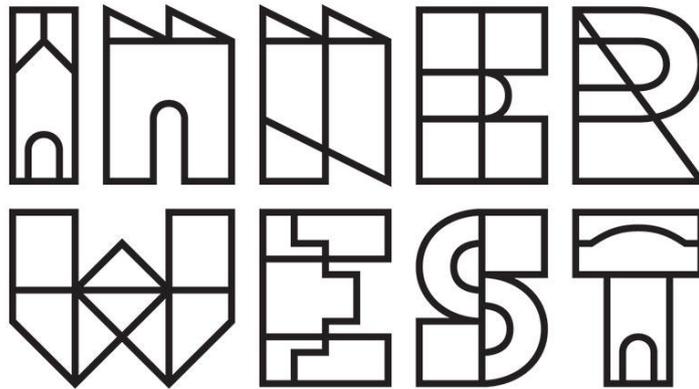


# AGENDA

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**COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021**

**6.30pm**

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Location: Remote Meeting

## Live Streaming of Council Meeting

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent government, this meeting of the Inner West Council is being streamed live on Council's website. By speaking at a Council meeting, members of the public agree to being recorded and must ensure their speech to the Council is respectful and use appropriate language. A person who uses defamatory, discriminatory or offensive language may be exposed to liability for which Council takes no responsibility. Any part of this meeting that is held in closed session will not be recorded

## Pre-Registration to Speak at Council Meetings

Speaking at a Council Meeting is conducted through an online software application called Zoom. Members of the public must register by 2pm of the day of the Meeting to speak at Council Meetings. If you wish to register to speak please fill in a [Register to Speak Form](#), available from the Inner West Council website, including:

- your name;
- contact details;
- item on the Agenda you wish to speak to; and
- whether you are for or against the recommendation in the agenda.

## Are there any rules for speaking at a Council Meeting?

The following rules apply when addressing a Council meeting:

- keep your address to the point, the time allowed for each speaker is limited to three minutes. This time limit applies, no matter how many items are addressed by the speaker;
- when addressing the Meeting you must speak to the Chairperson;
- the Chairperson may curtail public participation where the information being presented is considered repetitive or irrelevant; and
- only 3 speakers for and against an Agenda Item are allowed.

## What happens after I submit the form?

You will be contacted by Governance Staff and provided with a link to the online meeting. Your request will then be added to a list that is shown to the Chairperson on the night of the meeting. Public speakers will be allowed into the Meeting when it is their time to speak.

Where Items are deferred, Council reserves the right to defer speakers until that Item is heard on the next occasion.

## PRECIS

<b>1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Notice of Webcasting</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Disclosures of Interest (Section 451 of the Local Government Act and Council's Code of Conduct)</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Moment of Quiet Contemplation</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b>	<b>Page</b>
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<b>7</b>	<b>Public Forum – Hearing from All Registered Speakers</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Condolence Motions</b>	
	Nil at the time of printing.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Mayoral Minutes</b>	
	Nil at the time of printing.	
<b>10</b>	<b>Reports with Strategic Implications</b>	
	Nil at the time of printing.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Reports for Council Decision</b>	
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<b>12</b>	<b>Reports for Noting</b>	
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**14 Reports with Confidential Information**

Reports appearing in this section of the Business Paper are confidential in their entirety or contain confidential information in attachments.

The confidential information has been circulated separately.

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C1021(2) Item 32	Request for Reimbursement of Legal Expenses	
C1021(2) Item 33	Outcome of Code of Conduct Investigation	

**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 140<sup>th</sup> 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:**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Suburb</b>
<b>Item 1:</b>	Joseph Grech	Birchgrove
<b>Item 2:</b>	Dylan Griffiths	Ashfield
<b>Item 5:</b>	Pip Hinman	Newtown
<b>Item 14:</b>	Safdar Ahmed	Hornsby
	Mike Nix	Japan
	Lena Nahlous	Ashfield
<b>Item 16:</b>	Gem Romuld	Gwynneville
	Jack Robertson	Birchgrove
<b>Item 21:</b>	Anthony Brooks	Moore Park
<b>Item 22:</b>	Dominic Case	Balmain East
	Kathy Bluff	Annandale
<b>Item 23:</b>	Michael Davis	Balmain East
<b>Item 24:</b>	Jane Spring	Drummoyne
<b>Item 26:</b>	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 140<sup>th</sup> 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.

 @pararowinginc

 @BRCParaRowing

 @balmainpararowing



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!AnsyR2nYW0lai8xd23fyE6s2LF0pq?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

*(Signature)*

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>CC:</b> Deputy Mayor, Cnr Pauline Lockie<br/>Stanmore Ward - Damun (Port Jackson Fig)<br/>pauline.lockie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Darcy Byrne<br/>Balmain Ward - Baludarrri (Leather Jacket)<br/>darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Margharita Da Cruz<br/>Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)<br/>margharita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Mark Drury<br/>Ashfield Ward - Djarrawunang (Magpie)<br/>mark.drury@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Colin Hesse<br/>Marrickville Ward - Midjuburi (Lillypilly)<br/>colin.hesse@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Sam Iskandar<br/>Marrickville Ward - Midjuburi (Lillypilly)<br/>samiskandar@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Tom Klat<br/>Ashfield Ward - Djarrawunang (Magpie)<br/>tom.klat@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> | <p>Cnr Victor Macri<br/>Marrickville Ward - Midjuburi (Lillypilly)<br/>victor.macri@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Lucille McKenna OAM<br/>Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)<br/>lucille.mckenna.oam@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Julie Passas<br/>Ashfield Ward - Djarrawunang (Magpie)<br/>julie.passas@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Vittoria Raciti<br/>Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)<br/>vittoria.raciti@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr John Stamolis<br/>Balmain Ward - Baludarrri (Leather Jacket)<br/>john.stamolis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Louise Steer<br/>Stanmore Ward - Damun (Port Jackson Fig)<br/>louise.steer@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Cnr Anna York<br/>Stanmore Ward - Damun (Port Jackson Fig)<br/>anna.york@innerwest.nsw.gov.au</p> |
|---|---|

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 1  
**Subject:** DE-AMALGAMATION YES / NO CASE  
**Prepared By:** Peter Gainsford - General Manager

---

## RECOMMENDATION

**Council adopts the Yes and No case flyer as distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting (attachment 2)**

---

## DISCUSSION

At the Ordinary Council meeting of 24 August 2021 Council resolved as follows

*THAT:*

1. *Council place the cost benefit report and the resolved de-amalgamation poll question on public exhibition, in keeping with the community engagement policy, with the outcomes of the consultation to be reported to the second Ordinary Council meeting in September;*
2. *YES and NO cases on de-amalgamation be included on Council's website, E-news, Flyers and the Inner West Council Newsletter;*
3. *Both YES and NO cases be translated into several languages;*
4. *Both the YES and NO cases be brought back to Council for approval after endorsement from the NSW Electoral Commission;*
5. *Council make clear to the community the caveats and limitations of the Morrison Low Report as they have identified in their report; and*
6. *The case for demerger references the statement in the legislation that State Government will fund the demerger.*

Council engaged an independent copywriter to prepare information from the Morrison Low report as a summary of the advantages and disadvantages for each option in accordance with the above resolution. The draft was circulated to Councillors previously and can be found as Attachment 1.

Subsequently Council was advised that the Electoral Commission could not endorse the YES and NO case and has now engaged a researcher who is undertaking the role of fact checker.

At the 28 September Ordinary Council Meeting resolved as follows:

*THAT Council:*

1. *Receives and notes the De-amalgamation Cost Benefit Engagement Outcomes Report;*
2. *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. *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.*

A final copy of the YES and NO case flyer was not available at the time of printing this report and will be distributed to Councillors the day prior to the Council Meeting and for the purposes of the report is referred to as attachment 2.

Council has a [dedicated web page](#) on the elections, including a section on the de-merger poll in the drop-down concertina.

Other scheduled actions include:

- Media release
- Social media
- Home page web banner
- Email signature
- E-news
- Flyer (including YES and NO case) distributed to all households and businesses
- Inner West Council News November edition.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Draft De-amalgamation Flyer Yes and No case without fact check
- 2 Draft De-amalgamation Flyer Yes and No case after fact check (to be circulated prior to the meeting)

*Inner West Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation who are the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Inner West local government area is situated.*

Inner West Council is a proud, diverse and vibrant community of more than 200,000 people who respect and value different cultures, ideologies and experiences.

At the Local Government elections on 4 December 2021, the community will be asked to elect local representatives and also to answer an additional important question about the future of Inner West Council.

**Remain with one Inner West Council or return to the original three councils?**

In 2016, the NSW Government formed Inner West Council by bringing together Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils.

Recently, the NSW Government made it possible for Councils to put forward a business case for de-amalgamation. In our local government area, de-amalgamation would mean separating the one Inner West Council into the three original councils: Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville.

Inner West Council is considering preparing a de-amalgamation proposal for the NSW Minister for Local Government who is responsible for the final decision.

Your views will be key to informing Council’s position on the value of proceeding with a proposal for the Government to consider.

**Weighing-up the ‘yes’ case and the ‘no’ case for de-amalgamation**

Like any major decision, having as much information as possible will help to ensure Council takes the right path.

With this in mind, Inner West Council commissioned management consultants, Morrison Low, to provide independent advice on the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of de-amalgamating.

Morrison Low found the following potential advantages and disadvantages to de-amalgamation:

<b>The YES case for de-amalgamation</b>
Significantly improve access by members of the community to elected councillors and their council. See table 1 for more information
Costs associated with a de-amalgamation would be fully-funded by the NSW State Government (subject to a business case)
Gain the ability to reset by shedding some assets and processes, and starting a new organisation from scratch

Offer the opportunity to create further efficiencies and / or wind-back some of the measures introduced by Inner West Council
Increase the ability to work at the grassroots level with community and representative groups and develop a stronger understanding of local issues and opportunities

Table 1: Comparison of representation between individual councils and Inner West Council.

Council	Councillors	Representation population / councillor
Ashfield	12	3,966
Leichhardt	12	5,147
Marrickville	12	8,597
Inner West Council	15	14,168

The NO case for de-amalgamation
Ongoing costs and benefits of \$22.1 million including borrowing costs, employee benefits and delivery costs of new and increased services
The three councils will have a significant operating funding shortfall, which means that a rate increase will be needed. See table 2 for more information
Loss of staff
Loss of efficiencies achieved through the amalgamation across services, policy and organisational operations
Loss of ability to leverage the increased scale and capacity that allows for a broader range of large-scale and significant projects

Table 2: The average rate increase that will be needed to fund the shortfall if councils are de-amalgamated.

Council	Current average rate	New average rate	Increase
Ashfield	\$ 1,723	\$2,044	\$321
Leichhardt	\$1,836	\$2,016	\$180
Marrickville	\$1,376	\$1,673	\$297

It is important to note that Morrison Low highlighted limitations in their advice including that there was no prescribed methodology/process for a de-amalgamation of councils in NSW, and so the report has needed to make a number of assumptions. Also, time limitations and the availability of some information influenced the approach and depth of analysis.

In determining your views on the 'yes' case and the 'no' case, following are some additional points to consider:

- A study of the social and demographic characteristics across Inner West Council found more similarities than differences among the community.
- Independent research that is undertaken annually by Inner West Council to guide service delivery indicates that the community is largely satisfied with its performance.
- An analysis of *Community Strategic Plans* before and after the amalgamation suggests that all have shared themes driven by the aspirations of their communities. There are no significant social advantages nor disadvantages to remaining as one council or de-amalgamating.
- An analysis of *Local Environmental Plans* before and after the amalgamation shows the aims of land-use planning in the natural and built environments have remained consistent. There are no significant environmental advantages nor disadvantages to remaining or de-amalgamating.

#### **How can I share my views?**

You will have the opportunity to share your views on this issue at the NSW Local Government elections on 4 December 2021 by answering 'yes' or 'no' to the following question:

*In May 2016, Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils were amalgamated into one local government area by the State Government.*

*Do you support the Inner West local government area being de-amalgamated, so as to restore the former local government areas of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville?*

#### **Next steps**

It is important to note that the poll is 'non-binding'. This means that the response from the community to the question of de-amalgamating forms one important part of a significant body of evidence that the newly elected Council will consider to decide on a de-amalgamation proposal for the NSW Government.

Inner West Council will keep the community updated on the process.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 2

**Subject:** ENDORSEMENT OF THE COOKS RIVER LITTER PREVENTION STRATEGY AND TARGET OF 50% LESS LITTER BY 2025

**Prepared By:** Luke Murtas - Manager Development Assessments

**Authorised By:** Graeme Palmer - Acting Director Development and Recreation

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council:**

1. Endorse the draft Cooks River Litter Prevention Strategy; and
2. Endorse the key target of the strategy for the Cooks River Catchment of 50% less litter by the year 2025.

## DISCUSSION

Inner West Council works actively to improve the health of the Cooks River and catchment. Since 2004 it has partnered with other Cooks River councils through the Cooks River Foreshore Working Group (2004-2010) and the Cooks River Alliance (CRA) since 2011.

Over the past year, the CRA has been working with the River Canoe Club of NSW, CRA partners and community groups to develop a *Cooks River Litter Prevention Strategy* (CRLPS). A similar strategy is under development for the Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour. The development of both strategies is funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

The final draft of the CRLPS is included at **Attachment 1**. The aim was to release the final version in September 2021 for endorsement by the catchment councils prior to the pre-election caretaker period.

This approach is essential to ensure the strategy is publicly available to support applications for the next round of EPA Litter Prevention Grants, anticipated to open in early October.

The CRLPS sets a target to reduce the amount of litter in the catchment and the Cooks River by 50% by 2025. The same target is proposed for the Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour. It supports delivery of other plans, including Inner West Council's Community Strategic Plan "Our Inner West 2036," particularly the following outcomes identified in that plan:

- *Public spaces are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places, seamlessly connected with their surroundings*
- *Inner West is a zero-waste community with an active share economy*
- *The community is water sensitive, with clean, swimmable waterways*

### **NSW Government - Litter Prevention**

Litter reduction has been a key NSW State Government commitment since 2015, when a target was set to reduce litter in NSW by 40% by 2020. This target was exceeded, with a 43% reduction achieved. Local litter prevention projects have been important to achieving this, including several recent projects in Inner West, such as:

- Petersham cigarette butt litter prevention trial in 2018 (via an [EPA program focused on cigarette butt litter prevention](#))
- Roberts Corner Happy Plant Space completed in 2020
- Twelve new tangle bins installed in foreshore parks in 2021

The NSW Government is continuing its commitment to litter prevention. The new NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 sets a 60% target for overall litter reduction by 2030, and 30% target for plastic litter reduction by 2025. These commitments include phasing out problematic plastics and \$38 million for litter prevention programs to 2027.

### **CRLPS**

The CRLPS outlines how local litter prevention efforts could be expanded, including three main directions:

1. **Capacity building** to strengthen litter prevention leadership, develop partnerships and enable broader involvement, building towards a network of people and organisations who work together collaboratively.
2. **Pilot projects** to trial new ideas and improve our understanding of what works locally, building towards a set of successful and scalable projects across the catchment.
3. **Improved litter data collection and reporting** to better target action where it will have the greatest effect and monitor progress towards targets.

Council has a central role in each of these areas and will be eligible for funding under the EPA Litter Prevention Grants. The draft strategy sets out that the Alliance will play a co-ordinating role for councils, community and other catchment land managers.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Additional financial commitments beyond current expenditure are not currently considered essential to support the strategy. Council is an ongoing financial member of the CRA.

Inner West Council already invests in litter prevention through its current programs. Council could consider how these existing programs can be leveraged for future grant funding, positioning itself to take substantial and coordinated action towards achieving the 50% litter prevention target, without incurring additional costs.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. [CRA-Litter strategy](#)

**DRAFT VERSION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP**



# COOKS RIVER LITTER PREVENTION STRATEGY

*50% less litter by 2025*

**DRAFT**

**AUGUST 2021**

*Prepared by Civille for the NSW River Canoe Club and the Cooks River Alliance*



Item 2

Attachment 1

This Litter Prevention Strategy has been prepared for the River Canoe Club of NSW in collaboration with the Cooks River Alliance and support of local councils, government agencies and community groups including:

- Bayside Council
- Canterbury-Bankstown Council
- Inner West Council
- Strathfield Council
- Sydney Water
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Cooks River Valley Association
- Wollie Creek Preservation Society
- The Mudcrabs
- Crab Walkers

This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority, Waste Less Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.



Client: River Canoe Club of NSW  
 Project Name: Cooks River Litter Prevention Strategy  
 Project Number: 2045  
 Date: 29.07.2021  
 Report Contact: Alexa McAuley  
 Report Authors: Alexa McAuley, Jean Brennan, Thomas Hawthorne

Revision	Status	Date	Checked
A	Preliminary draft	15.04.2021	AM
B	Draft for project management team review	30.06.2021	AM
C	Draft for EPA review	29.07.2021	AM
D	Draft for distribution to project reference group	08.08.2021	AM



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Item 2

Attachment 1

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Item 2

Attachment 1



## Acknowledgement of Country

*We respectfully acknowledge the Wangal, Cadigal and Gameygal, the Traditional Custodians of the Cooks River catchment, and also acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have made the river their home. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future.*

*For over a thousand generations, the Cooks River catchment has been home to Aboriginal people who have fostered cultural and spiritual connections to the river as it evolved over many millennia.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (TO BE COMPLETED)

Item 2

Attachment 1





Item 2

Attachment 1



# 1. INTRODUCTION

*Over several decades, the Cooks River community has invested a significant effort into cleaning up the River. As its condition improves, it is time to take a more strategic approach to litter prevention in the catchment.*

## 1.1 A PLAN FOR THE COOKS RIVER

### ***Focused on reducing litter***

This Cooks River Litter Prevention Strategy was commissioned by the River Canoe Club of NSW (RCC) with funding from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The RCC has a strong association with the Cooks River with its clubhouse located on the banks of the River in Marrickville. Over the past few years, the RCC has been working to clean up the River by organising clean up events including:

- Annual Paddle Against Plastic (Figure 1)
- Mullets monthly clean ups (Figure 2)

Building on the success of these activities, the RCC commissioned the Litter Prevention Strategy to focused on reducing the amount of litter in the Cooks River, where its persistent presence affects people’s enjoyment and perceptions of the River, detracting from local amenity and highlighting the River’s poor condition.

*Litter is commonly understood as the small pieces of rubbish left lying on the ground in public places*

This strategy has been prepared for all the people and organisations with an interest in improving the health of the River with a current or potential role to play in litter prevention in the catchment.

### ***For a loved and healthy river***

The Cooks River is much loved by the local community and there has been a significant effort over several decades to clean up the River and its catchment. A significant part of this effort has been focused on litter:

- The Mudcrabs volunteers (Figure 3) clean up litter where it gets trapped in the mangroves.
- Local councils have developed litter collection programs.
- Councils and Sydney Water have installed gross pollutant traps and litter booms to intercept litter in the River and its tributaries
- The Cooks River community played a notable role in the campaign to introduce a beverage container deposit scheme in NSW.

Other improvements in and around the Cooks River include bank naturalisation and revegetation (for example, Sydney Water’s Cup and Saucer Creek project pictured in Figure 4), new wetlands and rain gardens, parkland and park improvements. Paths and bridges have been upgraded, and recently a new kayak launch was installed at Ewen Park, making it easier for the community to access and enjoy the River.

While these changes have improved community perceptions of the River, there are still greater aspirations to continue improving the health of the River and its catchment. The CRA has developed a vision for 2030 in collaboration with community representatives:

*“A loved and healthy river valley enriching the heart of Sydney”*

This statement is supported by four directions:

1. A biodiverse river valley supporting a clean river
2. Aboriginal ways of thinking are valued from Yana Badu to Kamay



Figure 1: 2020 Paddle Against Plastic event



Figure 2: The Mulletts outside the RCC clubhouse

3. Every community accessing and enjoying the river
4. Holistic and cooperative approaches are guiding river restoration

These directions have informed the development of this litter prevention strategy, and the goal to reduce litter will contribute to the vision of a loved and healthy river.

**Tackling a complex problem**

Litter in the Cooks River is part of a large scale and complex problem. Litter comes from all over the River’s catchment - this is all of the land uphill from the River, a total area of 100 km<sup>2</sup> (see Figure 5). Different items become litter for many different reasons, and make their way down to the River via the stormwater system. Litter also has broader environmental impacts that extend well beyond the River. The Cooks River flows into Botany Bay, conveying litter into the Bay and the Tasman Sea. In the world’s oceans, a significant proportion of marine debris is derived from land-based litter. This issue has become more visible and well-known in recent years due to the ubiquity and increasing quantities of litter, especially plastics, across the planet, its persistence in the environment and the harm it can do to marine wildlife. Addressing litter in the River needs to consider these complex and interconnected issues.

The care and control of the Cooks River and its catchment is shared between local councils, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Sydney Water, the NSW State Government, industry and community groups. The management of litter is also complex. From its sources in the catchment to its fate in the marine environment, responsibilities for litter are fragmented. While there are many organisations working on different aspects of the problem, no one organisation has the capacity to tackle

the problem as a whole, and with each organisation constrained by available resources, effective coordination is a challenge.

This strategy has addressed these challenges by partnering with responsible organisations and identifying how coordinated local action can play a bigger role in litter prevention.

**By taking a collaborative approach**

To ensure that the strategy responds to the important aspects of the litter problem and addresses the needs of key stakeholders, this Litter Prevention Strategy was developed in partnership with the CRA member councils and Sydney Water, NSW EPA and community groups. A project reference group provided input throughout the development of the strategy; this group included representatives from each of the CRA’s members:

- Bayside Council
- City of Canterbury-Bankstown
- Inner West Council
- Strathfield Council
- Sydney Water Corporation

The project reference group also included these representatives of local community groups with a particular interest in litter prevention:

- Cooks River Valley Association
- Wollie Creek Preservation Society
- The Mudcrabs
- Crab Walkers

Broader community input was also sought via the Community Litter Forum held in March 2021, and a community survey in August 2021.



Figure 3: The Mudcrabs after a clean up



Figure 4: Bank naturalisation by Sydney Water

## 1.2 FOCUSED ON THE CATCHMENT

The Cooks River, its main tributaries, its 100 km<sup>2</sup> catchment area and local government areas are shown in Figure 5. The catchment includes all the land that is uphill from the River and drains towards it.

The Cooks River begins as a series of small water-courses near Graf Park in Bankstown and flows 23 km in a generally easterly direction to enter Botany Bay just south of Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport. Its catchment includes some of the most heavily urbanised and industrialised areas in Australia.

Litter has been a persistent issue in the Cooks River and its tributaries for many years. While river clean ups and in-stream measures, such as litter traps and booms, are making a difference, significant quantities of litter continue to flow into the Cooks River and its tributaries from all over its catchment. Therefore, to reduce the amount of litter reaching the River, this strategy looks to the River's catchment, aiming to reduce the amount of litter before it reaches waterways.

The transport and fate of litter in the environment can be thought of as a journey, "from its inception as something produced through a manufacturing process... [all the way] into the wider environment – into drains, waterways, estuaries, and perhaps out to sea." (Lavarack 2021, p. 5). Along its journey (see Figure 6), litter is:

- **Produced, supplied and sold** (for example, packaged products are manufactured, supplied to retail outlets and sold to consumers).
- **Used** - at which point the packaging can either be disposed of thoughtfully, or may become litter.
- **Littered items** can be found anywhere across the catchment but tend to be more concentrated in hotspots.
- **Litter flows into waterways** via the stormwater system. Once in the environment, litter is subject to wind and rain. It tends to break up into smaller pieces and becomes increasingly dispersed. Once washed into waterways, it can travel vast distances from where it originated.

As well as the steps in the litter journey, Figure 6 also shows how this Litter Prevention Strategy is focused on the central part of the litter journey: the steps from the moment a piece of litter is disposed of inappropriately, to the point at which it flows into waterways.

*This strategy is focused on litter prevention in the Cooks River catchment*

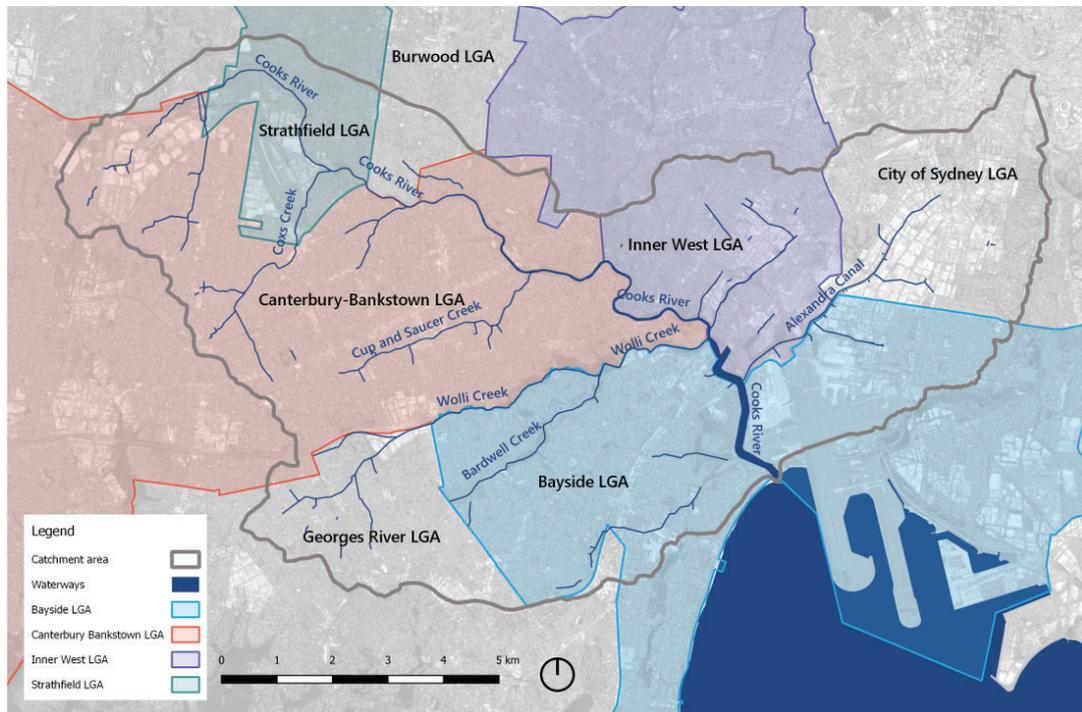


Figure 5: Cooks River catchment showing local government areas. CRA member councils are highlighted

Beyond the catchment, shown in the top left of Figure 6, there are potential measures that could stop litter at the source. These include stronger packaging rules, bans on single-use items and better recycling. These sort of measures are best implemented at national or state level, and are beyond the scope of this strategy. However, the new [NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041](#) and the [NSW Plastics Action Plan](#) are relevant here.

There are also measures that can be used to trap litter within the stormwater system and clean up litter from waterways. These are indicated on the right in Figure 6. These measures are also important but are not the focus of this strategy. Stormwater management is part of local government and Sydney Water’s activities.

The strategy is focused within the Cooks River catchment, where local action can help prevent litter by changing littering behaviour.

Litter prevention at this catchment scale can involve measures such as:

- **Rewarding responsible behaviour** (e.g., with incentives to avoid single-use items)
- **Education and awareness** (e.g., local litter campaigns)
- **Regulation and enforcement** (e.g., fines for littering)
- **Infrastructure and clean-up** (e.g., upgrading bins and cleaning up public places to encourage people to dispose of litter correctly)
- **Evaluation and monitoring** (to better understand litter distribution and quantities, littering behaviour and the effectiveness of litter prevention measures at a local level)

These five litter prevention action areas are defined in the NSW EPA’s litter prevention framework and discussed further in Section 4. While the EPA’s litter prevention framework applies statewide, these types of litter prevention measures are most effective when applied locally, by local organisations, involving local people.



Figure 6: The litter journey (adapted from Lavarack 2021) showing the focus of this strategy on litter prevention in the Cooks River catchment

## 1.3 SUPPORTED AT STATE & LOCAL LEVELS

### State level support

While the NSW State Government is taking action to stop litter at the source and support local litter prevention, it is also focused on the marine environment and the impacts of litter there. The [NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy](#) (NSW Government 2018) identifies litter, waste, debris and microplastics as one of the top three threats or stressors to social, cultural and economic benefits of the marine estate. It includes an initiative to improve water quality and reduce litter, including an action to implement a targeted marine litter campaign and establish a Marine Litter Working Group.

In 2015, litter reduction became a NSW Government commitment and a target was set to reduce litter by 40% by 2020 (based on volume and a 2013-14 baseline). The 40% reduction target was exceeded in 2020, with a 43% reduction achieved (DPIE 2021a). To reach this goal, state government provided grant funding and developed tools to help people tackle litter in local places. Several projects have been funded within the Cooks River catchment.

The 2019 [NSW Litter Prevention Strategy](#) (NSW Government 2019) summarises the main activities under the program. This strategy continues until 2022, however the program has been refreshed with the new NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (DPIE 2021a). This sets new targets for litter reduction including:

- A new overall litter reduction target of 60% by 2030
- A plastic litter reduction target of 30% by 2025

The Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy makes a number of commitments to support these targets including support for local litter prevention:

- \$38 million for litter prevention programs over the next six years. The strategy indicates that this will be

used to establish partnerships “designed to support capacity building and empower industry, community organisations and stakeholders to take ownership of local litter”.

- Continued support for councils’ litter reduction and illegal dumping prevention activities with more than \$10 million in grants.
- A new litter data framework.

Actions that tackle litter at the source, including phasing out problematic plastics and tackling problem littered items, are detailed in the [Plastics Action Plan 2021](#) (DPIE 2021b). This action plan:

- Sets out a timetable to phase out lightweight shopping bags in 6 months and various other single use plastics in 12 months (including plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, expanded polystyrene food service items, and cotton buds with plastic sticks).
- Promises to investigate a new Extended Producer Responsibility scheme that will make tobacco companies take responsibility for the litter impacts of their products (to align with the Australian Government’s recently announced taskforce on cigarette butt litter).
- Commits \$500,000 to help plastic manufacturers install systems to prevent nurdles (very small pellets of plastic used as raw material in manufacturing plastic products) entering our waterways and to provide guidance for councils that regulate plastics manufacturers about best-practice management of nurdles.

These actions, summarised in Table 2, will all help support litter prevention efforts in the Cooks River catchment.

**Table 2: NSW Government commitments to litter prevention**

NSW Government programs	Litter targets	Commitments		
		Stopping litter at the source	Supporting local litter prevention	Reducing litter in the marine environment
NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (NSW Government 2018)				Targeted marine litter campaign and Marine Litter Working Group
NSW ‘Waste Less Recycle More’ initiative and the Litter Prevention Strategy (NSW Government 2019)	Reduce the volume of litter by <b>40% by 2020</b>	\$50 million was committed to litter prevention from 2012 to 2021 (NSW Government 2019)		
NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (DPIE 2021a) and the NSW Plastics Action Plan 2021 (DPIE 2021b)	Overall litter reduction target of <b>60% by 2030</b>  Plastic litter reduction target of <b>30% by 2025</b>	Phase out of problematic plastics (including single-use plastics); Investigation of cigarette butt Extended Producer Responsibility; Action on nurdles	<b>\$38 million</b> for litter prevention programs to 2027; <b>\$10 million</b> in council grants; New litter data framework	Progress to litter reduction targets is monitored using a marine litter measure (Key Littered Items)

### Local commitments

The local councils of the Cooks River catchment (see Figure 5) have adopted goals for healthy waterways, clean public places and improved waste management in their community strategic plans (CSPs) - refer to Table 1.

The structure of the CSPs reflects the structure of local councils, where responsibilities for healthy waterways, public spaces and waste management are typically divided across different sections of each organisation. Litter prevention is a topic that cuts across all these areas, and litter prevention has a role in achieving all of these outcomes.

Some of the councils are currently working on more detailed strategies and plans for healthy waterways, clean public places and improved waste management. For example, the City of Canterbury-Bankstown has begun working on a 'Clean City Strategic Plan', a 'Catchment and Waterways Strategic Plan' and a 'Resourceful City Strategic Plan' (City of Canterbury-Bankstown 2020).

**Table 1: How council CSPs call for healthy waterways, clean public spaces and improved waste management**

CRA member councils (current CSP title)	Relevant directions in the CSPs	Relevant goals/outcomes/pathways in the CSPs		
		Healthy environment and waterways	Clean public places	Improved waste management
<a href="#">Strathfield (Strathfield 2030)</a>	"High quality, well planned, sustainable, clean and well maintained urban and natural environments ..."	Thriving and resilient environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve, restore and enhance Strathfield's biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency</li> <li>Develop environmental programs to educate and inform the community</li> <li>Encourage sustainability and resource efficiency</li> </ul>	Clean, attractive and well maintained neighbourhoods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enforce clean public areas and health standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce waste and improve reuse and recycling</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Canterbury-Bankstown (CB City 2028)</a>	"A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas"	Improve local waterway health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the ecological condition of our waterways</li> <li>Be leaders in catchment management</li> </ul>	Clean the City using advanced recycling and waste services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the streets clean</li> <li>Prosecute polluters and illegal dumpers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and support initiatives that save our natural resources</li> <li>Collect and manage waste and recyclables</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Inner West (Our Inner West 2036)</a>	"An ecologically sustainable Inner West"  "Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods"	The community is water sensitive, with clean, swimmable waterways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate to deliver water-sensitive plans, decisions and infrastructure</li> </ul>	Public spaces are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places, seamlessly connected with their surroundings	Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support people to avoid waste, and reuse, repair, recycle and share</li> <li>Advocate for comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Bayside (Bayside 2030)</a>	"In 2030 Bayside will be green, leafy and sustainable"	Waterways and green corridors are regenerated and preserved	Our waste is well managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal dumping is a thing of the past</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can reduce my waste through recycling and community education</li> </ul>

## 1.4 TARGETING 50% LESS LITTER BY 2025

*This strategy aims for 50% less litter in the Cooks River catchment by 2025*

Section 2 outlines the thinking behind this goal, explaining what is meant by 'litter' in this strategy (Section 2.1), and the reasons this strategy is focused on reducing litter in the catchment (particularly in the public domain),

Section 3 explores the current state of litter in the catchment, however many gaps remain before establishing a credible baseline for the current quantity of litter in the catchment. This is one of the priority strategic directions recommended for early action.

The following sections outline the proposed approach to work towards the goal over the next four years, in terms of:

- **Where** to tackle litter (Section 3) based on available evidence about the litter types, key littered items, littered places and litter hotspots in the catchment.
- **How** to tackle litter (Section 4) based on the EPA's litter prevention framework and examples of past successes in the catchment and in similar contexts.
- **Who** will tackle litter (Section 5) and how the capacity for litter prevention can be improved amongst the network of organisations and individuals involved.

Figure 7 illustrates how all these elements come together to form the approach to the Litter Prevention Strategy. The strategy is illustrated as a funnel, which takes a wide range of ideas and filters them down to a set of strategic directions. Figure 7 also shows how evaluation and review should be used to refine the strategy over time based on the outcomes from the first round of actions.

The strategic directions are presented in Section 6. These are focused on:

- **Building the capacity** of the network of organisations and individuals who will work in partnership to reduce litter in the catchment. The first step here is 'enabling' - short-term actions focused on enabling the organisations and individuals who will lead this process. In the longer-term, the aim is to strengthen partnerships and grow the community of individuals and organisations involved in litter prevention in the catchment.
- **Monitoring** to develop a sound understanding of litter in the local context: its sources, types, the places it accumulates, its transport and fate in the River. As mentioned above, establishing baseline litter data is a high priority. Monitoring will also be used to design local litter prevention projects, test their effectiveness and report on progress.
- **Pilot projects** to trial different measures to tackle litter in the local area.

This document is a blueprint for action, but implementation will be dependent on the key players in the catchment to make their own commitment to litter prevention, allocate resources, apply for funding and take action. It identifies certain actions in which the CRA and its members are engaged in the short-term, as well as ideas for further actions, not yet adopted.

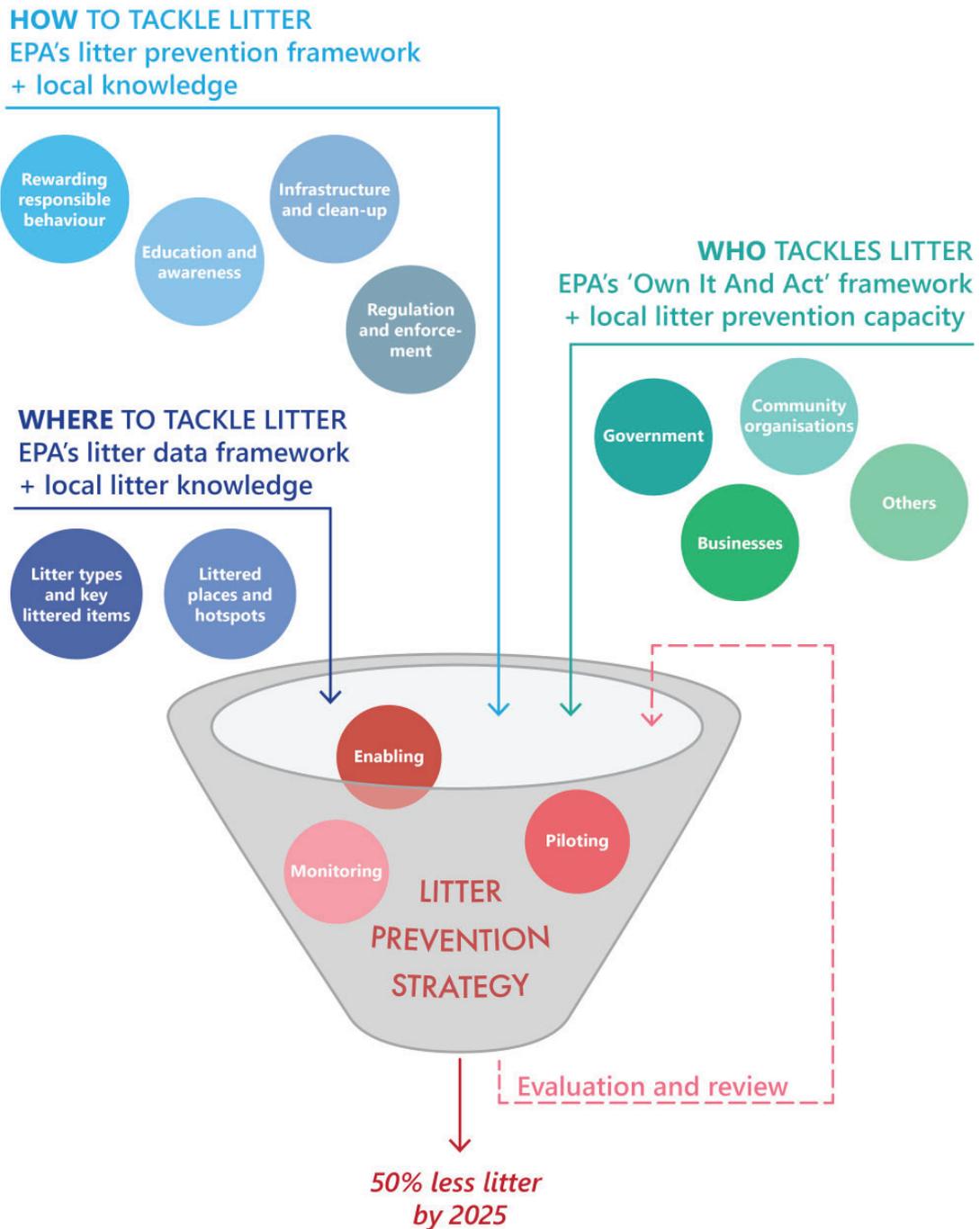


Figure 7: Approach of this Litter Prevention Strategy



Item 2

Attachment 1

## 2. THE PROBLEM OF LITTER

*Litter is ubiquitous in urban areas, and detracts from local amenity. As litter inevitably moves from urban catchments into waterways and the marine environment, it also has serious environmental impacts.*

## 2.1 WHAT IS LITTER?

Litter is refuse, debris or rubbish deposited in a place. It is defined in NSW legislation (section 144A of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*) as:

*"a) any solid or liquid domestic or commercial refuse, debris or rubbish including any glass, metal, cigarette butts, paper, fabric, wood, food, abandoned vehicles, abandoned vehicle parts, construction or demolition material, garden remnants and clippings, soil, sand or rocks, deposited in or on a place, whether or not it has any value when or after being deposited in or on the place*

*and*

*b) any other material, substance or thing deposited in or on a place if its size, shape, nature or volume makes the place where it has been deposited disorderly or detrimentally affects the proper use of that place."*

This strategy is focused on litter up to the size of a shopping bag. This type of litter is a significant issue. DPIE (2021a) states that "in FY 2020, an estimated 575 million items of plastic litter generated in NSW made its way into our waterways and terrestrial and marine environments".

The strategy does not specifically address illegal dumping, which involves larger items, although litter and illegal dumping often occur together. It is also focused on litter in the public domain, where land management is a public responsibility.

The definition of litter above includes natural materials such as sediment, which has a range of sources in the urban environment. This litter prevention strategy is focused on items that are deposited in a place by people, rather than materials which are derived from erosion, wear of surfaces, or atmospheric deposition. While litter can be considered a stormwater pollutant, this strategy does not attempt to cover all types of stormwater pollutants.

Microplastics are also closely related to litter, but are not a specific focus of this strategy. Microplastics are small plastic pieces, normally defined as being less than 5 mm long. Microplastics come from a variety of sources including:

- Primary sources such as microfibres, microbeads and plastic pellets used in various materials
- Secondary sources, where larger plastic products (including many littered items) break down into microplastics in the environment.



(a) Typical littered items



(b) Typical illegal dumping



(c) Microplastics

Figure 8: Types of litter

## 2.2 HOW LITTER GETS INTO THE RIVER

Litter in the Cooks River has its sources all over the catchment. The catchment and its main waterways are shown in Figure 9. Wherever litter occurs in the catchment, it has the potential to wash into the stormwater drainage system and be transported into the River. Litter's journey from the catchment to the marine environment is shown in Figure 10. Figure 10 also shows where various measures are working to address litter throughout its journey, as well as where litter 'leaks' through and continues to escape into the environment.

Before litter washes into the stormwater system, it may be intercepted within the catchment:

### ***Litter may be picked up by people***

Council crews regularly clean up litter from public places - litter picking tends to be particularly focused on well-used public places such as parks and town centres. The total time that council staff spend picking up litter is not known, however in one example, the City of Canterbury-Bankstown identified that staff were spending more than 8 hours per week picking up litter in six parks along the Georges River. This was reduced to less than 5 hours per week after a litter prevention project (City of Canterbury-Bankstown 2018a).

In the Cooks River catchment, in partnership with the CRA, Correctional Services also undertakes litter clean up activities. Over the last six years, almost **15,000 bags** of rubbish and weeds have been collected by Correctional Services crews within the catchment. This has primarily been litter from the riparian corridor and green space. In the Cooks River catchment the Crab Walkers also pick up litter in local streets. In 2018, their first full year of crab walking, the group collected **667 bags** of litter.

There are events such as Clean Up Australia Day, which encourage people to pick up litter in local places. Unfortunately, Clean Up Australia Day data is not reported on a catchment basis. Other people may also pick up litter, either individually or as part of a group/organisation or local business.

Key limitations of litter picking are:

- It's labour intensive
- It's always easier to pick up larger items such as takeaway litter, and harder to pick up smaller items such as cigarette butts.

### ***Litter may be collected by street sweepers***

Council crews use street sweeping vehicles to pick up litter from roads and other paved areas. Street sweepers

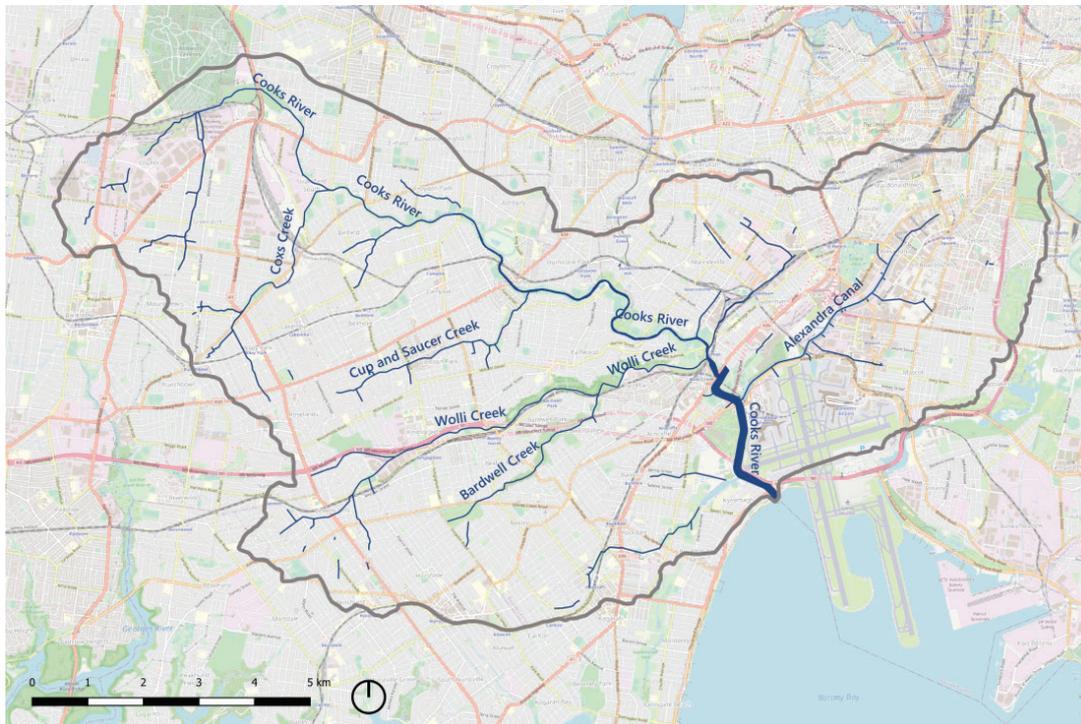


Figure 9: Cooks River catchment and its waterways

can cover large areas relatively quickly and can pick up many smaller items such as cigarette butts, however they can't reach all places. They can only operate on paved surfaces and in spaces where there is enough room for the vehicles to access.

Between the catchment and the River, litter moves through the stormwater system. There are still further points at which it may be intercepted, however each of these are also limited in what they can achieve:

**Litter may be intercepted in stormwater devices**

Both the councils and Sydney Water maintain gross pollutant traps (GPTs), trash racks and litter booms across the catchment. Sydney Water removes an average of **190 cubic metres** of litter per year from its GPTs and trash racks across the catchment, and **200 cubic metres** of litter per year from its litter booms in the Cooks River and Muddy Creek.

Gross pollutants are typically defined as debris over 5 mm size. Being designed to target these pollutants, GPTs typically include a screen, which may have a mesh size as small as several millimetres. They can therefore often intercept materials as small as cigarette butts.

However GPTs are not located on every drainage system and they cannot treat all flows. They are typically sized to filter runoff from frequent rain events, while runoff in larger storm events bypasses these devices.

Trash racks are typically located on open stormwater channels. They need to cope with higher flows and larger debris than GPTs, and their racks are robust structures with wide openings. Therefore they can't intercept smaller litter items. They are also bypassed or overtopped in large storm events.

Litter booms float on the surface of the River and intercept floating litter such as beverage containers and polystyrene pieces. They don't trap all the litter in the water column, nor do they necessarily span the entire width of the channel.

**Litter may be picked out of the River**

As noted in Section 1.2, there are several regular events focused on cleaning up litter from the River, including:

- The Mudcrabs volunteers clean up litter from the mangroves near Close Street and near the Racecourse in Canterbury (last year, **176 volunteers** removed **232 bags** of litter from the river).
- The Mullets volunteers clean up litter from the River by canoe (no numbers were available).



Figure 10: Litter's journey from the catchment, through the stormwater system to the River

- The Paddle Against Plastic is an annual river clean up organised by the River Canoe Club. It includes a clean-up of 'heavy-duty' debris from the river, as well as litter collection. During the 2020 Paddle Against Plastic, **429 volunteers** removed **1.2 tonnes** of litter.

Limitations of the river clean ups are:

- By the time litter has made its way into the River, it's already having an impact on the health and amenity of the waterway.
- Litter gets caught in hard-to-reach places where it is difficult to collect.
- As litter spends longer in the environment, it tends to break up into smaller pieces that are harder to collect.
- Collecting litter relies on a significant amount of voluntary time, which could otherwise be spent elsewhere.

*As litter travels further from where it was deposited, cleaning it up becomes more and more challenging. Interventions closer to the source can be more targeted*

Once litter is left in the catchment, there is some chance it will be removed from the environment via one of the interventions described above, however none of these interventions are (or ever can be) completely effective, and litter **leaks through** each step in this system. Some items, particularly smaller items, are harder to intercept and more likely to end up in the broader environment.

Furthermore, as litter makes its way through this system from the catchment to the ocean, it becomes **increasingly dispersed** in the environment: litter breaks into more pieces and travels to more distant places.

Taking action in the catchment, before litter reaches the stormwater system, means that:

- Some litter may be avoided altogether**, also avoiding its impacts on local places.
- Litter can be addressed before it becomes dispersed in the environment**, where there are lower costs and effort involved in its collection.
- Litter can be addressed before it becomes contaminated**, potentially at a point where it can still be recycled or reused, and therefore where there are lower costs involved in its disposal.



## 2.3 LITTER IN THE COOKS RIVER

While litter in the catchment may be intercepted on its way to the River as explained above (for example, it may be picked up by someone, collected by a street sweeper or trapped in a gross pollutant trap, trash rack or litter boom), none of these measures can ever be 100% effective at intercepting litter, and much of it still 'leaks' through these systems and into the River.

In the Cooks River, the Mudcrabs told us that the most common types of litter they see in the River are all types of plastic:

- Wrappers, plastic bags, straws, bottle caps and tamper evident bands, microplastics
- Bottles are less common since the NSW Container Deposit scheme was implemented but still significant.

Notable is the prevalence of consumer packaging amongst the litter items found in the Cooks River mangroves.

*The most common littered items accumulating in the Cooks River are **common consumer items** including all sorts of packaging*

The **Key Littered Items Study** (Foulsham, 2021) is looking at the litter that accumulates in estuaries along the NSW coast. One of the study sites is along Muddy Creek in the Cooks River catchment.

Early findings from the Key Littered Items Study support the observations of the Mudcrabs. Foulsham (2021) indicated that the most common litter items found in the study have been:

1. Snack and confectionery packaging
2. Plastic lids
3. Straws
4. Cigarette butts
5. Other food packaging
6. Plastic cups
7. Other plastic bags
8. Lollipop sticks
9. Toys, ribbons, party poppers
10. Tape

The prevalence of common consumer items is notable here. Also notable is that around half of all the items identified have been small fragments, indicating the extent to which littered items are breaking up and the fragments persisting in the environment.



Figure 11: Typical litter in the Cooks River mangroves

## 2.4 IMPACTS OF LITTER

Litter causes impacts from local to regional and global scales.

Litter impacts on the amenity of **local places** including parks, plazas, streetscapes and other public places. It detracts from people’s ability to use and enjoy public places. Litter can also impact on the ecological function and biodiversity in local places. Local councils and other organisations invest significant resources cleaning up litter in these places.

In the **Cooks River**, litter accumulates in the mangroves, particularly in the Canterbury area. Mangroves in Cooks River tributaries including Wollie Creek and Muddy Creek are also known to be sites where litter accumulates. In the Cooks River, litter impacts both on human use and enjoyment of the River, as well as on the River’s natural values. Litter is not the only pollutant in the Cooks River, however it has been a long-term focus of River clean-up efforts. Volunteers including the Mudcrabs and Mulletts invest their time to undertake regular litter clean-ups in the mangroves.

Litter that doesn’t get trapped in the mangroves flows through to the broader **marine environment**, where some materials can persist for many decades, breaking down slowly. Over its lifetime, litter can be transported far from its source, causing widespread impacts on marine life. Microplastics are a particular concern in the marine environment due to their ease of ingestion and accumulation in the food web.

The NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (NSW Government 2018) identifies litter, waste, debris and microplastics as one of the top three threats or stressors to social, cultural and economic benefits of the marine estate. In the ocean, plastic makes up the vast majority of marine debris, and a significant proportion of it comes from land-based sources including litter.

*“It is estimated that, on average, around **80–90% of ocean plastic comes from land-based sources**, including via rivers, with a smaller proportion arising from ocean-based sources such as fisheries, aquaculture and commercial cruise or private ships.” (Gallo et al 2018).*



(a) Local amenity



(b) Habitat within the Cooks River



(c) Broader marine environment downstream

Figure 12: Places impacted by litter



Item 2

Attachment 1



### 3. WHERE TO TACKLE LITTER

*Litter is distributed throughout the Cooks River catchment, however it is more concentrated in some areas than others. If we can understand where litter comes from, we can focus our efforts to greatest effect.*

### 3.1 SOURCES OF LITTER

Litter is not evenly distributed across the catchment, but more concentrated in some places than others. An understanding of the sources of litter helps in identifying where to focus litter prevention efforts.

Sources of litter can be understood in terms of the behaviours that contribute to littering, the types of items littered and the places that are littered.

The diagram in Figure 13 below, from the NSW EPA’s litter prevention toolkit (NSW EPA 2019) illustrates various sources of litter.

Central to this picture is littering behaviour. All litter originates from people. Whether litter comes from dumping, events, vehicles or pedestrians, people’s behaviour is at the heart of the problem. Therefore in order to prevent litter, it is important to understand littering behaviour, and to understand behaviour change methods.

However it is also worth noting that there are some non-human factors in this picture, for example:

- Wildlife rummaging in bins and dispersing litter
- Litter escaping from bins during kerbside collection
- Wind dispersing litter
- Stormwater runoff moving litter from one place to another

#### Why do people litter?

There is a significant body of research on littering behaviour. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (2013) has published a useful review of NSW and international litter research, “Lessons from the litter-ature”. Based on this review, NSW EPA (2017, p.11) explains that “research shows that there is no such thing as a typical litterer. The same person may litter in one place but not in another. Their behaviour can change even with the same piece of litter.”

*Everybody litters: something, somewhere, some time*

In their review of litter behaviour research, the NSW EPA (2017) found that different people have different ideas about what litter is, and their views can change depending on the context. Whether someone thinks of a particular behaviour as littering depends on:

- The type of item
- The type of place and its cleanliness
- Whether bins are available and signage is clear
- What they understand about where their litter may end up
- What other people are doing

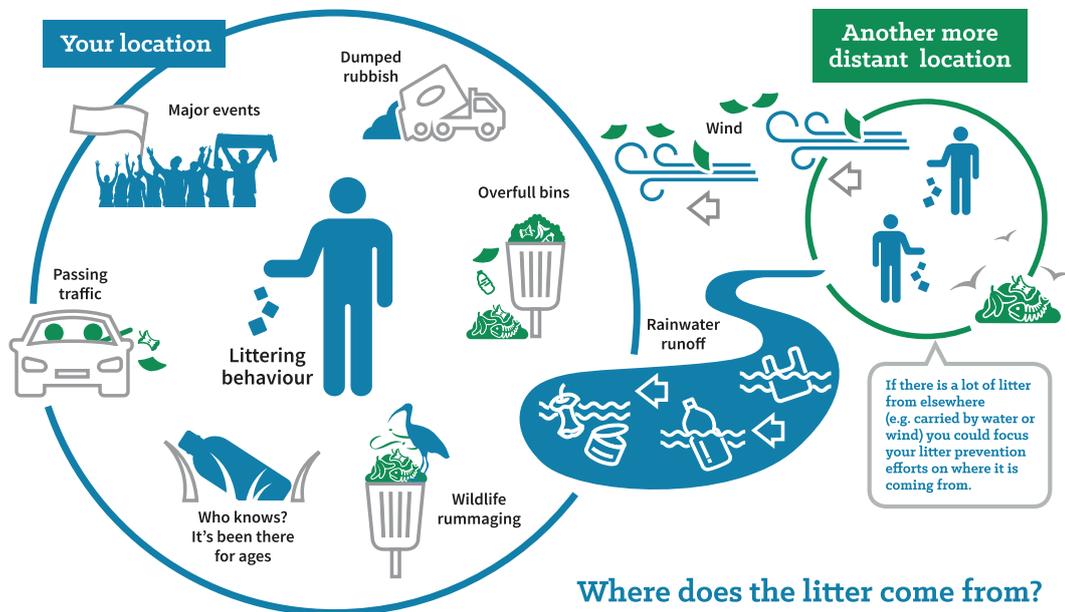


Figure 13: Sources of litter (NSW EPA 2019, p.5)

### What do people litter?

Table 3 identifies that people are most likely to litter cigarette butts, partly because they may be seen as 'only small'. NSW EPA (2013) explains that "size, mess and degradability are some factors that influence what people perceive as litter:"

- Organic litter (such as apple cores, orange peel) can be seen as more acceptable than other types of litter.
- Messy rubbish (such as a cup with some coffee remaining in it) can be difficult to carry, and is therefore seen by some as more justifiable to litter.
- Small pieces of litter are more likely to be littered because they can be littered discreetly.

### Where do people litter?

Table 3 identifies that people are most likely to litter in places where:

- They think they will not be seen
- It is not clean or appears uncared for (e.g. where there is graffiti and vandalism)
- There are no bins nearby or when they can't find a bin
- It's clear that others are also littering

Table 3: Littering behaviour (NSW Government 2019, p.11)

Behaviour cue	Outcomes
Type of item	People are most likely to litter cigarette butts, probably because there is no bin nearby or butts are seen as 'only small'.
Type of place	People are more likely to litter in places such as bus stops or where they think they will not be seen.
Cleanliness of the place	People are less likely to litter somewhere that is clean, with well cared-for street furniture and bins, and no graffiti or vandalism.
Bins	People are less likely to litter if there is a bin nearby, however they are more likely to do so if the bin itself is dirty.
Signs	People are more likely to put waste in the right place if there are clear, consistent and relevant signs nearby.
Knowledge	People may be less likely to litter when they understand where their litter ends up.
What others are doing	People will litter if others do. For example, people may leave litter piled next to a bin or under stadium seats because others have.

## 3.2 LITTERED ITEMS AND LITTERED PLACES

### Recent National Litter Index data

The National Litter Index (NLI) currently provides the best available long-term data on litter in Australia. It has been conducted twice annually for 15 years and has provided quantitative data including:

- Litter quantities in terms of volume
- Litter quantities in terms of number of items
- Composition of litter by type of item
- Litter quantities for different types of sites

Selected NSW NLI data for 2018-19 is included in the NSW Litter Prevention Strategy (NSW EPA 2019). This shows that at that time:

- In terms of **volume (Figure 14)**, the most significant littered items were beverage containers and takeaway containers.
- In terms of **item count (Figure 15)**, the most significant littered items were cigarettes and "miscellaneous" items.

NSW's container deposit scheme (CDS) was introduced in December 2017, and had an immediate impact, with around 67 per cent of all eligible containers supplied into NSW in the period March to May 2018 being collected through the scheme (NSW EPA media release, 7 August 2018). However, the prevalence of beverage containers may have continued to decline since 2018-19, as more collection locations were rolled out and people continued to change their behaviour.

The NLI does not provide data specific to the Cooks River catchment, however the NLI does include information on litter volumes and number of items for different land use types. NSW EPA (2020) includes litter quantities for different types of sites, based on NLI data for 2012-2017.

*NLI data indicates the biggest sources of litter (in terms of land use) are **industrial areas, major roads, car parks and retail/shopping areas***

If litter is measured in terms of **volume**, the top three site types by volume are:

1. Industrial sites
2. Highways
3. Car Parks

If litter is measured in terms of **item count**, the top three site types by number of items are:

1. Industrial sites
2. Retail sites
3. Car Parks

These land uses have been mapped for the Cooks River catchment in Figure 18. Based on the data from the

NLI, industrial areas, retail areas, major roads and car parks in the Cooks River catchment are expected to be more significant sources of litter than other parts of the catchment.

Figure 18 shows a concentration of industrial, retail and commercial land uses in a few distinct areas, including:

- In the upper part of the catchment at Chullora, Greenacre and Strathfield South
- At Kingsgrove in the Wolli Creek catchment
- In the Marrickville Valley
- In the Alexandria Canal catchment

There are also smaller areas elsewhere.

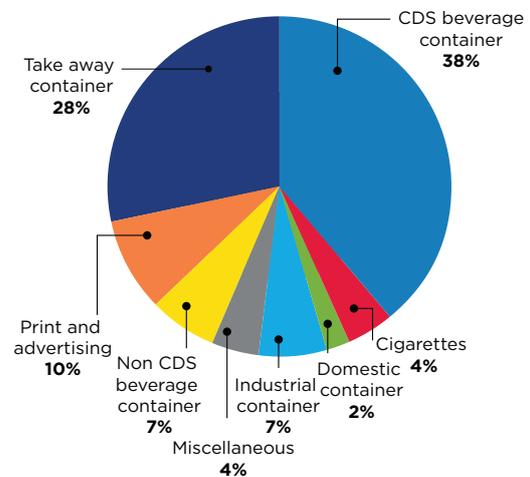


Figure 14: Volume of litter by EPA category - NLI 2018-19 (NSW EPA 2019)

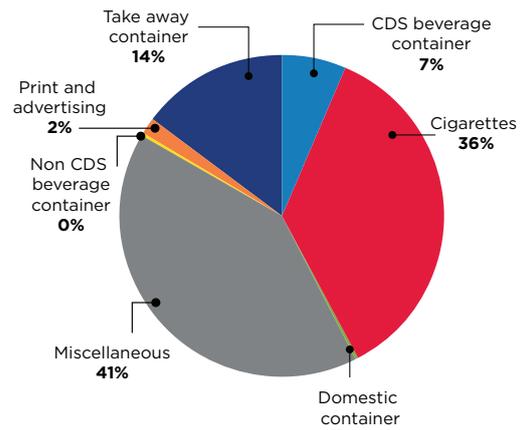


Figure 15: Item count by EPA category - NLI 2018-19 (NSW EPA 2019)

Figure 18 provides a general picture showing parts of the catchment that are likely to be higher sources of litter, however there are significant uncertainties relating NLI data to the Cooks River catchment. A key uncertainty is that land use types varies significantly from one place to another, both within the Cooks River catchment and beyond. Industrial land uses are particularly variable.

ered reliable, however anecdotal evidence supports the general picture that the land uses shown in Figure 18 have relatively high litter volumes.

Given this variability, it is not known how well the NLI data for different land use types (i.e. the values in Figure 16 and Figure 17) represent the conditions in the Cooks River catchment. A quantitative estimate of litter in the catchment based on NLI data is therefore not consid-

Each of the councils and community groups who participated in the development of this strategy provided information about where litter is most prevalent in their area. Litter hotspots identified by the project's participants are shown on the following pages. Many of these are located in industrial areas and town centres (i.e. retail/commercial areas) and several are car parks and major roads.

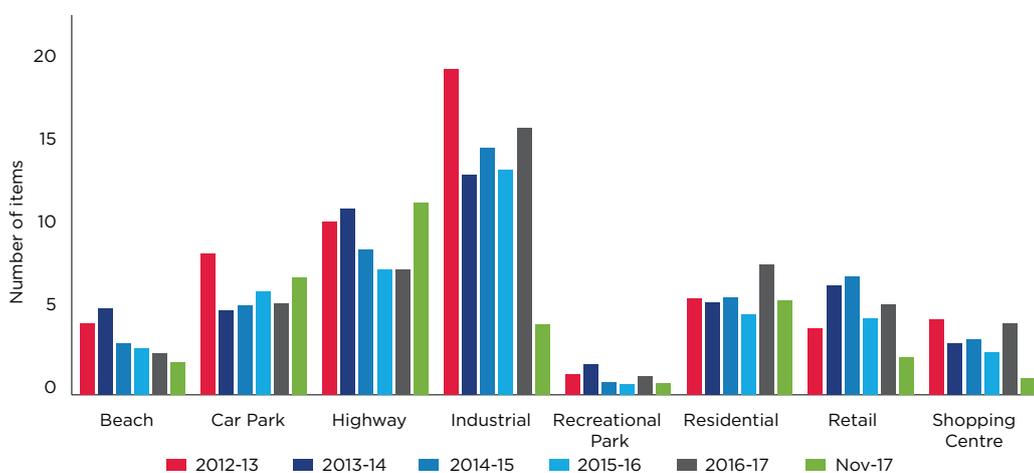


Figure 16: Litter volume per 1,000 m² by site type in NSW 2012-17 (NSW EPA 2019)

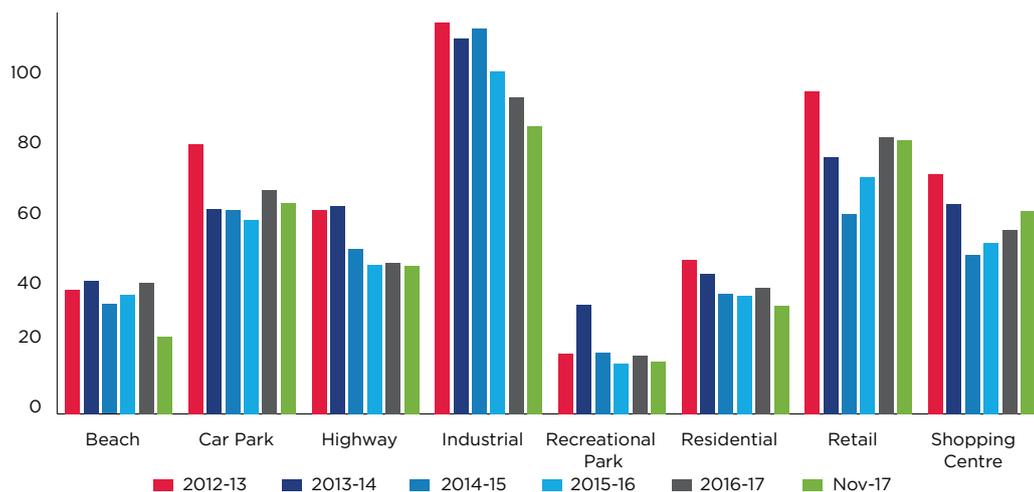


Figure 17: Litter items per 1,000 m² by site type in NSW 2012-17 (NSW EPA 2019)

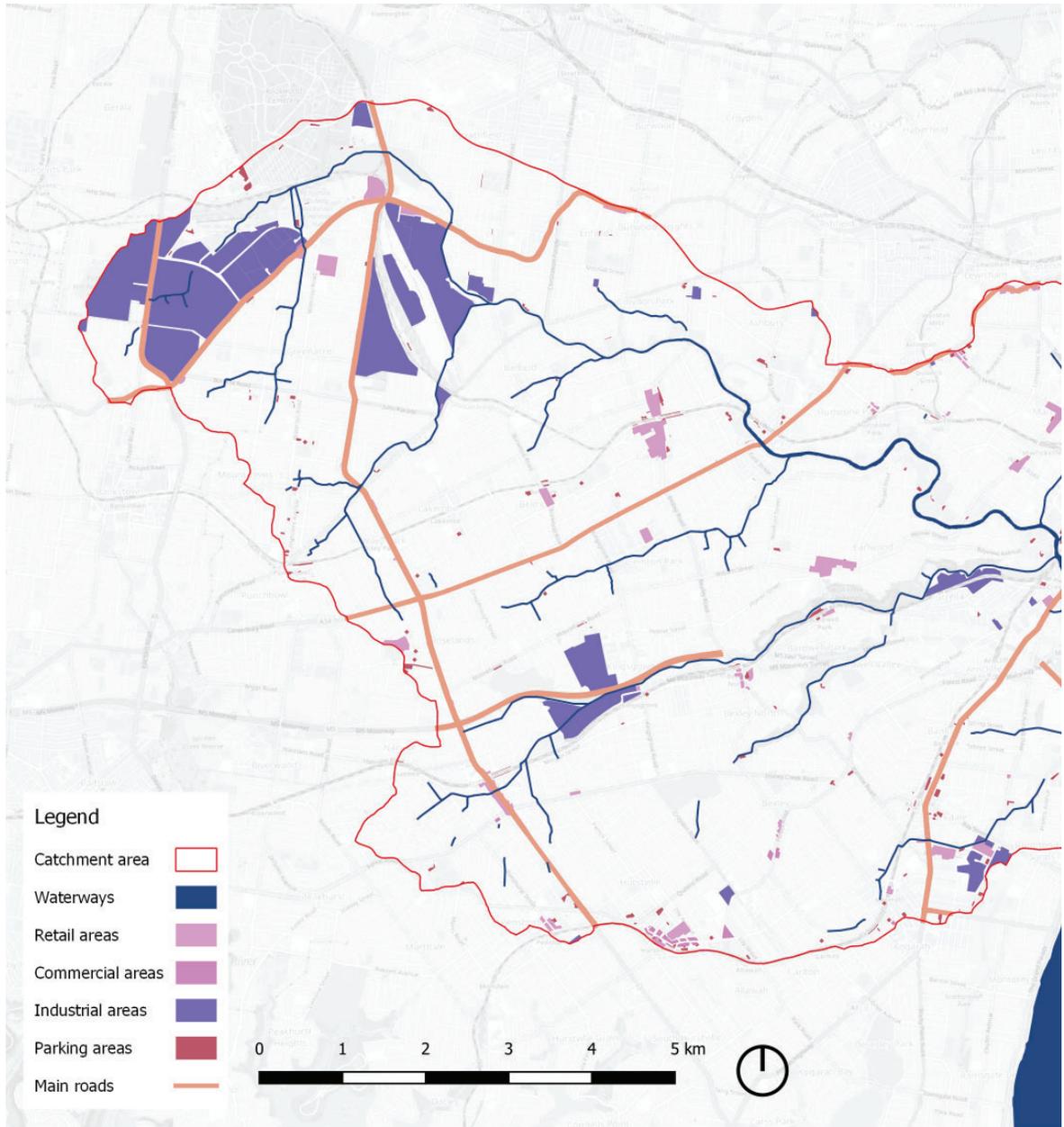
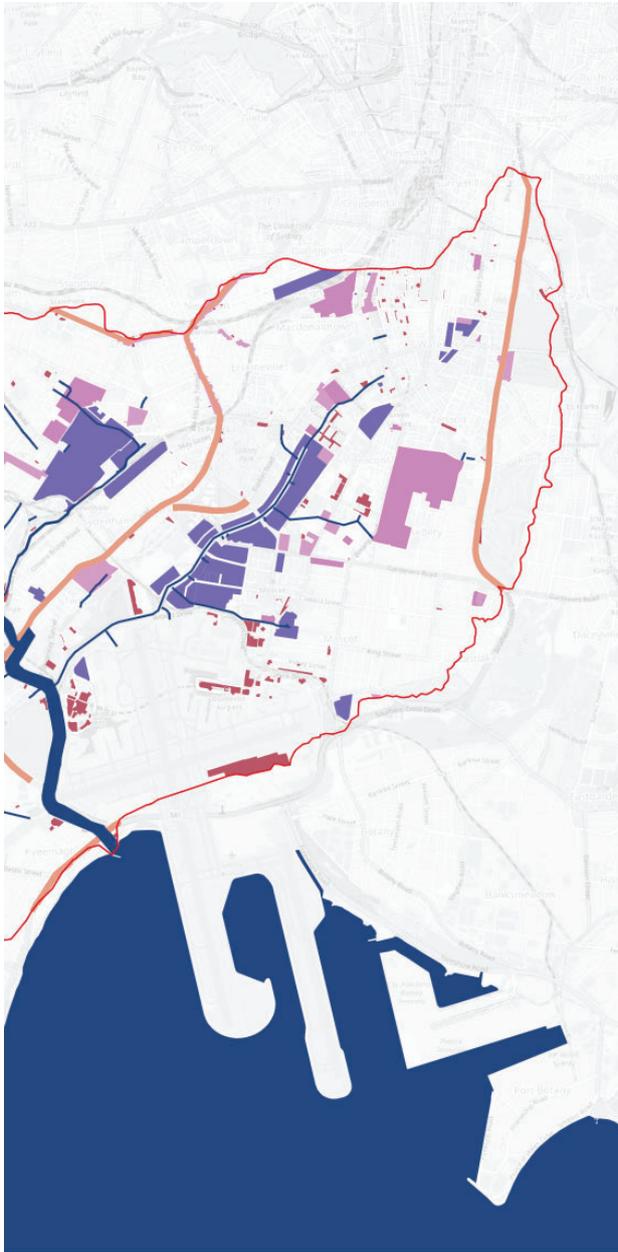


Figure 18: Cooks River catchment land uses expected to be associated with larger quantities of litter



Participants also identified open space, including parks and sports fields, as an important land use type associated with litter in the catchment. Council staff noted that litter volumes in parks and open space may fluctuate significantly, as they tend to be cleaned up regularly, but also that they would like to see more effort put into litter prevention at these sites, to reduce the need for cleaning up.

**The Australian Litter Measure**

The National Litter Index is no longer running, however from November 2021, the EPA will replace this with a new tool called the ‘**Australian Litter Measure**’ (ALM). Like the NLI, the ALM is a tool to measure litter quantities in the catchment, and data collection will be co-ordinated across the state and funded by the state government. It is being developed in collaboration with other Australian states so that it may also be used consistently across the country. However unlike the NLI, it is understood that the ALM will provide:

- More granular data than the NLI, including more detail on littered items as well as spatial detail.
- Open access to the data, allowing data to be extracted for local areas (e.g. for the Cooks River catchment) and on items of interest.
- A peer reviewed methodology.
- Open access to the method, so that data provided by the EPA could be supplemented with additional local data collection using the same method.
- Data that will relate to the Key Littered Items Study (see Section 2.3), meaning that, over time, a picture may be built of the flow of litter from the catchment to the River.



**Figure 19: Litter left around spectator seating areas at Begnell Field, Belfield**

### 3.3 HOTSPOTS

Within those land use areas that tend to have higher litter quantities, project participants identified a number of hotspot locations. These are identified in Figure 20. This may not be a complete picture of litter hotspots across the catchment, but it does provide a useful picture of the typical hotspot types in the catchment. Figure 20 shows five different types of hotspots:

1. Town centres
2. Parks
3. Industrial areas
4. Urban edges
5. Main roads

‘Urban edges’ are interfaces between two different land uses, for example the urban/bushland interface or residential/industrial interface. These sites didn’t fall easily into other categories.

Within each of these hotspot types, smaller more specific hotspots can also be identified. For example at town centres: laneways, carparks, public transport stops and seating areas could all be identified as separate hotspots with different litter issues. Common issues identified at multiple hotspots were:



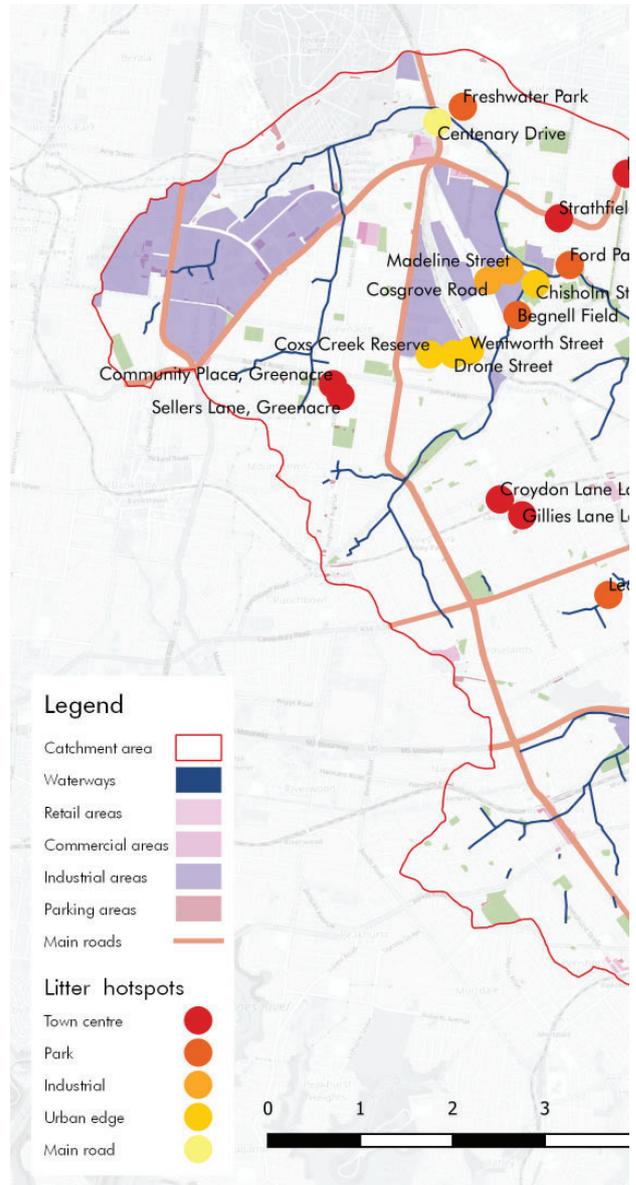
**Takeaway litter was more common than industrial waste on industrial verges and at urban edges.** These may be locations where people park to eat takeaway food, or simply drive by and dispose of their takeaway litter.



**Some of the litter in commercial laneways was associated with poor waste management practices** including dumping, overflowing bins or poorly contained piles of waste at the rear of businesses.



**In the car parks and laneways around town centres, takeaway and other food packaging was also common.** Most of these locations had no public bins.



**In town centres, some garden beds had high numbers of cigarette butts.** However these may have accumulated over a long period of time. Cigarette butts were also distributed throughout town centres.

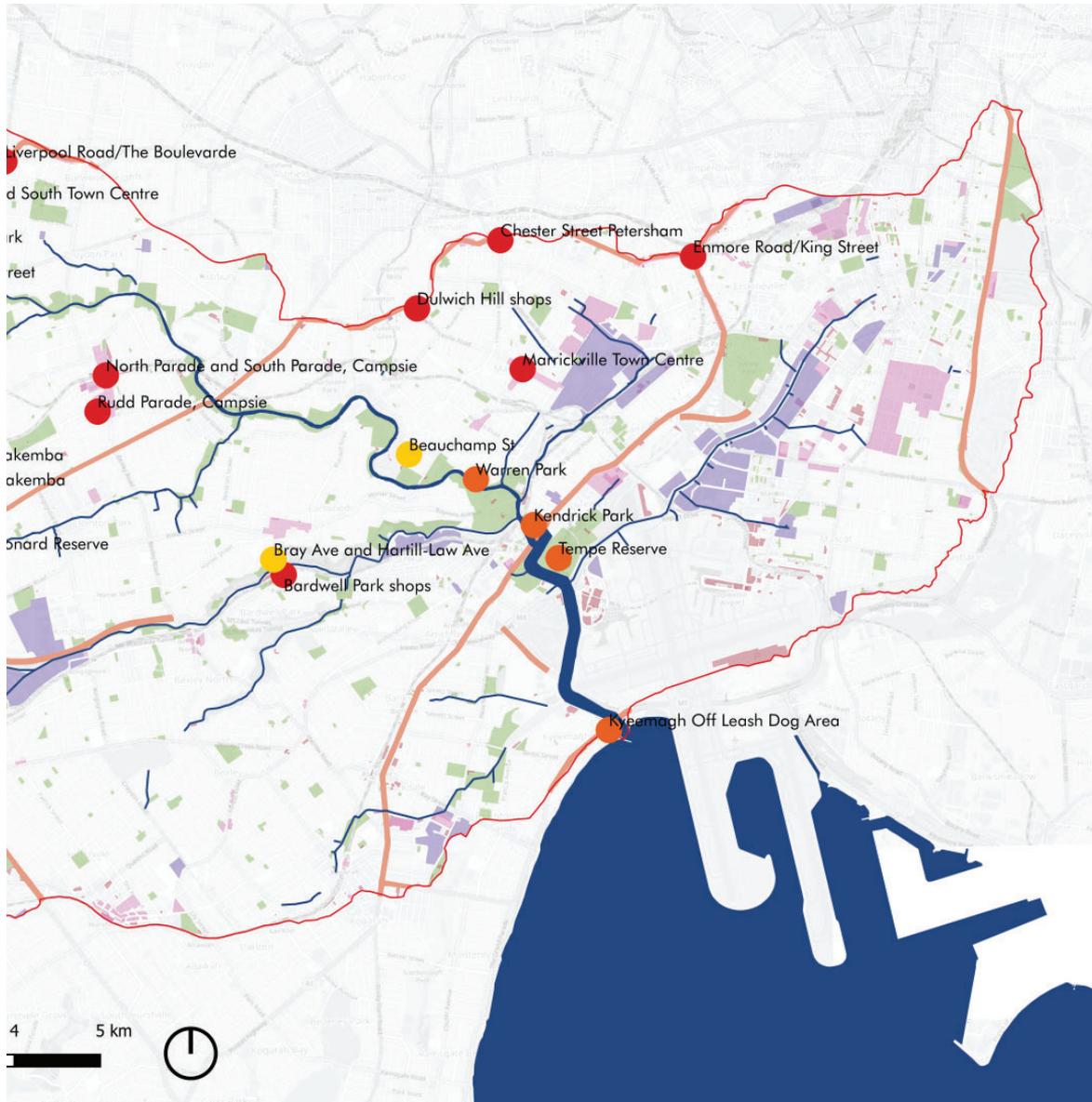


Figure 20: Cooks River catchment litter hotspots



**In parks, most litter was located around picnic and seating areas.** In some parks, parking areas and edges also had significant litter.



Item 2

Attachment 1

## 4. HOW TO TACKLE LITTER

*Litter defies simple solutions. The right approach in the right place can have a significant local effect, but widespread and long-term change is more challenging. As a problem with many sources, tackling litter requires many and varied approaches.*

## 4.1 EPA'S LITTER PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

The NSW EPA's litter prevention framework is shown in Figure 21. This is the framework used by the EPA to prioritise funding and action to reduce litter, based on their research into litter prevention. Note that the 40% target by 2020 (shown in the centre of the diagram in Figure 21) has been achieved and now replaced by new targets in the Waste And Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (DPIE 2021a).

The framework includes five approaches to litter prevention, including examples of each:

- **Rewarding responsible behaviour:** The Container Deposit Scheme is an example of a program that rewards appropriate disposal behaviour, and has resulted in a significant drop in the number of beverage containers found in the litter stream.
- **Education and awareness:** This includes a whole range of communication strategies. The NSW EPA's *Tosser!* campaign is an example. Working with partners is also mentioned here, as partnerships help spread anti-litter messages further.
- **Infrastructure and clean-up:** This is about providing infrastructure such as well-designed, clean, well-maintained bins, that make it easy to dispose of

waste correctly. It is also about 'cleaning up' littered sites - not simply to remove litter, but to invest in other public infrastructure upgrades and maintenance (e.g. pavement cleaning, new furniture, graffiti removal, public art) to signal that this is a place that is cared-for and not a place to leave litter.

- **Regulation and enforcement:** The main law concerning litter is the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act). The POEO Act can be enforced via litter penalty notices, which include fines. Penalty notices can be issued by state agencies and local government. Anyone can report littering from vehicles, and the EPA can issue penalty notices based on these public reports.
- **Evaluation and monitoring:** NSW EPA has developed tools which are accessible to anyone to assist with evaluation and monitoring, including the Local Litter Check and Butt Litter Check. The new Key Littered Items Study measures litter in waterways and a dashboard has been created by the NSW EPA so that its partners, such as community groups and councils, can view and investigate the data. The Australian Litter Measure, which will measure litter on public land, is also currently under development.



Figure 21: EPA's litter prevention framework (NSW Government 2019)

## 4.2 EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Many of the litter issues highlighted in Section 3 have already been tackled to some extent through past litter prevention projects. Some examples of recent litter prevention projects in the Cooks River catchment and elsewhere in similar contexts are listed in Table 4. The examples have been organised in terms of the type of hotspot and litter issues they aimed to address, including many of the hotspot types and litter issues identified in Section 3.3.

Many of these projects have been funded by NSW EPA litter prevention grants and led by councils, although there are some notable exceptions - for example the programs on offer for schools. Keep Australia Beautiful runs anti-litter projects across Australia, and there are a growing number of organisations running litter prevention programs and projects.

**Table 4: Litter prevention strategies and project examples**

Hotspot type	Typical issues	Typical litter prevention strategies	Project examples
Industrial	Takeaway litter	Signage New bins Clean up Surveillance and enforcement	Tackling Takeaway Litter (City of Canterbury-Bankstown)
Industrial and Town Centres	Poor waste management practices by businesses	Business education/awareness Surveillance and enforcement	Clean Street Clean Creek (CRA and Strathfield Council) We Like Greenacre Litter Free (City of Canterbury-Bankstown)
Town Centres	Takeaway litter and other packaging	Signage Clean up New bins Education/awareness Surveillance and enforcement Business outreach	Tackling Takeaway Litter (City of Canterbury-Bankstown) Lakemba Tackles Takeaway Litter (Canterbury City Community Centre) We Like Greenacre Litter Free (City of Canterbury-Bankstown) Keep Greenacre Clean & Green (Greenacre Community Centre) Responsible Cafés Buses, Trains and Automobiles project at Blacktown Transport Interchange (Blacktown City Council)
Town Centres	Cigarette butt litter	Signage Butt bins Education/awareness Surveillance and enforcement Artwork, street theatre	Bayside Council cigarette butt bin infrastructure project WSROC 2018 project to reduce cigarette butt litter in shopping strips Butt Free Byron, Butt Free Tweed
Roadsides	Takeaway litter	Clean ups Signage Surveillance and enforcement Business outreach	Central Coast Roadside Litter Project (Central Coast Council) WSROC, EPA, RMS and council partnership project in Western Sydney
Parks	Picnic litter	Signage Bin upgrades Education/awareness Pledges	We Like Our Parks Litter Free (City of Canterbury-Bankstown) Stop Litter in the Bay (Canada Bay Council) Tackling Takeaway Litter (City of Canterbury-Bankstown) Lakemba Tackles Takeaway Litter (Canterbury City Community Centre)
Sports fields	Sports game litter	Signage Portable game day bins Education/awareness	Clean Clubs program (Keep Australia Beautiful WA)
Residential areas	Drive-by litter Overflowing bins	Stewardship by local residents	Crab walking Picutup initiative (Blacktown City Council) Love Your Lane/Living Lanes (Marrickville Council)
Schools	Playground litter	Education/awareness Litter checks Litter workshops Nude food promotion	Keep Australia Beautiful's EnviroMentors workshops for schools Total Environment Centre's Ocean Action Pod Taronga Conservation Society's Litter Free Rivers campaign Cooks River Rescue School Stormwater Action Plan (CRA)

### 4.3 COOKS RIVER CATCHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the things that make the Cooks River catchment special are also the things that make litter prevention a unique challenge in the local area:

- A highly urbanised catchment
- A dense patchwork of land uses
- A diverse community

Both 'Keep Greenacre Clean and Green' and the 'Living Lanes'/'Love Your Lanes' projects have made the most of strong community relationships and connections to place. These elements are likely to be present elsewhere in the catchment, and could form the foundations of other successful litter prevention projects.

Some recent examples of litter prevention projects undertaken across the Cooks River catchment are highlighted below.

The 'Clean Street Clean Creek' project highlights the challenge of reducing litter in an area that lacks strong community relationships or connections to place. There

#### Clean Street Clean Creek (CRA and Strathfield Council)

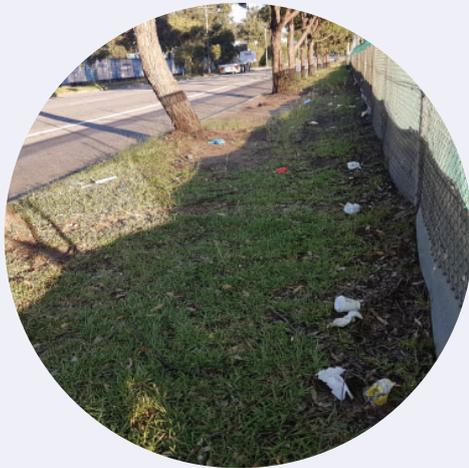


Figure 20 shows many litter hotspots in the upper Cooks River catchment, including a cluster along Cocks Creek. Recently, CRA and Strathfield Council completed a litter prevention project that focused on this area, including industrial areas in Strathfield South and South Lakemba. The project aimed to get local businesses involved in management of litter on the road verges fronting their premises. The project included education, questionnaire surveys, action plans, monitoring and acknowledgement of positive behaviour (Burton 2021).

The project team found that litter prevention was challenging in these industrial areas, where there were a wide range of different businesses, significant turnover in occupancy, and variable attitudes towards litter. The area was also influenced by the behaviour and attitudes of the wider community who passed through the area. They suggested that litter compliance (which was not part of this project) may be critical to successful outcomes in these industrial areas (Burton 2021).

#### Keep Greenacre Clean & Green (Greenacre Community Centre and the City of Canterbury-Bankstown)



Greenacre town centre was the focus of a Council-led litter prevention project during 2015-17 ('We Like Greenacre Litter Free') and this is currently being followed up by a new project led by the local community centre, in partnership with the City of Canterbury-Bankstown.

The 2015-17 project was important to understanding littering behaviour in Greenacre, and it clearly identified that "support and leadership from within the community was needed to do more to stop littering" (City of Canterbury-Bankstown, undated).

Therefore the current project builds on this key finding, and is being led by the local community with the support of Council. The current project includes events, stalls, community clean ups, workshops to promote recycling and caring for the environment, a new bin, litter prevention signage, and a pledge for the community to sign.

are likely to be similar areas elsewhere in the catchment, and these will require a different approach.

Bayside Council’s cigarette butt litter prevention project is a reminder that simple measures can also be highly effective.

**Living Lanes and Love Your Lanes**  
(former Marrickville Council)



Laneways were identified in Section 3.3 as one of the places where litter is often concentrated. The former Marrickville Council has worked with local community members on a few different laneway projects, including Turtle Lane, Campbell Lane, Wilford Lane and Kayes Avenue East. Each of these laneways were used as pedestrian thoroughfares, however graffiti, dumped rubbish and litter detracted from their amenity.

Each of the lanes had residential surroundings, and local residents were closely involved as partners in each project. Residents took a holistic view of the lanes, and were interested in holistic solutions that would substantially improve amenity. Each project included public art and planting, to show that these spaces were loved and respected and encourage people to change their behaviour in the lanes. The intention was also that residents, having gained more ownership of their local lanes, would continue to play a role in long-term maintenance.

**Cigarette Butt Litter Prevention**  
(Bayside Council)



Bayside Council is currently undertaking a litter prevention project focused on reducing cigarette butt litter in the LGA.

Council aims to engage and reduce the overall littered number of butts and create a social compact (where smokers perceive a beautification in the area) by targeting local factors to encourage smokers to bin butts and discourage them from butt littering. Smokers will feel catered for and not ostracised. It will also indicate to those who do not smoke that there are facilities in place within the vicinity for smokers to use.

A total of 30 cigarette bin infrastructure will be installed. Infrastructure will be combined with EPA signage, particularly those which direct and create a safe community space for smoking.

## 4.4 FEATURES OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

Some of the key features that are repeated across many successful litter prevention projects are outlined here.

### **Understand the drivers behind littering**

Before taking action, the most effective projects took time to understand the particular litter issue they were trying to address, including the drivers affecting littering behaviour. This understanding could come from:

- Published literature (e.g. NSW EPA resources)
- Using Local Litter Checks to gather data
- Using other research methods, including interviews with people close to the issue including residents, businesses, land managers, litterers

The City of Canterbury-Bankstown's Tackling Takeaway Litter project (City of Canterbury-Bankstown 2018b) was a good example where the project was informed by research. Behavioural research identified the key reasons why people were littering takeaway packaging from their vehicles.



Image: Canterbury Bankstown Council

**Tackling Takeaway Litter in Canterbury-Bankstown**

### **Combine multiple strategies**

Most of the litter prevention projects listed in Table 4 used multiple strategies from the EPA's litter prevention framework, and each of these strategies reinforced the others. Blacktown City Council's 'Buses, Trains and Automobiles' project (Andrei 2021) was a good example, which included:

- Partnership with other land managers
- Upgraded bin infrastructure
- Improved cleansing regime
- Outreach to businesses (to tackle shopping trolleys)
- Direct engagement with commuters, including giveaways of reusable bottles and cups
- Social media campaign
- Surveillance and enforcement



Image: Blacktown City Council

**Buses, Trains and Automobiles project at Blacktown**

### **Work in partnership with the community**

The 'Keep Greenacre Clean and Green' and 'Love Your Lane'/'Living Lane' projects highlighted on the previous pages are both good examples of this approach. The Canterbury City Community Centre is also currently working on a litter prevention project focused on takeaway litter in Lakemba. Utilising community leaders and local community groups, Canterbury City Community Centre aims to engage with the local CALD community to promote responsible disposal of rubbish. These local community groups are better-placed than councils to engage directly with people and encourage behaviour change.

Working in true partnership with the community may mean expanding the focus beyond litter. Litter hotspots don't always occur in isolation from other issues, and people may be more inclined to get involved in a project that overlaps with their interests.



Image: Greenacre Community Centre

**'Keep Greenacre Clean and Green' poster**

### ***Make it fun to get involved***

Taking an active role in litter prevention can be a catalyst for behaviour change, and when more people get involved, litter prevention messages spread further. To get more people involved:

- Make it easy: identify some simple actions that are accessible to most people.
- Make it fun: offer experiences like art and citizen science for people to participate in.
- Make it social: social connection and a sense of belonging are strong motivators.

The 'Lollipop Ladies' of Parramatta have kicked off a project focused on lollipop stick litter. To raise awareness they have created a giant lollipop from littered plastic sticks, counting the sticks they collected in local places along the way. They are taking their campaign both online and to local events, offering activities and free lollipops (on biodegradable sticks) in return for a promise to pop the stick in the bin.



Image: Litter Free Parramatta River

**The Lollipop Ladies' Pop it in the Bin campaign**

### ***Make it easy to change behaviour***

Well-designed, well-located bins and clear signage both make it easier to dispose of waste appropriately. For example:

- Bayside Council recently installed new beach litter bins at popular spots around Botany Bay. These supplement conventional bins in adjacent parkland, providing a more convenient option for people to dispose of their rubbish at the beach. They are located near walkways as well as on the beach.
- Waverley Council has installed solar-powered bins at litter hotspots including Bondi Beach. Many other councils are doing the same. These use solar power both to compact waste, monitor the quantity of waste and send messages when the bins are nearing full and ready for collection.



Image: Bayside Council

**Beach bins in Bayside LGA**

### ***Pledge before punishment***

Many litter projects have successfully used an anti-litter pledge as part of their arsenal. For example, as part of the 'We Like Our Parks Litter Free' project (City of Canterbury-Bankstown 2018a), Council staff gave picnickers litter bags and at the same time, asked them to sign an anti-litter pledge. Amongst the combination of strategies used in the project, Council found that the pledge had the biggest impact on litter (City of Canterbury-Bankstown 2018a). This approach was demonstrated to be highly effective in reducing littering behaviour in a sustained way.



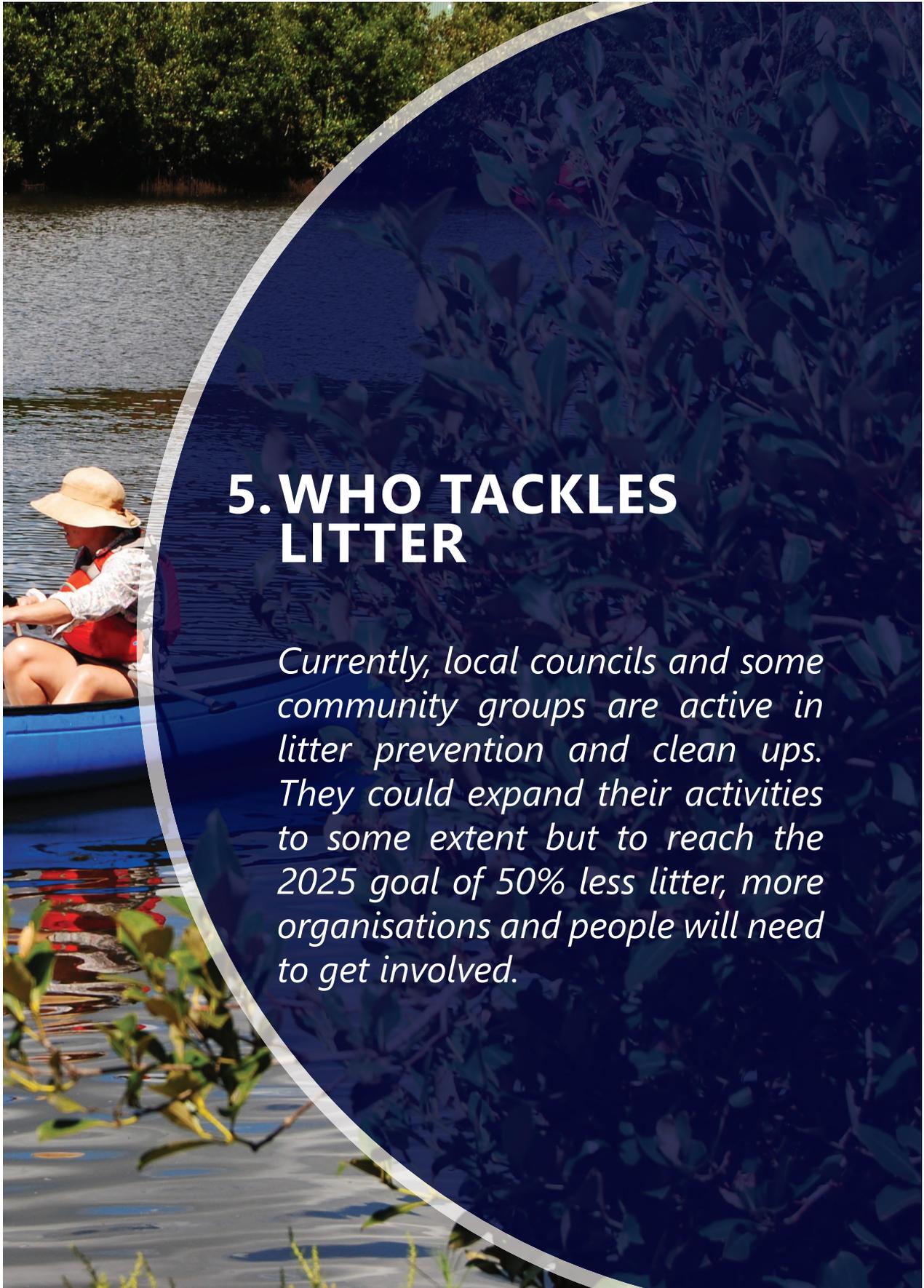
Image: Canterbury-Bankstown Council

**Clean Park Educators in Canterbury-Bankstown, with litter pledges signed by picnickers**



Item 2

Attachment 1



## 5. WHO TACKLES LITTER

*Currently, local councils and some community groups are active in litter prevention and clean ups. They could expand their activities to some extent but to reach the 2025 goal of 50% less litter, more organisations and people will need to get involved.*

## 5.1 CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES...

### **Key players in litter prevention**

In the Cooks River catchment, key players in litter prevention today include:

- NSW EPA, who provides funding and other resources to litter prevention projects.
- The CRA, with their focus on coordinated management of the Cooks River and its catchment.
- Local councils, including the CRA member councils and others.
- Community groups, including those who have participated in developing this strategy: the River Canoe Club, the Cooks River Valley Association, the Wollie Creek Preservation Society, the Mudcrabs and the Crab Walkers.
- Sydney Water, who maintains stormwater infrastructure including gross pollutant traps and litter booms, and who has an interest in waterway health projects in the catchment.
- Transport for NSW (and other agencies within the Transport cluster), who are the land managers responsible for major roads, railway land and railway stations.
- Owners of large private sites such as Sydney Airport, the Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre and shopping centres across the catchment, who manage litter on their properties.

### **The current approach and its limitations**

There are examples of litter prevention projects being completed across the Cooks River catchment, as discussed in Section 4. These include projects run by councils, community groups and the CRA, sometimes working together in partnership. Most of these projects have been funded and supported by the EPA, employing similar methods and ideas from the EPA's litter prevention toolkit and framework. Therefore there is some consistency in the approaches taken, however to date, each of these projects has been completed in relative isolation:

- Being funded by short-term grants, there are gaps between projects. There are few opportunities to follow up on completed projects or carry through longer-term actions.
- Project outcomes and key lessons may or may not be written up in a format that is accessible to others. If staff change over between projects, knowledge is easily lost.
- In a resource-constrained environment, there are few opportunities for those involved in litter prevention to come together to share their knowledge and experiences.

All of the above have recently been exacerbated by council mergers and constraints imposed by Covid-19, which have created an environment of uncertainty and constant change over the last several years. Organisational knowledge has been lost, relationships have been disrupted and collaboration has become more difficult over this period.

Reaching the goal of 50% less litter across the Cooks River catchment by 2025 will require a significant step up from relatively small, isolated projects, to coordinated action across the catchment. To get there, three key challenges need to be overcome:

### **Challenge 1: fragmented responsibilities**

It has been noted already that responsibilities for litter are fragmented:

- The EPA provides funding and guidance for local litter prevention, however with a statewide focus, the EPA has limited capacity to work directly with people in the Cooks River catchment or tailor their resources to specific local needs.
- To some extent, local councils fill this gap, however litter prevention responsibilities are also fragmented within councils, between different parts of these organisations, with resources to implement ongoing litter prevention programs typically very limited.
- While the CRA has a key strategic role in catchment management, resource constraints have often limited their involvement in coordinated litter prevention.

### **Challenge 2: making time to collaborate**

During discussions with stakeholders as this strategy was developed, many expressed an interest in sharing more information about local litter data, local projects and ideas from elsewhere. This strategy document has brought together the relevant local information that was readily available, however it has also identified many gaps and a major need for ongoing collaboration amongst the key stakeholders:

- To build local knowledge of relevant litter information, tools and frameworks, their local applicability and potential adaptations for effective local use.
- To continue improving the collection, collation and interpretation of local litter data.
- To continue sharing the findings of local litter prevention projects.

In a resource-constrained environment, ongoing collaboration is a challenge - the key stakeholders may find it hard to find the time to come together, share information, build knowledge and develop partnerships.

### **Challenge 3: getting more people involved**

During the development of this strategy, many stakeholders also pointed out potential benefits in getting more people involved in litter prevention, including more community organisations. At the moment, there are quite a few community groups involved in litter clean up (mainly in the accessible parts of the river and riparian edge, particularly in the mid and lower parts of the river) but very few actively involved in litter prevention. While EPA litter prevention grants are available to community groups, there are few with the capacity or motivation to take up these opportunities.

## ...AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **Building on local strengths**

The 2025 goal becomes realistic if the challenges above can be addressed. This strategy envisages how this could be achieved with an approach that builds on local strengths:

#### **A shared commitment to the Cooks River**

A key strength of the Cooks River catchment community is a shared commitment, amongst a diverse network of stakeholders, to improving the health of the Cooks River. Litter prevention has not previously been co-ordinated on a catchment basis, but this is seen as a key strategic move for the future, as:

- Waterways such as the Cooks River are a natural focal point for action on local environmental issues.
- Litter has many similarities to other catchment management challenges, with diffuse sources, while impacts are concentrated in waterways and the marine environment.
- There are established governance arrangements focused on the management of the Cooks River and its catchment - this is discussed further below.

#### **An established alliance of core stakeholders**

Litter is a diffuse problem with distributed responsibilities, and therefore effective litter prevention necessarily requires many people and organisations working together to enact effective change. For this approach to work well, leadership is required to co-ordinate the efforts of many players.

The CRA is an established alliance of four councils (between them covering approximately 80% of the catchment area) and Sydney Water. The CRA also has established relationships with relevant stakeholders including government agencies and community groups. These relationships will be key to building collaborative partnerships for litter prevention.

The CRA also has:

- Experience managing complex, catchment-wide problems with fragmented responsibilities and no easy solutions.
- A somewhat separate identity to government, which potentially enables them to establish more productive working relationships with individuals, businesses, clubs, community groups and other local organisations.

Therefore the CRA is seen as well-placed to co-ordinate litter prevention action across the catchment.

### **To build a strong litter prevention network**

By 2025, the CRA and its members should aim to build a network of collaborators working in partnership on litter prevention. A network of people and organisations working together on litter prevention has the potential to achieve much more than all the individuals working in isolation.

The core members of this network are already in place as noted above. What is needed now is to build their capacity for litter prevention and enable them to grow this litter prevention network. Three key ingredients are needed to make this happen:

1. **Enable the CRA and its members** to give litter prevention the focus it needs. This will require leadership, commitment and resources. Importantly, this will need to be directed not only to implementing on-ground litter prevention projects, but also towards capacity building. Leadership, commitment and resources are needed to set up and run networking, knowledge-sharing and collaborative opportunities and build shared resources.
2. **Build partnerships** to improve collaboration amongst all the organisations involved. This goes beyond the CRA and its members to strengthening partnerships with community groups, businesses, government agencies and other organisations involved in litter prevention. While there are existing relationships with many of these organisations, there is a need to build partnerships that include a focus on litter prevention.
3. **Expand involvement in litter prevention** beyond the existing players, to include all sorts of individuals and organisations with land management roles. Schools are a good example, where some are already actively involved in programs to reduce litter in their school grounds.

Figure 22 illustrates how these ingredients would work together to build capacity from the core group of CRA members to an expanding litter prevention network. The following three sections provide some more information on each of the ingredients.

This approach is consistent with the NSW EPA's **Own It And Act** (OIAA) framework, which aims for "individuals, organisations and cross-sector networks [to] take ownership of the litter issue and act on preventing litter for the long-term" (NSW EPA Litter Prevention Unit 2021). OIAA emphasises a partnership approach and collaborative action.

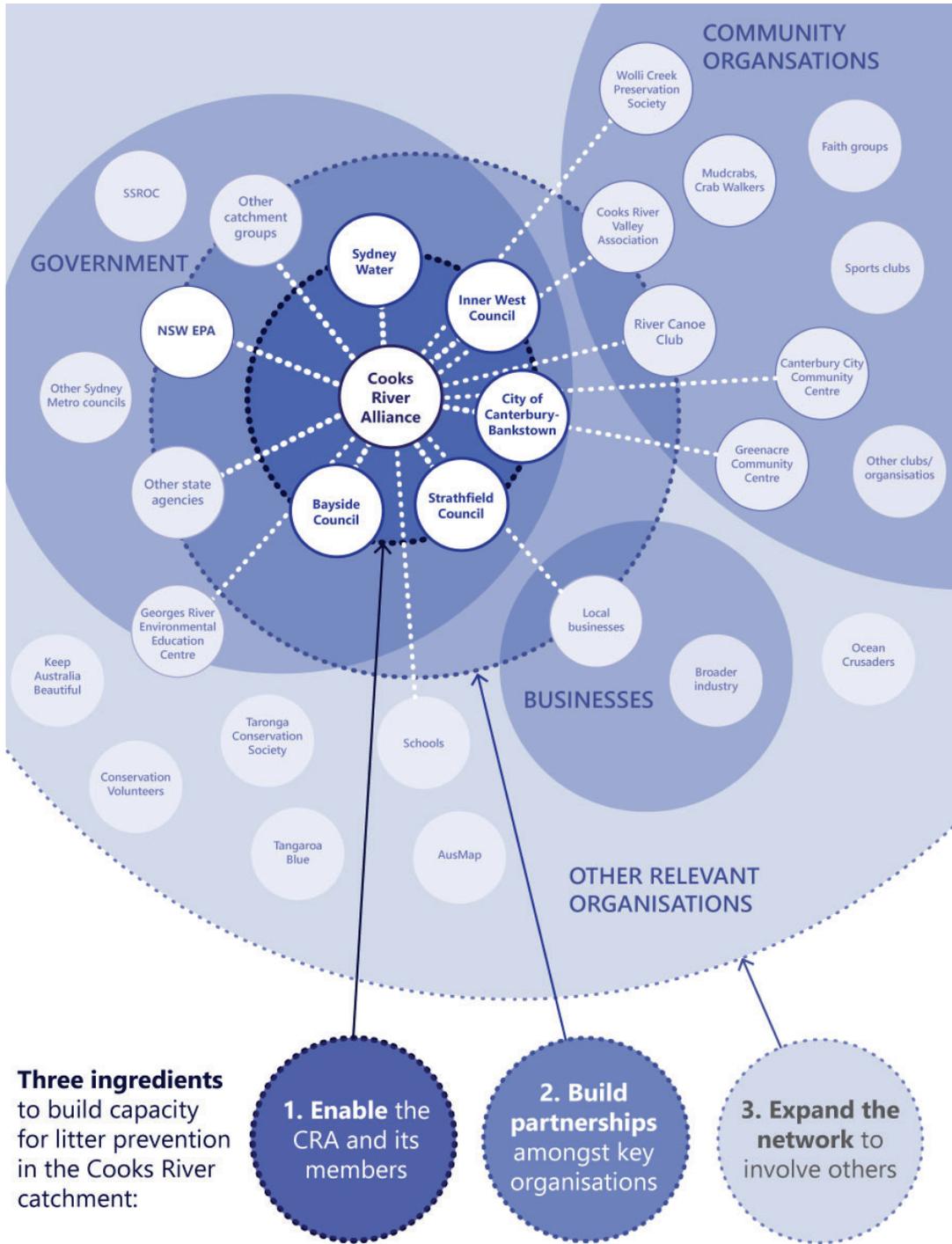


Figure 22: Building litter prevention capacity in the Cooks River catchment

## 5.2 ENABLING THE CRA AND ITS MEMBERS

The first ingredient identified in Figure 22 is to enable the CRA and its members. This is a key ingredient, as these are the organisations at the centre of the local litter prevention network. If these organisations are enabled to take leadership on litter prevention, then they can build the capacity of the whole network, including building partnerships and expanding the network - the other two ingredients shown in Figure 22.

The OIAA 'Self Assessment Discussion Tool', summarised in Box 1, is designed to help an organisation like the CRA and councils to focus on their capacity building needs. The OIAA framework is organised into four 'enablers' of litter prevention, as shown in Box 1: leadership, commitment, permission and process.

The CRA completed an OIAA self-assessment in May 2021. This provided a picture of the current capacity strengths and gaps within the organisation.

Key findings from the self-assessment were:

- **A key strength is an established commitment** to litter prevention. With a clear focus on improving the health of the Cooks River, commitment to litter prevention is a natural position for the CRA to take.

- **Leadership is a potential strength, however litter prevention is not currently a core activity.** The CRA is a strong leader in its catchment and waterway management role, however litter prevention has not been a focus of the organisation to date. Other priorities currently take precedence. The CRA has potential for litter prevention leadership, however currently lacks the capacity to resource litter prevention as a core activity.
- **Mixed capacity in processes** - the organisation's network is a clear strength, which theoretically makes the CRA well-placed to lead litter prevention efforts across the catchment, however the CRA does not yet have a strong established track record in litter prevention.
- **Limited capacity in terms of 'permission'.** The key gap here is that the CRA has no formal litter prevention role. It is constrained by resources, with a small team of staff and no funding focused on litter prevention.

Actions to build CRA's capacity are included in Section 6, and focus on addressing these gaps. The self-assessment should also be completed by the Cooks River catchment councils, to help identify appropriate actions for them.

### Box 1: Main elements of the EPA's Own it and Act (OIAA) organisational self-assessment tool for litter prevention (NSW EPA Litter Prevention Unit 2021)

#### Leadership for litter prevention (LP)

A best-practice organisation would:

- Have a clear **vision** for litter prevention
- Publicly **promote** litter prevention.
- Aim to improve litter prevention **practices** to change the status quo
- Provide clear internal **communication** on how to implement litter prevention
- Allocate **resources** to include litter prevention as a core activity

#### Commitment to LP

A best-practice organisation would:

- Understand the **benefits** of a commitment to long-term litter prevention
- Have a **track record** of involvement in long term litter prevention
- Be committed to **future involvement** in litter prevention
- Be committed to litter prevention **outcomes** for our community and the environment
- Be committed to **collaboration** as a key element to long term litter prevention

#### Permission to engage in LP

A best-practice organisation would:

- Have formal litter prevention **roles** and descriptions
- Provide **induction and training** in litter prevention
- Allow people to make **decisions** about litter prevention
- Include litter prevention in **policy/plans/strategy/priorities/targets**
- Allocate **budget** specifically for litter prevention programs

#### Processes to support LP

A best-practice organisation would:

- Understand and deliver NSW EPA integrated litter prevention **strategies**
- Be involved and collaborate with **partners**
- Have a track record of litter prevention using **EPA's framework and resources** (such as the Local Litter Check)
- **Monitor and evaluate** litter prevention
- **Celebrate successes** and share outcomes

## 5.3 BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Table 5 considers how the principles from the EPA’s Own it and Act framework would transfer from an individual organisation across to a whole network of litter prevention actors in the Cooks River catchment.

events, facilitating knowledge-sharing and access to resources

- Active participation of key organisations in the network

Table 5 refers to a “**community of practice**” that would bring together relevant organisations in a semi-formal way, to work in partnership to implement litter prevention actions.

The proposed approach is set out in Section 6.

This community of practice would require:

- Leadership, e.g. by the CRA as outlined above.
- Resources (e.g. a funded position within CRA) to do all the work that would support it - from everyday communications to organising meetings and

**Table 5: Strategies to build litter prevention capacity throughout the Cooks River catchment community**

Elements of Own it and Act	What might this look like across the whole catchment?
<p><b>Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Public promotion</li> <li>• Improvement in practice</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>Co-ordination of strategic action amongst a network of actors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the vision and directions set out in this strategy both to other organisations and publicly</li> <li>• Leading the network of actors in a community of practice</li> <li>• Connecting the community of practice to external sources of knowledge in a broader litter prevention community beyond the catchment</li> <li>• Communicating within the community of practice</li> <li>• Helping facilitate access to resources</li> <li>• Aggregating information from individual projects to collate catchment-wide monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding benefits</li> <li>• Track record</li> <li>• Future involvement</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> </ul>	<p><b>An active network of collaborators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting regularly</li> <li>• Helping communicate goals, actions, benefits and outcomes to the broader community</li> <li>• Working together collaboratively to build a documented track record</li> <li>• Actively seeking out new opportunities (e.g. grants)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Permission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Decisions</li> <li>• Policy and strategy</li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	<p><b>A wide range of people and organisations enabled to take action on litter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting individual organisations to create formal roles, policies and strategies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Defining responsibilities for litter prevention</li> <li>◦ Developing internal organisational policies and strategies</li> <li>◦ Allocating funding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Organising capacity building workshops and training on litter prevention</li> <li>• Running collaborative litter prevention projects, where project administration is centralised but project delivery is distributed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering this strategy</li> <li>• Collaborating with partners</li> <li>• Using EPA’s framework and resources</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Celebrating successes</li> </ul>	<p><b>A well-functioning community of practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working towards a shared litter prevention target</li> <li>• Delivering actions that support the directions outlined in this strategy</li> <li>• Working with the EPA, using their tools and monitoring data to track progress in reducing litter</li> <li>• Fostering collaboration - putting people in touch with each other</li> <li>• Sharing knowledge - putting people in touch with the right resources</li> <li>• Reporting on individual projects into a common database</li> <li>• Celebrating successes together and sharing them with the broader community</li> </ul>

## 5.4 EXPANDING THE NETWORK

Achieving a 50% reduction in litter across the catchment will require a level of effort beyond each of the existing organisations involved in litter prevention. With a catchment population of more than half a million, actions that involve more people in the community have the potential to achieve more substantial outcomes.

Some of the pathways by which people can currently get involved in litter prevention projects are:

- As part of events (for example Clean Up Australia Day has been running for many years and always attracts large numbers of volunteers).
- Through existing community groups they are part of, such as their school community, sporting clubs, faith-based groups, community centres and other community organisations.
- Some individuals may be inspired to start up their own projects.

However, rather than waiting for individuals and small organisations to step up to litter prevention on their own, a healthy community of practice could facilitate easy involvement by many. At the Community Litter Forum held as part of developing this strategy, participants indicated that they would get involved in litter prevention more readily if they had:

- Access to resources including funding
- A bigger program to be part of
- Time to get involved
- Support/mentorship from someone who's done it before

Therefore the strategic directions proposed in Section 6, including several of the pilot projects, have a focus on providing these mechanisms to get more people involved.



Image: Bayside Council

Clean Up Australia Day gets people involved



Image: Canterbury City Community Centre

Environment Lakemba taking action on litter



Image: facebook/Crab Walking

The Crab Walkers pick up litter around the River and in local streets; this map shows where current volunteers are participating



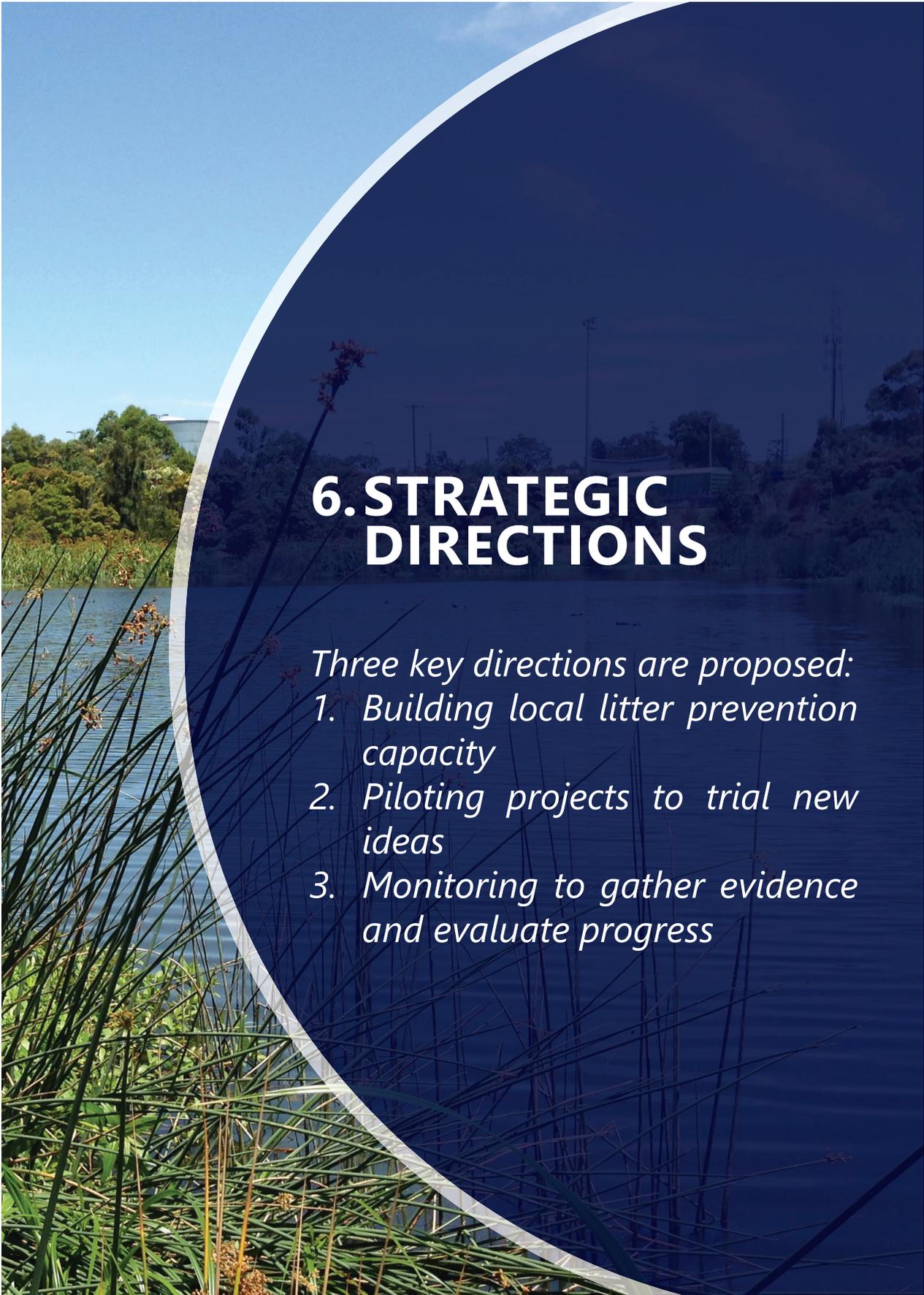
Image: Cooks River Alliance

The Cooks River Changemakers course enables the kind of people who might start up a new litter prevention project



Item 2

Attachment 1



## 6. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

*Three key directions are proposed:*

- 1. Building local litter prevention capacity*
- 2. Piloting projects to trial new ideas*
- 3. Monitoring to gather evidence and evaluate progress*

## 6.1 THREE MAIN DIRECTIONS

This strategy has brought together existing available information to present a picture of where, how and who will tackle litter in the Cooks River catchment. However it has also highlighted the gaps in this picture. The main strategic directions, which have been discussed in Sections 3, 4 and 5, are summarised here.

Then, the following three sections (6.2 to 6.4) provide some ideas for actions that align with these directions and could be implemented in the Cooks River catchment. This is not a detailed action plan. The intention is that action plans will be prepared by individual organisations in the catchment, to support this strategy.

### Who will tackle litter

The CRA and its members are already aligned in their vision for a loved and healthy Cooks River. They also have well-established relationships with others involved in waterway health and catchment management. This forms a strong starting point for a litter prevention network in the catchment.

The missing ingredients are:

- Capacity for litter prevention in the CRA and its members.
- Litter prevention partnerships with other organisations.
- A large network of people and organisations involved in litter prevention.

Section 6.2 outlines how to address these gaps, with an initial focus on **enabling the CRA and its members** via leadership, commitment and resources.

### How to tackle litter

The EPA's litter prevention toolkit and litter prevention framework is a good starting point for local litter prevention projects, and there is some experience amongst councils and community groups who have undertaken (or

are currently completing) local litter prevention projects within the Cooks River catchment.

However, as pointed out in Section 5, most of the existing projects have been relatively isolated. Section 6.3 proposes some ideas for **pilot projects** that could be scaled across the catchment. Some of these pilot project ideas also build in opportunities to get more people and organisations involved and to improve local litter data.

### Where to tackle litter

While the NLI provides a general picture of where litter is most likely to be found in the catchment (in terms of major land use types) and local stakeholder knowledge has helped to identify a number of litter hotspots across the catchment, there is an information gap between the high-level data in the NLI and the granular detail of local hotspot knowledge.

The key needs are:

- An estimate of the baseline quantity of litter in the catchment.
- A better understanding of the distribution of litter across the catchment, to understand where targeted action could be most effective.
- A method to measure how the quantity of litter changes over time.

To address these gaps, **new litter monitoring tools** are being developed by the EPA. The Key Littered Items Study was discussed in Section 2.3 and the Australian Litter Measure in Section 3.2. Section 6.4 discusses how these should be used in the Cooks River catchment to address the needs above.

Section 6.4 also includes a brief outline of how this strategy will be reviewed and refined as all the gaps described above are filled over time.

## 6.2 BUILDING CAPACITY

### **Initial actions - no or low cost**

The Cooks River Alliance has identified ten simple actions that could be undertaken before any additional resources are available:

1. Litter Prevention to be explicitly mentioned as a Goal in our 2021-24 Strategic Plan as well as other key governance documents.
2. Metric-based goals/KPIs regarding litter to be included in Plan.
3. Advocate for Internal operational funding to support litter prevention projects.
4. Execute communications plan to publicly promote litter prevention to stakeholders - including via website, news articles, etc.
5. Litter prevention to be explicitly included as a key content issue within CRA's forthcoming Advocacy Plan and Communications Framework. Plan and Framework will include commitment to actively seek out opportunities to promote and support litter related events and programs.
6. Action Plan & Framework to publicly promote litter prevention to stakeholders - website, news articles, etc.
7. Advocate for additional external & internal resources to ensure effective implementation of Litter Strategy and other Litter prevention actions.
8. Establish track record amongst councils and other key players to understand litter prevention successes and failures.
9. Undertake community surveys and consultation on value of clean environments and litter prevention.
10. Assist with coordination of on-ground monitoring where feasible.

CRA members and other organisations in the catchment should consider how to support the CRA with these actions, as well as identifying similar actions suitable for their own organisation.

### **Potential actions - with funding**

When the EPA's next round of grant funding opens, it is hoped that it will include opportunities to fund capacity building projects.

If possible, this should include:

- A Project Officer to focus on litter prevention at catchment scale, with role to include organisation/co-ordination of capacity building activities, pilot projects, monitoring and review.
- Establish catchment-based litter prevention working group to share success and failures and increase local network knowledge base.
- Based on litter prevention capacity assessment of local organisations, develop further tools and actions on an iterative basis to address key gaps for organisations (e.g. templates, tools, materials).
- Consider litter prevention capacity building workshops, training or events for councils and community groups.
- Advocate for development of a regional (e.g. Sydney Metro) litter prevention network.

## 6.3 PILOTING NEW APPROACHES

Eight pilot project ideas are presented here for consideration.

### **Sorting out single use**

*A project to sort and classify litter from clean-ups*

The need:

- Collect local data on key littered items that are making their way into the River
- This could be used to:
  - Identify local problem items
  - Track the effectiveness of litter prevention actions that target particular items
- Present key messages back to community and stakeholders. Make the connection between key littered items and marine/river impacts. Inform a campaign targeting key litter types

The idea:

- Build on EPA's Key Littered Items Study. For example, litter could potentially be sorted into the top 5 items from the KLIS.
- Offer training to volunteers
- Give people a simple method to sort litter into key types
- Ask Mudcrabs, Mullets, Crab walkers to participate as part of their clean ups

Considerations:

- Trial the method and make sure it works in different contexts and can be done relatively quickly
- Investigate if there is potential to connect with AUSMAP's project in Cup and Saucer Creek catchment
- If the same classification method is used elsewhere, this will enable bigger stories to be told and comparisons to be made

Precedents to learn from:

- Strain the Drains: Sustainability Victoria and Tangaroa Blue project with litter traps in Melbourne. Their approach made the sorting/classification task fun and social.
- Beverage containers. Focusing on particular items helps the messaging cut through.
- Lollipop Ladies: take the key items, turn them into art and use them as a campaign piece.

### **Simple local litter reporting**

*A project to make it easy to report on litter hotspots*

The need:

- Knowledge of litter hotspots is patchy at the moment
- Current processes to report littering are designed for other purposes:
  - Council tools to enable reporting of local issues are designed for issues that need a swift, targeted response. These tools don't welcome or make it easy to report on chronic issues like litter hotspots.
  - EPA's tool to report littering from vehicles is only useful for this specific circumstance.
  - The Australian Litter Measure (see Section 6.4) is likely to require a relatively high level of commitment by individuals wishing to use it. There could be a role for simpler more accessible tools as well.

The idea:

- Create a simple method to report a litter hotspot. Make it quick, easy and consistent everywhere
- The promise should not be immediate action, but be clear that it's a contribution to monitoring and understanding hotspots. Then hotspots can be prioritised for action.
- Create simple, consistent signage with QR codes - signs can be placed in places identified as potential hotspots, to encourage people to submit more information and also alert litterers that the place is being monitored

Considerations:

- Needs someone to collate data and make sense of it
- Need to present findings back to councils/others to show its value and demonstrate how data can be used
- Potential to combine with a regional litter network website to create a uniform reporting & knowledge sharing system across metro Sydney and ease reporting burden on councils

Precedents to learn from:

- Littergam (UK)
- Litterati ([litterati.org](http://litterati.org))

### **Love your home ground**

*A project to enable sports clubs to reduce litter at their home grounds*

The need:

- Councils have told us that sports fields can be litter hotspots
- Many sports clubs have a home ground, where they may feel a sense of ownership and pride - an incentive to take care of the place
- Sports clubs have a large membership base and strong standing in the community

The idea:

- Create a simple action plan for sports clubs (give them templates for every step), including:
  - Take a pledge
  - Identify the issues
  - Make a plan
  - Take action
  - Celebrate participation at each step of the way
- Beyond the pilot, aim to have all the clubs working towards a common goal, sharing ideas and aggregating their results to tell a bigger story

Considerations:

- The River Canoe Club could potentially run this pilot at their clubhouse and surrounding part of the river bank

Precedents to learn from:

- Clean Clubs - Keep Australia Beautiful WA

### **Love your school ground**

*A project to enable schools to reduce litter at their school grounds*

The need:

- Schools manage significant sites and have strong community relationships
- Many schools are already active in reducing waste and managing litter, and there is potentially scope to expand this - e.g. to other schools, into the surrounding neighbourhood including drop off and pickup zones, routes to and from school

The idea:

- Use existing resources available for schools (see below). Most of these resources present litter management as part of a bigger package, to make it more interesting to schools, e.g.
  - With a more holistic approach towards zero waste
  - With a focus on the river/ocean
  - As part of a sustainability program
- Create a litter action plan to pair with existing resources, including templates schools can use with students
- Beyond the pilot, aim to have all the schools working towards a common goal, sharing ideas and aggregating their results to tell a bigger story

Considerations:

- CRA has good connections to schools
- Schools are already involved in other programs - connect with things they are already doing to make it easy
- Several schools have been participating in the 'Cooks River Rescue: School Stormwater Action Program' recently
- Bayside Council has been organising KAB to run their program in local schools

Precedents to learn from:

- Keep Australia Beautiful's EnviroMentors workshops for schools
- Plastic Free Schools in Northern Beaches LGA
- Total Environment Centre's Ocean Action Pod
- Taronga Conservation Society's Litter Free Rivers campaign
- CRA and GREEC's Cooks River Rescue School Stormwater Action Program

**Love your verge**

*A campaign to encourage people to make a habit of taking care of the verge in front of their home or business*

The need:

- Residential areas represent the majority of the land use in the catchment
- Although litter volumes/item counts tend to be lower than other land uses by area, litter is still present and distributed throughout residential areas
- In many residential streets, residents could be inspired to take some ownership of their verge
- Businesses with a public front and street presence could also be inspired to take some ownership

The idea:

- This could largely be a social media campaign - start simple
- Encourage people to share their own stories
- Encourage whole streets to participate
- Celebrate those who clean up outside the front of their property
- Understand why they care, to encourage others to take action

Considerations:

- Potential for this program to be broader than litter - this may give it more appeal, but also increase complexity

Precedents to learn from:

- Crab Walking
- Picup program
- Sustainable Streets (Inner West Council)

**Take away and clean up**

*A project to expand the focus on takeaway litter*

The need:

- Takeaway litter is a key issue in several hotspots
- These are typically places where few people are likely to care (e.g. car parks, industrial area verges, dead end streets) - therefore they need a different approach

The idea

- Start with a rapid survey to identify the worst spots across the catchment. Key suspects are industrial streets (Strathfield Council had several areas of concern) and car parks in and around town centres and parks (several of these were identified in the hotspot map in Figure 20).
- Next, there is a need to understand more about what's happening at these spots, to be able to identify what might change behaviour and how to make sure it doesn't simply shift elsewhere.
- Work with takeaway outlets - look at companies' policies and actions on packaging, waste and litter and seek opportunities to get them involved

Considerations:

- In some cases, there is a clear connection between particular takeaway outlets and littered places
- In others the connection is less clear

Precedents to learn from:

- Bankstown's 'Tackling Takeaway Litter' project
- CRA and Strathfield Council's industrial areas project
- Zero Waste Scotland tackling takeaway litter - focused on businesses
- Swap for good - working with takeaway outlets

**Cleaning up commercial lanes**

*A project to clean up commercial laneways*

The need:

- Commercial laneways are significant hotspots
- There are particular issues in lanes that require a targeted approach - commercial waste management, litter from shoppers, smokers, etc.
- The laneways tend to be places with low levels of ownership or social responsibility
- However, some are pedestrian thoroughfares between car parks and shops; these are quite visible to the public

The idea

- The City of Canterbury-Bankstown are already planning a project focused on commercial laneways. It is understood that their project will include six laneways within the Cooks River catchment:
  - Mill Lane, Hurlstone Park
  - Croydon Lane, Croydon
  - Redman lane, Campsie
  - Church Lane, Canterbury
  - Gillies Lane, Lakemba
  - Oneata Lane, Lakemba
- Education and awareness, regulation and enforcement will be important
- Potential to work with the businesses backing onto the lanes

Considerations:

- Some of the lessons are potentially transferable to other town centre hotspots including car parks, bus stops, smoking spots, rail corridors (though the issues in each of these places are somewhat different)

Precedents to learn from:

- The former Marrickville Council's love your lanes/living lanes projects
- EPA (former DECC) illegal dumping handbook
- Back of Business – putting litter in its place (City of Canada Bay)
- Get the Site Right is potentially a good example for a similar compliance issue

**Local litter campaign resources**

*A project to develop locally appropriate collateral*

The need:

- Collateral for campaigns, signage, etc. that is locally relevant and appropriate in CALD communities
- Share this cost across the catchment

The idea

- Get the community involved, e.g.
  - Ask the community to contribute ideas
  - Run a competition to develop ideas
  - Invite people to participate via a vote
- Generate a wide range of resources available to anyone who wants to use them

Considerations

- Different people respond to different types of messaging
- The EPA's Tosser! resources are available, however local resources could target groups who are not so responsive to the Tosser! campaign.

Precedents to learn from:

- Zero Waste Scotland has a good database of anti-litter collateral

## 6.4 MONITORING AND REVIEW

Three different types of monitoring are identified here, to monitor different aspects of litter prevention strategy implementation. Each of these should feed into ongoing review and refinement of the Litter Prevention Strategy and litter prevention action plans.

### **Litter monitoring - catchment scale**

New litter monitoring tools - the Key Littered Items Study (KLIS) and the Australian Litter Measure (ALM) - are being developed by the EPA and will be useful to establish the baseline quantity of litter in the catchment, identify the areas of greatest concern and monitor progress towards the 2025 target.

The CRA, its members and partners should continue to work with the NSW EPA on using and developing data such as the KLIS and ALM.

Note that Keep Australia Beautiful NSW are also offering a new product, based on the NLI, targeted at local government. Their 'Local Government Litter Index' promises detailed litter data, brand data and audit site clean-ups to local government, including 16 sites in the LGA twice per year. This will not be supported by the EPA but can be purchased by individual councils. It is not clear that this new tool will be as well suited to the key needs identified above, however it could be considered

### **Litter monitoring - hotspots**

The CRA, its members and partners should consider how the tools above, as well as other methods, might improve the identification and prioritisation of hotspots across the catchment.

Once hotspots are identified, the EPA's existing Local Litter Check and Butt Litter Check tools can be used to measure litter in these hotspots, plan litter prevention projects and measure site-specific results.

### **Litter prevention project evaluation**

When litter prevention projects are completed in the catchment, it would be valuable to have basic information about each project captured in a consistent manner and made available to others. The EPA has some information on past litter prevention grant recipients included on their [website](#), and some of these include written case

studies, however an improved database would make it easier to quickly identify:

- Project locations
- Site types
- Actions undertaken
- Results

A standard case study template could also make it easier to understand each project.

Ideally an improved database of past projects would be a statewide resource, however a pilot version for the Cooks River catchment could be a useful step in this direction.

A catchment-specific view of past projects (whether it is based on a standalone database for the catchment or information extracted from a larger database) could also help to identify consistent themes - approaches that are or are not working in the local area, and ideas that could be scaled up.

### **Litter prevention progress**

As well as monitoring litter quantities in the catchment, there are other potential indicators to measure the implementation and effectiveness of this strategy. Key indicators could include:

- Individual engagement (e.g. the number signed up to litter prevention updates)
- Organisational engagement, e.g.:
  - Number participating in litter prevention events and activities.
  - Number who have the 2025 target and the litter strategy itself.
  - Number who have adopted litter prevention policies and/or committed resources.
- The number of litter prevention projects completed.

### **Reporting**

The CRA will report on litter prevention outcomes (e.g. total litter loads, litter collection) as part of their new Cooks River EcoReport Card 2022.

The CRA can also formally review and report on this litter prevention strategy as part of their Annual Reporting once it's included in the organisation's new Strategic Plan (Dec 2021).

## 7. REFERENCES

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- NSW Government 2019 NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2019–2022. NSW Environment Protection Authority, Sydney, December 2019.



Item 2

Attachment 1

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 3  
**Subject:** ACCOMMODATION GRANT FOR DEADLY CONNECTIONS  
**Prepared By:** Caroline McLeod - Acting Director Community  
**Authorised By:** Peter Gainsford - General Manager

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council**

1. Notes as per Council resolution CO921(2) Item 3, Officers entered a conversation with local NGO, Deadly Connections, regarding finding suitable permanent accommodation within the LGA;
2. Notes that Deadly Connections verbally advised Officers they were looking for long term accommodations for approximately three years (plus);
3. Notes that a property is available within Enmore Park (Crown Land) and Council could offer Deadly Connections in the first instance, a 12 month venue hire agreement;
4. Notes If Council wanted to offer a formal lease to Deadly Connections, a formal process would need to occur including potentially amending the Enmore Park Plan of Management, advertising the lease for 28 days etc;
5. Notes that because the property is on Crown Land and Deadly Connections is an NGO, under the Act, Council does not have to conduct a formal Expression of Interest process to lease the property;
6. Notes no formal Expression of Interest process has occurred;
7. Notes that if both Council and Deadly Connections agree to the proposal and sign the Agreement and/or Lease they will be responsible for funding any connection and ongoing costs associated with the internet, phone lines, water, electricity, air-conditioning, security etc. This will be outlined in the Agreement and Lease;
8. Notes that if Deadly Connections sign the Agreement and Lease they will be responsible for funding any connection and ongoing costs associated with the internet, phone lines, water, electricity, air-conditioning, security etc. This will be outlined in the Agreement and Lease;
9. Note that offering Deadly Connections a formal lease will be a long process and may require an amendment to the Enmore Park Plan of Management and
10. A budget adjustment of \$30,000 is required to address the maintenance issues to ensure the facility is safe which is to be funded from the Facilities Maintenance budget.

## BACKGROUND

On 14 September Council considered the business paper *Community Support in the Covid Pandemic* C0921(2) Item 3, and endorsed to:

*Note the important contribution of Deadly Connections to the Inner West and continue discussions with Deadly Connections regarding finding suitable permanent accommodation within the LGA.*

Deadly Connections is an Aboriginal Community-led, not for profit organisation that provides information, referral, advocacy, and support to First National communities in the inner west and inner city. Deadly Connections seeks to break the cycles of disadvantage and trauma to directly address the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the child protection and justice system/s.

Deadly Connections has been looking for suitable accommodation in the Inner West and City of Sydney for a few years. Until the end of September 2021, Deadly Connections had an MOU with Marrickville Legal Centre, 12-14 Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill granting them use of the office space within the (Council owned) premises. The Marrickville Legal Centre has now relocated and as a result Deadly Connections required new accommodation. Since this time, Council has arranged for Deadly Connections to remain in the facility until alternative accommodation can be found, delaying proposed property works and the advertising of a new tenant.

The former Family Day Care Centre, located in Enmore Park, was identified as a potential suitable location. This facility has recently become available due to the harmonising of the former Marrickville and Leichhardt Family Day Care Services, now located in the former Leichhardt Family Day Care Centre, Flood Street Leichhardt. The Enmore Park facility consists of one room, two storage areas, a kitchenette, toilet and fenced in garden.

## DISCUSSION

Council's Legal team has advised that in the first instance Council can offer Deadly Connections a 12 month venue hire agreement due to the facility being on Crown Land. The Venue Hire Agreement would be amended so that hire fees are waived (as per the Indoor Venues Fee Scale Policy) but *Deadly Connections* are charged outgoings / expenses such as electricity, water, internet and would be responsible for their own cleaning and maintenance of the garden area.

Council would then commence the formal lease / license process. A formal EOI for the facility is not required because Deadly Connections is a not for profit organisation. Noting that the process could take some time, as the facility is on Crown Land, the lease/license process requires reporting to Council, Native Title checks, Community Land Advertising for 28 days etc and potentially amending the POM, as the POM currently identifies that the building should be demolished.

### *Condition of property*

The property requires some basic maintenance, cleaning and compliance work estimated at around \$30,000, including general cleaning, hydraulic (includes tank works), building works, trees / gardening, painting, pressure wash, material disposal, fire services, structural consultant, metal cabinets, blue board etc.

*Requests for other items such as Internet, phone, air-conditioning, kitchen etc*

Deadly Connections informally requested a range of items such as telephone and internet lines, air-conditioning and a new kitchen or oven. It is recommended that Deadly Connections be responsible for covering these costs. It is expected that once a lease is signed or there is a formal agreement, they would be eligible for grant funding to cover these costs.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total cost of the works is estimated to cost approximately \$30,000 and a budget adjustment is required as this work is currently unfunded.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 4  
**Subject:** LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2021  
**Prepared By:** Manod Wickramasinghe - Traffic and Transport Planning Manager  
**Authorised By:** Cathy Edwards-Davis - Director Infrastructure

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Minutes of the Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 20 September 2021 be received and the recommendations be adopted.**

**ITEMS BY WARD**

Ward	Item
Baludarri (Balmain)	Balmain East Precinct Parking Study
	Intersection of Victoria Road and Toelle Street, Rozelle
	Pedestrian safety on Canal Road and Charles Street, Lilyfield
Gulgadya (Leichhardt)	Parking in Nelson Lane, Annandale
	Request to close Northcote Street, Wolseley Street and Dobroyd Parade, Haberfield
Midjuburi (Marrickville)	Nil. See All Wards.
Djarrawunang (Ashfield)	Intersection of Hurlstone Avenue and Old Canterbury Road, Summer Hill – Intersection entry treatment - Design Plan 10170
	Richmond Avenue, Ashfield – Proposed new kerb blister and entry treatment - Design Plan 10175
	'No Left Turn' from Wardell Road into Riverside Crescent, Dulwich Hill
Damun (Stanmore)	Nil. See All Wards.
All Wards	Request to upload road information to Google Maps

**DISCUSSION**

The September 2021 meeting of the Local Traffic Committee was held remotely. The minutes of the meeting are shown at **ATTACHMENT 1**.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Projects proposed for implementation are funded within existing budget allocations.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Specific projects have undergone public consultation as indicated in the respective reports to the Traffic Committee.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. [Minutes of Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 20 September 2021](#)

**Minutes of Local Traffic Committee Meeting  
Held remotely on 20 September 2021**

**Meeting commenced at 10.10AM**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY BY CHAIRPERSON**

*I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.*

**COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

Cr Victor Macri	Councillor – Midjuburi-Marrickville Ward (Chair)
Bill Holliday	Representative for Jamie Parker MP, Member for Balmain
Aislinn Stein-Magee	Representative for Jo Haylen MP, Member for Summer Hill
Solon Ghosh	Transport for NSW (TfNSW)

**NON VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cr Marghanita da Cruz	Councillor – Gulgadya-Leichhardt Ward (Alternative Chair)
Adrian Prichard	Transit Systems – Inner West Bus Services
Manod Wickramasinghe	IWC's Traffic & Transport Planning Manager
George Tsaprounis	IWC's Coordinator Traffic Engineering Services (South)
Sunny Jo	IWC's Coordinator Traffic Engineering Services (North)
Christina Ip	IWC's Business Administration Officer

**VISITORS**

Nil.

**APOLOGIES:**

SC Anthony Kenny	NSW Police – Inner West Police Area Command
Sgt Charles Buttrose	NSW Police – Leichhardt Police Area Command
Maryanne Duggan	Representative for Jodi MacKay MP, Member for Strathfield

**DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS:**

Nil.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 16 August 2021 were confirmed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION OF MINUTES**

The Local Traffic Committee recommendations of its meeting held on 16 August 2021 were adopted at Council's meeting on 14 September 2021.

**EMAIL CONFIRMATION OF OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The representative for NSW Police – Inner West supported the Officer's recommendations for the items in their PAC.

The representative for NSW Police – Leichhardt supported the Officer’s recommendations for the items in their PAC.

The representative for the Member for Strathfield supported the Officer’s recommendations.

**LTC0921(1) Item 1 Intersection of Hurlstone Avenue and Old Canterbury Road, Summer Hill –Intersection entry treatment - Design Plan 10170 (Djarrawunang-Ashfield Ward/Summer Hill Electorate/Burwood PAC)**

**SUMMARY**

Council has finalised a design plan to upgrade the existing intersection of Hurlstone Avenue, Summer Hill by constructing kerb extensions and narrowing the road at its intersection with Old Canterbury Road. The works aim to improve pedestrian safety by narrowing the width of the road and slow and control traffic movement around the intersection.

**Officer’s Recommendation**

THAT the detailed design plan for upgraded intersection works in Hurlstone Avenue at Old Canterbury Road, Summer Hill, including new kerb extensions and entry treatment with associated signs and line markings in Hurlstone Avenue, (as per Plan No.10170) be APPROVED.

**DISCUSSION**

The TfNSW representative stated that a pedestrian refuge on Hurlstone Avenue can be considered later if pedestrian volumes are high enough. Clr da Cruz supported this as it would allow pedestrians to cross the street in two parts. The TfNSW representative acknowledged that a pedestrian refuge could limit the ability for two vehicles to exit Hurlstone Avenue at the same time.

TfNSW will investigate if the BB lines on Old Canterbury Road can be adjusted to align with the right turn into Hurlstone Avenue.

Council’s Officer advised that due to the bus movements at the intersection that it was difficult to provide kerb blisters and a pedestrian refuge island. Narrowing the throat of the intersection would not only make the crossing distance shorter for pedestrian but also reduce exit and entry speeds into Hurlstone Avenue from Old Canterbury Road.

The Committee members agreed with the Officer’s recommendation.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the detailed design plan for upgraded intersection works in Hurlstone Avenue at Old Canterbury Road, Summer Hill, including new kerb extensions and entry treatment with associated signs and line markings in Hurlstone Avenue, (as per Plan No.10170) be APPROVED.**

**For motion:** Unanimous

**LTC0921(1) Item 2 Balmain East Precinct Parking Study (Baludarri-Balmain Ward/Balmain Electorate/Leichhardt PAC)**

**SUMMARY**

This report was previously considered by the Traffic Committee in March 2021, and Council at its meeting on 13 April 2021 resolved to defer the study pending a briefing to Balmain Ward Councillors. This has been undertaken in August 2021 and reported back for Council consideration.

This is a recommendation to endorse the final Balmain East Precinct Parking Study report. Council has recently undertaken Public Exhibition of the draft Balmain East Precinct Parking Study through YourSay Inner West. The draft report proposed several changes, including an expansion of the Resident Parking Scheme (RPS) as shown in Attachment 1. The response results indicate that the community had mixed opinions on the proposed changes, with a low support for the draft strategy proposed by Council.

After considering the Public Exhibition feedback, a review on the proposed scheme was undertaken with minor adjustments made to the proposed parking strategy. As the changes included both short term and long term strategies, this would require Council to implement the changes over a 5-10 year life cycle of the study. It is recommended that further consideration of street specific RPS other than those proposed in the report not be supported for a period of 24 months until March 2023.

**Officer's Recommendation**

THAT:

1. The final Balmain East Precinct Parking Study be noted;
2. In view of the feedback received from the Public Exhibition, the revised changes to parking strategy as shown in Attachment 1 be adopted, with items 1-3 to be implemented prior to July 2021 and items 4-12 to be implemented with further community engagement;
3. Further consideration of street specific resident parking scheme for the Balmain East precinct, other than those included in Attachment 1 not be supported for 24 months until March 2023; and
4. That post-implementation parking surveys be carried out after parking changes, and a review be undertaken and reported back to the Traffic Committee, if required.

**DISCUSSION**

The Committee members agreed with the Officer's recommendation.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

THAT:

1. **The final Balmain East Precinct Parking Study be noted;**
2. **In view of the feedback received from the Public Exhibition, the revised changes to parking strategy as shown in Attachment 1 be adopted, with items 1-3 to be implemented prior to July 2021 and items 4-12 to be implemented with further community engagement;**
3. **Further consideration of street specific resident parking scheme for the Balmain East precinct, other than those included in Attachment 1 not be supported for 24 months until March 2023; and**
4. **That post-implementation parking surveys be carried out after parking changes, and a review be undertaken and reported back to the Traffic Committee, if required.**

**For motion:** Unanimous

**LTC0921(1) Item 3 Richmond Avenue, Ashfield – Proposed new kerb blister and entry treatment - Design Plan 10175 (Djarrawunang-Ashfield Ward/Summer Hill Electorate/Ashfield PAC)**

**SUMMARY**

Council has finalised a design plan for streetscape improvement works in Richmond Avenue, at Henry Street, Ashfield. The proposed works will include constructing landscaped kerb blister islands to formalise the existing angle parking on entry into Richmond Avenue from Henry Street, Ashfield and will also improve pedestrian safety in the locality.

**Officer’s Recommendation**

THAT the detailed design plan for streetscape improvement works in Richmond Avenue Including a new kerb blister and Entry treatment and associated signs and line markings in Richmond Avenue, at Henry Street, Ashfield (as per Plan No.10175) be APPROVED

**DISCUSSION**

The TfNSW representative advised that ‘No Parking, Motor Vehicles Excepted’ signs can be used if there are any issues with trailer or caravan parking.

The Committee members agreed with the Officer’s recommendation.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the detailed design plan for streetscape improvement works in Richmond Avenue including a new kerb blister and Entry treatment and associated signs and line markings in Richmond Avenue, at Henry Street, Ashfield (as per Plan No.10175) be APPROVED**

**For motion:** Unanimous

**General Business**

**LTC0921(1) Item 4 Intersection of Victoria Road and Toelle Street, Rozelle**

Cr Macri, on behalf of the Mayor, raised concerns with WestConnex widening the road at the intersection of Victoria Road and Toelle Street, Rozelle. Council Officers advised Council did not support the width of the intersection and raised concerns with conflict between pedestrians and traffic with TfNSW during the design stage. Council Officers will raise the issue again with TfNSW.

Cr da Cruz asked if this intersection is included in the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP). Council Officers stated that WestConnex construction was completed after the PAMP audits and the intersection can be considered separately or as part of a future PAMP.

**LTC0921(1) Item 5 ‘No Left Turn’ from Wardell Road into Riverside Crescent, Dulwich Hill**

The Mayor has asked that the justification behind the ‘No Left Turn’ restriction recently implemented in Wardell Road at Riverside Crescent, Dulwich Hill, be communicated to the

community. Council Officers advised that consultation on the intersection is currently underway and results will be reported to a future LTC meeting.

Cr da Cruz asked if Wardell Road is also included in the PAMP. Council Officers advised that residents have not reported any issues with pedestrian access; however, pedestrian access in relation to the Greenway will be addressed in a separate project.

