information is at: <https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/getting-to-airport>

For schedules and a trip planner visit: <https://transportnsw.info/trip#/>

Public transport (Trains, Busses) are cashless, payments can be made by tapping supported credit cards, mobile devices or by obtaining an Opal travel card at the airport.

Uber/Taxi: there are no public buses connecting the airport to Wollongong and for this distance, taxis are very expensive. Uber rides would cost in the order of AUD\$200 each way.

Airport transfers are available from several companies, notably <https://leisurecoastlimousine.com.au/airport-transfers/>. These can be arranged and booked online, and the driver will personally meet you at the airport.

Self-drive rental cars are available at Sydney Airport and in the city (Avis, Budget, Eurocar, Hertz etc.) starting at about AUD\$165.00 per day. Advance booking is recommended and make sure you confirm whether you plan to return the car to their Wollongong office, or back to the Sydney Airport at the end of the week. And remember – we drive on the left hand side of the road!

TRANSPORT AROUND WOLLONGONG

Many restaurants, cafes, beaches and shops are within walking distance of the meeting venue. Taxis and Ubers are easy to find or can be arranged by your accommodation. A taxi rank can be found on the eastern side of the Wollongong train station if you are arriving by train.

A free Wollongong Shuttle bus also runs in both directions (clockwise and anti-clockwise) on a loop around the main city of Wollongong, connecting the Train Station, CBD, University and Boat Harbour. A Route map and timetable can be found in Annex B, or at: <http://www.premierillawarra.com.au/shuttle.html>

CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

The local currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD\$). Major credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express are widely accepted. ATMs (Cashpoints) are very commonplace throughout Australia, and generally accept a wide range of cards, including Cirrus/Maestro cards.

TAX REFUNDS

Australia has a Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10%, which by law is always included in the displayed or marked price. For tourists buying goods in excess of AUD\$300 as part of a single purchase, a refund of the tax is available when the goods are exported. This can be obtained through the Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) desk at your airport of departure.

CLIMATE

February in Australia is Summer and the weather is generally very nice however can be very warm. There are many beaches and ocean swimming pools nearby. For your safety at beaches you must swim in between the flags and not swim at any unpatrolled beach.

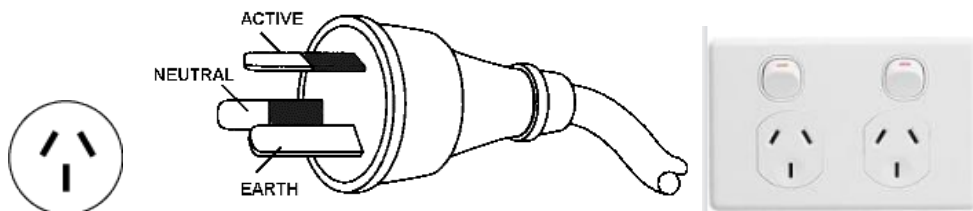
The average Wollongong temperature in February is around 25°C with low/moderate humidity. Additional information on the climate can be found at <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/illawarra.shtml>.

TOURIST INFORMATION AND SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Local sightseeing and tourist information will be available at your Hotel for Wollongong and the surrounding areas. All arrangements should be made and paid for individually.

ELECTRICITY

Electrical voltage is 240V AC, 50Hz. Power outlet boards will be available for use in the meeting room. You will need an adaptor to fit your plug into an Australian 3 pin socket (plug type 'I').



ANNEX A:

Map of Wollongong

AHO Office location on left hand side and Citybeach location on right hand side.



ANNEX B:

