

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held remotely and livestreamed on Council's website on 28 September 2021

Meeting commenced at 6.30pm

Present:

Rochelle Porteous	Mayor
Pauline Lockie	Deputy Mayor
Darcy Byrne	Councillor (6:31pm)
Marghanita Da Cruz	Councillor
Mark Drury	Councillor
Colin Hesse	Councillor
Sam Iskandar	Councillor
Tom Kiat	Councillor
Victor Macri	Councillor
Lucille McKenna OAM	Councillor
Julie Passas	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor
John Stamolis	Councillor
Louise Steer	Councillor
Anna York	Councillor (6:31pm)
Peter Gainsford	General Manager
Graeme Palmer	Acting Director Planning
Cathy Edwards-Davis	Director Infrastructure
Caroline McLeod	Acting Director Community
Peter Livanes	Acting Director Corporate
Katherine Paixao	Acting Manager Governance
Carmelina Giannini	Acting Governance Coordinator

APOLOGIES: Nil

Councillor Byrne entered the meeting at 6.31pm.

Councillor York entered the meeting at 6.31pm.

DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS:

Councillor Raciti declared a significant, pecuniary interest in Item 15 Notice of Motion: Fee Waiver For Sporting Fields Ground Hire as her husband and son belong to the tigers soccer club board and hire the parks at Inner West and she will leave the meeting during discussion and voting.

Councillor Lockie declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 Infrastructure Contribution Reforms Status Update as it refers to the City of Sydney and she works there.

Motion: (Porteous/McKenna OAM)

THAT Council note the disclosure of interest.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion: (Macri/Hesse)

THAT the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 7 September 2021 and Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

PUBLIC FORUM

The registered speakers were asked to address the meeting. The list of speakers is available on the last page of these minutes.

Condolence motion: Frank Scarfo

Motion: (Macri/Porteous)

THAT Council send a condolence letter to Frank Scarfo's family.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

C0921(3) Item 1 Mayoral Minute: Balmain Rowing Club: Community Club of the Year

Motion: (Porteous)

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the correspondence from Mr Joe Grech, President of the Balmain Rowing Club;**
- 2. Congratulate the Balmain Rowing Club on its 140th year;**
- 3. Congratulate the Balmain Rowing Club on being awarded Winner, Sport NSW Community Club of the Year 2021 and Winner, NSW Rowing Para Shield 2021; and**
- 4. Congratulate former club member, James Talbot, on his representation of Australia**

at the Tokyo Paralympics**Motion Carried**

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

The Mayor, Clr Porteous tabled the letter from Balmain Para-Rowing Program and it is available at the end of these minutes.

C0921(3) Item 27 Mayoral Minute: Council and Community Covid Crisis Intervention Taskforce

Motion: (Porteous)

THAT Council endorses the following actions as identified in the Mayoral Covid Crisis Intervention Roundtable with local Community Sector NGOs on Wednesday 22 September:

- 1. Council formally acknowledges the vital role and services Inner West NGOs provide to the community;**
- 2. Council forms a Council and Community Sector Covid Crisis Intervention Taskforce, led by the Mayor, with the aim of Council and the local NGO sector working in partnership to address the local impacts of Covid on those most at risk and how together we can get everyone vaccinated and keep everyone fed, safe and well during this Pandemic;**
- 3. Council Officers work with the local NGO sector and the Taskforce to identify areas where the community can assist with the delivery of goods and services such as the need for food delivery drivers, spare laptops / technologies or other goods for our vulnerable communities and this be promoted via social media and other suitable mediums;**
- 4. Information about the local NGOs working with council, the services they are providing to assist people in financial and wellbeing distress and their contact information be added to Council's website;**
- 5. Council investigates how we can loan a vehicle from council's fleet on a temporary basis to assist with food deliveries;**
- 6. Council continues to support Council Officers and the local NGO sector with the Volunteer Inner West Framework currently in development;**
- 7. Council notes the concerns raised from Roundtable attendees about the ongoing funding required to provide support for mental health services, emergency housing and food security once the public health restrictions are lifted;**
- 8. Council officers communicate any relevant grants, EOIs or funding opportunities to local NGOs;**

9. Council write to the NSW Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care and the Australian Government, Department of Health Therapeutic Goods Administration, requesting that rapid antigen COVID-19 tests be made available free of charge and that the conditions requiring supervision of testing by a qualified health professional be amended to allow NGOs to administer the tests following suitable training, noting that rapid antigen COVID-19 tests are widely available for use in the US, UK and Europe;
10. Officers work with the Exodus Foundation to provide guidance and assistance regarding the proposed road closure for the Christmas Day celebrations including waiving of the road closure fee of \$1701.60, supply of the barricades and meeting the costs (estimated \$1000) for the Traffic Management Plan to be funded from the traffic and parking management consultants budget;
11. Council signs up to the *Raise the Rate for Good* campaign;
12. Council investigates options regarding employment opportunities for refugees; and
13. A terms of reference be brought back to the next Council meeting.

Motion Carried

- For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York
- Against Motion:** Cr Passas

Councillor Passas left the Meeting at 8:07 pm.

C0921(3) Item 28 Mayoral Minute: Western Harbour Tunnel – Community Update Public Meeting

Motion: (Porteous)

THAT:

1. Council opposes the Western Harbour Tunnel;
2. The Western Harbour Tunnel is a project that brings no benefits and significant negative impacts to the Inner West. Consultation with the local community and Council has been poor. Process has been poor;
3. The Western Harbour Tunnel plans to dredge contaminated sediment from the harbour floor. We are told that shallow floating silt curtains will capture the toxic plume but it is likely some will escape into the harbour. This toxic plume will impact on recreational users of the Balmain peninsula –the dog walkers, the fishers and the swimmers - including users of the Dawn Fraser Baths. It will also threaten Sydney Harbour’s marine life;
4. There are three exhaust stacks linked to WestConnex and the Western Harbour Tunnel and none will be filtered. Best practice worldwide is to filter stacks. One stack is located almost next door to Rozelle Primary School. Parents are extremely concerned. They are living through the unacceptable air quality impacts of WestConnex and they know worse may be on its way;

5. The Inner West is a unique, historic part of inner-Sydney that for future generations deserves to be protected from multiple major infrastructure projects. The Balmain peninsula is a particularly unique and precious part of the Inner West that deserves the highest degree of protection. The Western Harbour Tunnel will impact highly valued heritage conservation areas. We saw the damage from WestConnex tunnelling on many local homes. It is expected, despite assurances, that we will see many more local homes and buildings damaged particularly from shallow tunnelling;
6. Yurulbin Point in Birchgrove is a much loved local park. The impact on the park will be devastating. It will be closed to the community for about 4 and a half years;
7. A comprehensive health study on the documented impacts of WestConnex and the predicted impacts of the Western Harbour Tunnel, including consideration of the cumulative impact of other major construction projects is urgently required;
8. There has not been sufficient consideration of cumulative impacts from the multiple infrastructure projects planned and underway the Inner West – particularly in the Rozelle, Lilyfield & Balmain areas and in White Bay and Glebe Island. Had a comprehensive cumulative impact assessment been undertaken *before* this project was approved, it would likely have recommended cancellation of the Western Harbour Tunnel on the basis of unacceptable impacts;
9. Council note that the Mayor and Council staff recently gave evidence on behalf of Council to the Parliamentary Inquiry on the Impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link;
10. Council convene a Public Meeting to explain Council’s submission to the EIS and the Parliamentary Inquiry and provide a community update. The Public Meeting will be held in November and will be held virtually. The format of the meeting will be in accordance with Council’s Event invitation, Speaking and Public meeting policy which includes inviting Ward Councillors to speak at the event; and
11. The Public Meeting be promoted through all of Council’s communication channels and in the upcoming newsletter.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Passas

Councillor Passas returned to the Meeting at 8:13 pm.

C0921(3) Item 29 Mayoral Minute: Sydney Park Junction (formerly the King Street Gateway)

Motion: (Porteous)

THAT Council:

1. Urgently writes to the Minister for Transport requesting an extension of the exhibition period to 20 October in order for council to be able to brief Councillors and conduct direct consultation with the local community;

- 2. Receive a Councillor Briefing on the Sydney Park Junction proposal as soon as possible; and**
- 3. Consults directly with the local community on the proposal as outlined by Transport for NSW in the exhibited Environmental Factors.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion - Suspension of Standing Orders

Motion: (Porteous/Kiat)

THAT Council bring forward items 12, 18, 24 and 25 to be dealt with at this time.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Cr Passas

C0921(3) Item 12 Notice of Motion: Road Safety outside Annandale North Public School

Motion: (Byrne/Stamolis)

THAT Council:

- 1. Writes to the Transport Minister requesting that Transport for NSW install risk mitigation measures to reduce the danger to children crossing Johnston Street, Annandale, in front of Annandale North Public School. This will also include a request for Transport for NSW to employ a Crossing Supervisor at the site to increase visibility and correct crossing behavior;**
- 2. Investigates what road calming measures Council can install near the crossing to increase the safety for people crossing Johnston Street in front of Annandale North Public School with the results of the investigation to be reported to an ordinary Council meeting; and**
- 3. Refer this item to the next Local Traffic Committee and the committee commence immediate assessment and investigation.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

C0921(3) Item 18 Notice of Motion: Use of parks during lockdown

Motion: (Byrne/Porteous)

THAT Council:

- 1. Keep public toilets at parks open until after sunset and provide additional waste bins and / or waste collections at parks to cater for the increased use of parks for COVID-safe picnics and gatherings of up to 5 fully vaccinated adults now taking place under the amended public health orders;**
- 2. Also increase the supply soap and toilet paper and the frequency of cleaning of all toilets in parks; and**
- 3. Keep public toilets at parks open until between 7pm-8pm.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

C0921(3) Item 24 Notice of Motion: Disabled Access at Dawn Fraser Baths

Motion: (Porteous/Passas)

THAT:

- 1. Council urgently undertake a disability access audit of Dawn Fraser Bath;**
- 2. Council urgently consult with the disability community in the inner west including the IWC Access Committee and key individual and organisational stakeholders on what changes are needed at the Dawn Fraser Baths to make them completely accessible;**
- 3. The results of the consultation to be brought to Council in a report to the Ordinary Council meeting on October with recommendations on works required, estimate costings and identification of a funding source for the works; and**
- 4. Noting that Council will be in the caretaker period from November 5, Council provides clear direction now that pending a satisfactory report and identification of a funding source that Council gives in principle support to the undertaking of the necessary works to ensure the Dawn Fraser Baths are fully accessible.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

C0921(3) Item 25 Notice of Motion: Toilets in Camperdown Memorial Rest Park and Enmore Park

Motion: (Lockie/Steer)

THAT Council:

- 1. Urgently installs temporary toilets (portaloos) in Camperdown Memorial Rest Park;**
- 2. Makes alternative arrangements to open the toilets at Enmore Park while the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre is closed; and**
- 3. Allocates funding from savings in utility expenses to cover costs associated with these actions.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Resumption of Standing Orders**Motion: (Porteous/Kiat)**

THAT standing orders be resumed.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Councillor Passas left the Meeting at 9:12 pm.

C0921(3) Item 2 Aquatic Centres Entry Fee-Social Security Recipient Concession**Motion: (Kiat/Byrne)****THAT:**

- 1. Council receive and note the community engagement outcome which shows very strong community support the adoption of the harmonised \$1.20 Social Security Recipient Concession fee for Inner West Aquatic Centres;**
- 2. Council immediately adopt the proposed 'Social Security Recipient Concession' fee of \$1.20 for all Aquatic Centres;**
- 3. Any unbudgeted decline in revenue as a result of adoption of the lower fee to be accounted against general fees and charges revenue and reported to the next quarterly budget review;**
- 4. Council write to all members of the Inner West Taking Action on Poverty Roundtable notifying them of the change to Council's pool entry fees for social security recipients; and**
- 5. Council officers prepare a report to be tabled at an Ordinary Council meeting, outlining the transition to aquatic and recreation services being brought in house. This should include:**

- a) **A plan for establishing the Inner West Fitness pass allowing members to access all Inner West aquatic and fitness facilities for the cost of a single membership; and**
- b) **A review of the impacts of harmonised aquatic fees changes on each aquatic centre.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Passas

Councillor Passas returned to the Meeting at 9:20 pm.

C0921(3) Item 3 Infrastructure Contribution Reforms Status Update

Motion: (Porteous/Lockie)

THAT Council:

1. **Opposes the proposed Infrastructure Contribution reforms; and**
2. **Increase awareness of the Infrastructure Contribution reforms implications via relevant communication channels.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Cr Passas

Councillor Raciti left the Meeting at 9:26 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

9.26pm - The Mayor, Clr Porteous adjourned the meeting for a short recess.

9.41pm– The Mayor, Clr Porteous resumed the meeting.

C0921(3) Item 4 Investment Report at 31 August 2021

Motion: (Porteous/Stamolis)

THAT the report be received and noted.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

Councillor Raciti returned to the Meeting at 10:10 pm.

C0921(3) Item 5 Community Engagement Outcomes - De-amalgamation Business Case

Motion: (Porteous/Byrne)

THAT:

- 1. Council receives and notes the De-amalgamation Cost Benefit Engagement Outcomes Report;**
- 2. Council notes and accepts that the NSW Electoral Commission won't approve the yes and no case but has already signed off on the poll question as per Council's resolution;**
- 3. Council engage a freelance researcher who undertakes work for RMIT ABC Fact Check to review the draft yes and no case and the final flyer be presented to the Ordinary Meeting on 12 October; and**
- 4. Councillors be invited to submit any published documentation or comments on the yes no case by 12PM Friday 1 October 2021 to the General Manager who will forward to the fact checker for their consideration.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Crs Passas and Raciti

Councillor Hesse left the Meeting at 10:28 pm.

C0921(3) Item 6 Zero Waste Strategy Targets

Motion: (Da Cruz/Steer)

THAT Council note the report and receive a further report on:

- 1. Providing baselines for the waste streams identified in report;**
- 2. Including Dog Poo and Cigarette Butts as litter measures;**
- 3. Providing Drop off for small items eg x-rays through product stewardship/EPA schemes at community centres/libraries/service centres as well as businesses;**
- 4. Including Avoid and Reuse in communication and education;**
- 5. Providing Baseline, targets and progress on website;**
- 6. Reporting on processing of waste streams - noting earlier resolution that none is incinerated and reporting on where our waste goes;**
- 7. Use of Recycled Materials in Council construction projects and other activities;**
- 8. Council waste streams including waste collected in parks, community centres,**

offices and construction;

9. **Simpler, accurate and clearer material in single location on website including service request and booking systems;**
10. **A Review advice provided to community about waste services through customer service; and**
11. **Providing public bins for streaming waste**

Motion Lost

For Motion: Crs Da Cruz, Kiat, Porteous, Stamolis and Steer

Against Motion: Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Raciti and York

Foreshadowed Motion (Byrne/McKenna OAM)

THAT Council note the short and long term targets under the Zero Waste Strategy.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Cr Da Cruz

Councillor Hesse returned to the Meeting at 10:32 pm.

C0921(3) Item 7 Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 25 August 2021

Motion: (Steer/McKenna OAM)

THAT Council:

1. **Note the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 25 August 2021; and'**
2. **Thank Councillors Steer and McKenna OAM for their sterling work on the ARIC during this term of Council.**
3. **Amend the charter in order for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee chair to attend Councillor briefings twice a year to inform Councillors and this be put on public exhibition.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion - Suspension of Standing Orders

Motion: (Porteous/Byrne)

THAT Council bring forward item 17 and deal with items 8 and 17 together as they relate.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

C0921(3) Item 8 Notice of Motion: Disposal of Sharps during vaccination roll out and

C0921(3) Item 17 Notice of Motion: Sharps

Motion: (Macri/Byrne)

THAT Council:

- 1. Receive a report back on the sharps service:**
 - a) When and why it was introduced;**
 - b) Was it offered to all pharmacists;**
 - c) Why is the service offered to pharmacists only;**
 - d) Why only 15 of 50 pharmacists in the Inner West have taken it up;**
 - e) What is the nature of the service; and**
 - f) Is the service consistent across pharmacists. Some say that they are receiving additional services such as sanitary pads and air fresheners, others do not receive this.**

- 2. Receive a report back now that the vast majority of our community have been vaccinated (75% first dose and almost 50% second dose) why didn't Council propose this much earlier. The report is to detail why it wants to shift this cost to Council rather than to State Government.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis, Steer and York

Against Motion: Nil

Councillor Raciti retired from the Meeting at 10:54 pm.

C0921(3) Item 9 Notice of Motion: Holding Yard

Motion: (Passas/Macri)

THAT Council investigates the feasibility of a Council Secure Yard that would be available 24/7 for our residents to park their boats, caravans and trailers with an annual fee charged.

Motion Lost

For Motion: Cr Passas

Against Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Stamolis, Steer and York

Absent: Cr Raciti

Procedural Motion

Motion: (Porteous/Stamolis)

THAT items 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 26 be deferred to an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, 5 October 2021 at 6.30pm.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Macri, Passas, Porteous, Stamolis and Steer

Against Motion: Crs Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, McKenna OAM and York

Absent: Cr Raciti

Meeting closed at 11.05 pm.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Item #	Speaker	Suburb
Item 1:	Joseph Grech	Birchgrove
Item 2:	Dylan Griffiths	Ashfield
Item 5:	Pip Hinman	Newtown
Item 14:	Safdar Ahmed	Hornsby
	Mike Nix	Japan
	Lena Nahlous	Ashfield
Item 16:	Gem Romuld	Gwynneville
	Jack Robertson	Birchgrove
Item 21:	Anthony Brooks	Moore Park
Item 22:	Dominic Case	Balmain East
	Kathy Bluff	Annandale
Item 23:	Michael Davis	Balmain East
Item 24:	Jane Spring	Drummoyne
Item 26:	Phillipa Scott	Leichhardt
	Liz Atkins	Stanmore

Item 1 Mayoral Minute: Balmain Rowing Club: Community Club of the Year - Tabling of Letter from Balmain Para-Rowing Program



24 September 2021

BY EMAIL - rochelle.porteous@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Mayor Rochelle Porteous
 Inner West Council
 PO Box 14
 Petersham NSW 2049
 AUSTRALIA

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

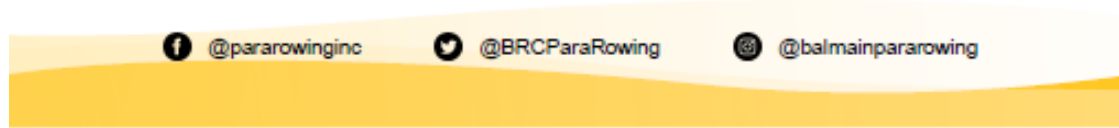
RE: Balmain Rowing Club

Balmain Para Rowing Program Inc. would like to add its congratulations to Balmain Rowing Club as it enters its 140th year of operation and to James Talbot, a former member of that Club, on his representation of Australia at the Tokyo Paralympics.

Balmain Para Rowing Program Inc. has been enabling persons with a disability to access the sport of rowing for over 10 years. Starting as an informal group of volunteers at Balmain Rowing Club, the program developed after the three coaches of the para-rowers then at the club sought additional equipment and opportunities for those athletes, in recognition that there were too few opportunities and insufficient equipment and facilities to cater for their needs.

Having been formally incorporated in 2014 as an independent association at the request of Balmain Rowing Club, the program is dedicated to providing coaching, equipment, facilities, opportunities and fundraising for para-rowers. The Program has been operating successfully to support rowers from Balmain Rowing Club throughout this time and is grateful to the club for making this possible.

James Talbot was the second member of the Para Rowing Program to represent Australia at a Paralympics. Jeremy McGrath was our first Paralympian competing in the 2016 Rio Paralympics. Jeremy was able to remain a member of, and was supported by, the Balmain Para-Rowing Program while completing his Paralympic training. James Talbot began his para rowing career as a member of the Balmain Para Rowing Program in 2016 but was then required to move to another club to further his training.





Our para rowers also represented Australia at the Global Games in 2019 comprising more than half the Australian athlete and coaching team, and winning over half the medals.

The Para Rowing Program provides its own Level 2 qualified coaches and conducts its own fundraising for equipment which may be very specialised to meet the individual needs of para rowers, and does not come cheaply.

With the limitations that have arisen at Balmain Rowing Club with

- A lack of disabled access to the rowing shed,
- Limited equipment storage,
- training facilities and support,

the Program saw the need for a new community facility for para rowing. The Program wishes to expand its programs to be truly inclusive for both para and non-para rowers, encouraging persons from all backgrounds in the community including those with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island heritage, to join the sport. The Program is unable to achieve this at Balmain Rowing Club, and as such has been in the process of developing a broader community-based program currently known as 'Community Rowing Club', for some time.

The Program was recently successful in identifying a site for this purpose in the Leichardt Park Master Plan passed by Inner West Council in late 2020. This development has received the support of both Balmain Rowing Club and Rowing NSW, the State Sporting Organisation for rowing, amongst other organisations.

The Program is currently working toward obtaining a DA to build a truly community-based facility on that site, and are enormously grateful for the support of Inner West Council in this endeavour. We enclose our annual report, submission to Council regarding the proposed facility, and letters of support for further information. Due to their size, those documents can be viewed by clicking on the following link:
<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AnsyR2nYW0lai8xfd23fyE6s2LF0pg?e=LOCihw> .

Invitation

We invite you to attend one of our Saturday morning training sessions (all conducted via videoconference due to the COVID pandemic) to meet our rowers and see how the Program has continued to train during lock down, ensuring our athletes remain fit and socially connected. The Program has purchased equipment for rowers who have been unable to access equipment at Balmain Rowing Club during the recent lockdowns.

We request that this letter be tabled at the Council meeting on 28 September 2021 along with that of Mr Joe Grech, President of Balmain Rowing Club. We look forward to the continued success of both Balmain Rowing Club, and the Balmain Para-Rowing Program through its 'Community Rowing Club' initiative, as both organisations are committed to increasing



participation in the sport, and as we continue to work to break down the barriers for people to access the wonderful sport of rowing, and the natural resource of Iron cove.

Kind Regards

Anne, Barbara and Liam
Balmain Para-Rowing Program Inc.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>CC: Deputy Mayor, Cnr Pauline Lockie
Stanmore Ward - Damun (Port Jackson Fig)
pauline.lockie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Darcy Byrne
Balmain Ward - Baludarrri (Leather Jacket)
darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Marghanita Da Cruz
Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Mark Drury
Ashfield Ward - Djarrawunang (Magpie)
mark.drury@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Colin Hesse
Marrickville Ward - Midjuburi (Lillypilly)
colin.hesse@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Sam Iskandar
Marrickville Ward - Midjuburi (Lillypilly)
sam.iskandar@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Tom Klat
Ashfield Ward - Djarrawunang (Magpie)
tom.klat@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> | <p>Cnr Victor Macri
Marrickville Ward - Midjuburi (Lillypilly)
victor.macri@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Lucille McKenna OAM
Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
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Ashfield Ward - Djarrawunang (Magpie)
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