**LTC0921(1) Item 6 Parking in Nelson Lane, Annandale**

Cr da Cruz asked why a consultation into parking in Nelson Lane, Annandale was undertaken in response to the resident of 269 Nelson Street requesting 'No Parking' opposite their garage which faces Nelson Lane. Council Officers stated that the intention was to investigate access issues for the whole of Nelson Lane and implement any changes at the same time. A mixed response was received from the consultation. Council Officers will investigate expediting 'No Parking' restrictions for residents who have supported it.

Cr da Cruz requested that officers also investigate parking on Rose Street at the entrance to Nelson Lane.

**LTC0921(1) Item 7 Request to close Northcote Street, Wolseley Street and Dobroyd Parade, Haberfield**

Cr da Cruz requested that Northcote Street, Wolseley Street and Dobroyd Parade be closed to traffic after WestConnex removes the shed at the corner of Wattle Street and Parramatta Road, Haberfield. Residents are concerned that the streets will become rat-runs when the shed is removed. Council Officers will investigate.

**LTC0921(1) Item 8 Request to upload road information to Google Maps**

Cr da Cruz requested that cycle routes, truck weight limits of roads and crossing points along walking routes be made publicly available on Google Maps. It was noted that this information is usually uploaded by the public. Council Officers will seek advice from Council's GIS team as they may already have data that could be used for this purpose.

**LTC0921(1) Item 9 Pedestrian safety on Canal Road and Charles Street, Lilyfield**

The representative for the Member for Balmain raised a request that was made at a previous LTC meeting regarding pedestrian safety on Canal Road and Charles Street, Lilyfield. The representative requested a speed hump and pedestrian crossing on Charles Street where the tram ramp is located across from the path to the Leichhardt North light rail station. Alternatively, the tram ramp could be moved north to improve visibility of pedestrians or Canal Road could be converted into a Shared Zone. Cr da Cruz also requested that the tram ramp where Canal Road and Charles Street meet is investigated to improve pedestrian access. Council Officers will investigate these matters.

Meeting closed at 10.46am.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 5  
**Subject:** CHANGE TO DECEMBER 2021 COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND 2022 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE  
**Prepared By:** Katherine Paixao - Acting Governance Manager  
**Authorised By:** Peter Livanes - Acting Director Corporate

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council:**

1. Amend the 2021 Ordinary Council meeting schedule to remove the 7 December 2021 Ordinary Council meeting;
2. Select one of these options for the first ordinary meeting for the new term of the Inner West Council for either 6.30pm Thursday 30 December 2021 or 6.30pm Tuesday 4 January 2022; and
3. Adopt the 2022 ordinary Council meeting schedule:

Tuesday 8 February
Tuesday 22 February
Tuesday 8 March
Tuesday 22 March
Tuesday 12 April
Tuesday 26 April
Tuesday 10 May
Tuesday 24 May
Tuesday 7 June
Tuesday 21 June
Tuesday 26 July
Tuesday 9 August
Tuesday 23 August
Tuesday 13 September
Tuesday 27 September
Tuesday 11 October
Tuesday 25 October
Tuesday 8 November
Tuesday 22 November
Tuesday 13 December

**DISCUSSION**

With the rescheduling of the local government elections from Saturday 4 September to Saturday 4 December 2021 an update to the ordinary Council meeting schedule is required. Other key dates that will have an impact on the 2021 Council meeting schedule include the commencement of the Regulated Period on 25 October 2021 which will be in effect for the 26 October and both November ordinary Council meetings and the Caretaker Period which commences on 5 November 2021 and will be in effect for both November meetings.

The Office of Local Government advises that the return of postal votes closes at 6pm on 17 December 2021 and the election results are anticipated to be declared progressively as counts are finalised between 21 - 23 December 2021 (refer to the Frequently Asked Questions provided at Attachment 1).

Given this, the ordinary Council meeting set for 7 December 2021 will not be able to proceed and is proposed to be removed from the ordinary schedule. In the event Council does not sit in December, it will still have met its obligations under Section 365 of the Local Government Act which stipulates that Council is to meet at least 10 times per year, each time in a different month.

**New term of Council**

Section 290 of the Local Government Act requires that Councils that elect their mayor must hold a mayoral election within three weeks after the declaration of the ordinary election and are required to schedule a meeting for this purpose within three weeks of the declaration of the election.

Accordingly, Council is requested to consider and resolve a suitable meeting date for the first meeting of the new term of Council. At this meeting councillors will be asked to:

- undertake an affirmation or oath of office (as the first order of business, or prior to the meeting)
- elect a mayor and potentially a deputy mayor
- decide whether to use a countback of the votes cast at the ordinary election should any casual vacancies occur in the civic office within the first 18 months of the term.

In consideration of the Christmas holiday period and to ensure effective governance arrangements are in place as soon as practicable after the election, enable planning and to provide clarity early for new and returning councillors, two options are provided for consideration below. Meetings will be held at the Ashfield Service Centre unless public health orders are in place which do not enable this.

1. **6.30pm, Thursday 30 December 2021** (papers circulated on Friday 24 December 2021)
2. **6.30pm, Tuesday 4 January 2022** (papers circulated on Wednesday 29 December 2021). Council is being asked to select one of these options.

**2022 ordinary Council meeting schedule**

Council has previously adopted a Meeting schedule of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from February through to November and on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of December. Council has also resolved to have a two week meeting and briefing recess in July each year. Taking these factors into account, the below schedule of meeting dates for 2022 is presented for Council’s endorsement. Meetings commence from 6.30pm as per the Code of Meeting Practice.

2022 Council Meeting Schedule

Tuesday 8 February
Tuesday 22 February
Tuesday 8 March
Tuesday 22 March
Tuesday 12 April
Tuesday 26 April
Tuesday 10 May
Tuesday 24 May
Tuesday 7 June
Tuesday 21 June
Tuesday 26 July
Tuesday 9 August
Tuesday 23 August
Tuesday 13 September
Tuesday 27 September
Tuesday 11 October
Tuesday 25 October
Tuesday 8 November
Tuesday 22 November
Tuesday 13 December

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. [Office of Local Government FAQs Postponement of the 2021 Local Government Elections](#)

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



Frequently asked questions

Item 5

### Questions about the postponement of council elections

#### When will council elections be held?

All council elections will be held on **4 December 2021**.

#### Why are council elections being postponed?

Council elections are being postponed in response to the current outbreak of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. Global experience has demonstrated that previously effective mitigation strategies for the COVID-19 virus are no longer effective in containing the spread of the Delta variant. Only the strictest controls will contain the current outbreak.

It would be untenable for the Government to encourage electors to leave their homes to vote at a time when people are also being advised not to leave their homes unless it is essential to do so, to limit the spread of the virus.

The Government is also concerned that the current outbreak and restrictions may see a low voter turnout at council elections that could jeopardise the legitimacy of election outcomes and public confidence in them.

#### Has the NSW Electoral Commissioner been consulted?

The decision to postpone council elections has been made in consultation with the NSW Electoral Commissioner and NSW Health. The NSW Electoral Commissioner has advised the Government that it is no longer tenable to hold council elections during the current COVID outbreak. The Commission now faces insurmountable challenges in conducting council elections in areas affected by outbreaks.

The current outbreak and stay at home restrictions do not only affect electors' ability to vote in person but also the ability of election workers to attend polling places and counting venues for the purposes of their work. The Commission is also finding it increasingly difficult to engage and retain election workers because of fear of COVID.

#### Why have council elections in regional areas been postponed?

The current outbreak has seen stay at home restrictions imposed in the Orange, Blayney and Cabonne local government areas and cases and transmission hotspots identified in other regional areas.

The Government cannot take the chance that there will be no further outbreaks in regional areas between now and 4 September 2021 that would put council elections in those areas at risk.

Conducting council elections in regional areas will also require the movement of personnel and equipment from Greater Sydney to those areas creating the risk that holding elections in regional areas may cause the virus to be seeded in those areas.

Attachment 1

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

#### **Why can't council elections be held on 4 September 2021 by postal voting?**

When holding postal voting only elections for the 2021 local government elections was proposed as an option to address the risks of holding council elections during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was strongly opposed by the local government sector. It is now too late to revisit that option.

To allow council elections to be held by postal voting only outside the circumstances current permitted under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) would require an amendment to that Act. The earliest this could occur is in the week starting on the 4 August when Parliament is scheduled to resume, by which time it will already be too late. There is no guarantee any legislation mandating postal voting only elections would be supported by the local government sector or would pass the Parliament.

Even if the necessary amendments could be passed, the NSW Electoral Commission has advised that it will not be logistically possible to distribute, receive and process postal votes for every elector in NSW in the time between now and 4 September.

#### **Why can't council elections be held on 4 September 2021 using on-line voting?**

Technology assisted voting is currently only available to a limited class of electors and only at council elections administered by the NSW Electoral Commissioner. The eligibility criteria for technology assisted voting for council elections is largely the same as State elections.

As with postal voting, to allow council elections to be held by online voting only would require an amendment to the Act. The earliest this could occur is in the week starting 4 August. The Parliament has previously indicated opposition to any expansion of technology assisted voting and any legislation allowing an expansion of technology assisted voting would be unlikely to pass.

Even if the necessary amendments could be passed, the NSW Electoral Commission has advised that its online voting systems could not accommodate every elector in NSW.

#### **Questions about the 4 December 2021 elections**

##### **How can the Government be sure that it will be safe to hold council elections on 4 December 2021?**

The restrictions imposed under the *Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021* are designed to contain and reduce the spread of the current outbreak. It is hoped that the measures imposed under the Public Health Order will be effective in containing the current outbreak well before December.

The Government also expects that community vaccination rates will have increased to a level by December to allow available mitigation strategies to be more effective in containing the spread and impact of the Delta variant.

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

#### What legislative measures have been taken to support council elections in December being COVID-safe?

Amendments have been made to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the Regulation) to facilitate delivery of the December 2021 local government elections in a COVID-safe manner.

Among other things, the amendments to the Regulation expand the eligibility criteria for pre-poll and postal voting in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and allow technology assisted voting at elections administered by the NSW Electoral Commission.

The criteria for pre-poll voting for the 2021 elections have been relaxed allowing any elector to vote during the pre-poll voting period. This will mean that voting will not occur on a single day but over a period of 13 days, including election day. This will assist in allowing a range of COVID-safe measures to be implemented at polling places.

Additional eligibility criteria have been introduced for postal voting in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These allow electors to vote by post if they are self-isolating because of COVID-19 related reasons, or because they reasonably believe that attending a polling place on election day will pose a risk to their health or safety or the health or safety of another person because of COVID-19. Permanent and temporary residents in hospitals, nursing homes, retirement villages and similar facilities are also eligible to vote using postal voting because of their particular vulnerability.

Technology assisted voting, or iVote, will be able to be made available to electors at council elections administered by the NSW Electoral Commission, and will operate in the same way it does for State elections. Eligibility to vote using iVote will be limited to the same criteria that apply at State elections. Electors who are eligible to vote by post and who have applied for but have not received their postal ballot paper 8 days before election day will also be eligible to vote using iVote.

New powers have also been introduced to allow election managers and officials to maintain COVID-safe measures at and around polling places and at venues where votes are scrutinised or counted. The Regulations empower election managers to:

- restrict posters being displayed and canvassing activities within 100 metres of polling places where this is necessary to comply with a public health order or to reduce the risk of infection from COVID-19, (where posters and canvassing are restricted, links to the posters and other election material may instead be published on the election manager’s website)
- prohibit or restrict the number of scrutineers present at polling places and places where ballot-papers are scrutinised or votes counted where this is necessary to comply with a public health order or to reduce the risk of infection from COVID-19, subject to there being alternative scrutiny arrangements (eg filming the counting of votes)

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

- temporarily suspend voting at a polling place for up to 4 hours and to adjourn voting for up to 13 days after election day in response to a health hazard.

### What are the key dates for the 4 December local government elections?

Key dates for the December 2021 local government elections are as follows:

Key date	Step
25 October 2021	Close of electoral rolls (6pm) Candidate nominations open Commencement of the “regulated period” for the elections (for example, published electoral material must comply with authorisation rules)
26 October 2021	Postal vote application opens
3 November 2021	Close of candidate nominations (12pm) Registration of electoral material that is for distribution on election day commences
4 November 2021	Ballot paper draw
5 November 2021	Caretaker period commences
22 November 2021	Pre-poll voting opens iVote commences
26 November 2021	Registration of electoral material for distribution on election day closes (5pm)
29 November 2021	Postal vote applications close (5pm)
3 December 2021	Pre-poll voting closes
4 December 2021	iVote applications close (1 pm) iVote voting closes (6pm) Election day (8am-6pm)
17 December 2021	Return of postal votes closes (6pm)
21 – 23 December 2021	Results declared progressively as counts are finalised by Returning Officers

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections

### Frequently asked questions



#### When will council elections be declared?

In response to changing postal delivery services, on the advice of the NSW Electoral Commission, the time for the receipt of postal votes has been extended to 13 days after election day. This change has been made to provide a greater opportunity for valid postal votes to be received and counted. This change will mean it is unlikely council elections will be declared before **21 December 2021**.

#### When should councils schedule their first meetings after the election?

As noted above, council elections are not likely to be declared before **21 December 2021**. Councils should schedule the timing of their first meetings following the election on this basis.

Councils that elect their mayor are required to hold a mayoral election with 3 weeks after the declaration of the ordinary election and will be required to schedule a meeting for this purpose within 3 weeks of the declaration of the election.

When scheduling the first meeting following the election, councils will need to factor in the Christmas/New Year period.

#### What needs to happen at the first meeting after the elections?

At the first meeting after the election:

- all councillors and members of county councils must take an oath or make an affirmation of office - councillors are not permitted to participate in meetings until they have done so
- councils must, by resolution, declare that casual vacancies occurring in the office of a councillor within 18 months of the election are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at the election if councils want to fill vacancies by these means – councils that do not resolve to fill vacancies using a countback at their first meeting after the election will be required to fill vacancies using a by-election
- councils that elect their mayors must hold a mayoral election and an election for deputy mayor where they have one
- joint organisations must elect a new chairperson
- county councils must elect a new chairperson.

The Office of Local Government will issue more detailed guidance about these requirements closer to the elections.

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

#### Questions about the effect of the postponement of council elections?

##### What does the postponement of the elections mean for current councillors?

Current councillors will continue to hold their civic offices until council elections are held on 4 December 2021. The civic offices of current councillors will expire on election day on **4 December 2021**.

##### What does the postponement of the elections mean for popularly elected mayors?

Popularly elected mayors will continue to hold their civic offices. Under the Act, popularly elected mayors continue to hold their office until their successor is declared elected.

##### What does the postponement of the elections mean for mayors elected by councillors?

The making of the order will not affect the requirement to hold mayoral elections. Mayoral elections must be held for mayors elected in September 2019 when their two year-terms expire in September 2021. The Office of Local Government will issue more detailed guidance on this before September.

Mayors elected in September 2020 will continue to hold office until council elections are held on 4 December 2021.

The civic offices of all mayors elected by councillors will expire on election day on **4 December 2021**.

##### What does the postponement of the elections mean for deputy mayors?

Deputy mayors may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term. Deputy mayors hold their office for the term specified by the council's resolution. If a deputy mayor's term expires before election day on 4 December 2021, an election may need to be held for deputy mayor. It should be noted however, that councils are not required under the Act to have a deputy mayor.

##### What does the postponement of the elections mean for chairpersons of county councils?

Chairpersons of county councils now hold office for two years. Chairpersons of county councils elected in September 2020 will continue to hold office until council elections are held on 4 December 2021.

The civic offices of chairpersons of county councils will expire on the election day for their constituent council on **4 December 2021**.

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

#### **What does the postponement of elections mean for joint organisations?**

The composition of joint organisation boards may need to change in September 2021 if mayors of member councils elected by councillors are not re-elected.

Joint organisations elected chairpersons for a two-year term in 2020. Chairpersons elected in 2020 will continue to hold office until council elections are held on 4 December 2021.

The civic offices of chairpersons of joint organisations will expire on the election day for their member council on **4 December 2021**.

#### **Will councils need to hold by-elections to fill casual vacancies occurring before 4 December 2021?**

No. The order postponing the ordinary elections provides that any casual vacancies occurring in a council between now and 4 December are to be filled by the ordinary election for that council to be held on 4 December 2021.

This means that councils are not required to hold a by-election to fill casual vacancies occurring between now and 4 December 2021 or to apply to the Minister for a dispensation from the requirement to hold a by-election.

General managers are still required to notify the Office of Local Government, Local Government NSW, and the NSW Electoral Commissioner of any vacancies within 7 days of their occurring.

#### **What happens if the resignation of councillors between now and 4 December results in a loss of quorum?**

It is not possible under the Act for councils to lose quorum because of councillor resignations.

A quorum is defined under section 368 of the Act as *"a majority of the councillors of the council who hold office for the time being and are not suspended from office"*. This means that the quorum is calculated based on the number of councillors who hold office at a particular point in time and does not include civic offices that are currently vacant.

#### **How will the postponement of elections to 4 December 2021 affect the next term of councils?**

The postponement of the elections will not affect the timing of future council elections, and the subsequent ordinary local government elections will still proceed in September 2024.

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

#### What does the postponement of elections mean for the requirement for councillors to lodge returns of interests?

Under the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW*, councillors (and designated persons) must lodge returns of their interests within three months of 30 June of each year.

All current serving councillors, members of county councils and voting representatives of the boards of joint organisations must lodge a written return of interests with the general manager (or the executive officer in the case of joint organisations) before **30 September 2021** unless they have submitted a return within the previous three months.

Returns of interests must be tabled at the first meeting of the council or board of the joint organisation after they are required to be lodged. They must also be made publicly available free of charge on councils', county councils' and joint organisations' websites, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information contained in them or to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs on the council or joint organisation.

#### When will the caretaker period begin for the next local government elections?

The caretaker period no longer commences on 6 August 2021 and *Circular 21-17 Council decision-making prior to the September 2021 local government elections* may now be disregarded.

The caretaker period for the 4 December 2021 elections will now commence on **5 November 2021** and end on **4 December 2021**.

During the caretaker period, councils, general managers, and other delegates of councils (other than a joint regional planning panel, a local planning panel or the Central Sydney Planning Committee) must not exercise the following functions:

- entering into any contract or undertaking involving an expenditure or receipt by the council of an amount equal to or greater than \$150,000 or 1% of the council's revenue from rates in the preceding financial year (whichever is the larger)
- determining a "controversial development application" (as defined by clause 393B(3) of the Regulation), except where a failure to make such a determination would give rise to a deemed refusal, or such a deemed refusal arose before the commencement of the caretaker period
- appointing or reappointing the council's general manager (except for temporary appointments).

Councils should plan now to avoid the need to make these types of decisions during the caretaker period.

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

The Office of Local Government will issue more detailed guidance about the caretaker requirements closer to the elections.

#### **When will the “regulated period” begin for the next local government elections?**

The “regulated period” is the period commencing 40 days before elections in which rules regulating “electoral material” as defined by the Regulation come into effect.

The regulated period no longer commences on 26 July 2021 and *Circular 21-12 “Electoral matter” and use of council resources prior to local government elections* may now be disregarded.

The “regulated period” for the 4 December 2021 elections will now commence on **25 October 2021** and end on **4 December 2021**.

Councils should plan now to issue publications that may be affected by the rules governing “electoral material” during the regulated period before that period commences.

The Office of Local Government will issue more detailed guidance about “electoral matter” and use of council resources during the regulated period closer to the elections.

#### **How will the postponement of the elections affect councils’ IP&R cycle?**

The postponement of the elections will not impact on councils’ IP&R cycles.

The postponement of council elections from 4 September 2021 to 4 December 2021, will not alter the requirement under the Act for councils to review the community strategic plan before 30 June 2022 and establish a new delivery program to cover their principal activities for the 4-year period commencing on 1 July 2022.

However, the postponement of elections will impact of the timing of the end of term report.

#### **Has Central Coast Council’s referendum been postponed?**

Central Coast Council will not be proceeding with its referendum on 4 September 2021. It will be a matter for the Council to determine the future timing of the referendum based on the advice of NSW Health and the requirements of the Public Health Order.

#### **How does the postponement of elections affect councils that are currently under administration?**

Four councils are currently under administration:

- Balranald Shire Council
- Central Coast Council
- Central Darling Shire Council
- Wingecarribee Shire Council.

## Postponement of the 2021 local government elections



### Frequently asked questions

Balranald Shire Council, Central Coast Council and Central Darling Council will continue under Administration despite the postponement of the elections.

**Version update as of 27 July 2021:** The Minister's position regarding Wingecarribee Shire Council has not been finalised and the Minister is waiting on the interim report from the Administrator.

#### Where can I get more information?

Contact your Engagement Manager or the Office of Local Government's Council Governance Team on 4428 4100 or [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 6

**Subject:** REPORT ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN -

**Prepared By:** Prue Foreman - Communications and Engagement Manager

**Authorised By:** Caroline McLeod - Acting Director Community

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council endorse the report *State of the Inner West October 2021* which outlines progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan.**

**DISCUSSION**

The attached report *State of the Inner West October 2021* outlines progress against the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) during the term of the current elected council.

The CSP is the highest-level plan that a council prepares, on behalf of the community. It identifies the community’s main priorities and aspirations for the future and contains strategies for achieving these goals.

It is developed and delivered as a partnership between the council, state agencies, business and industry groups, community groups and individuals, and addresses a broad range of issues that are relevant to the whole community.

Inner West’s CSP – *Our Inner West 2036* was shaped by a large and diverse range of people across all age groups, geographic areas, cultures and languages. More than 7,000 people over 18 months provided input which helped to determine the vision and strategic directions of the plan which was endorsed by council in June 2018.

*Our Inner West 2036* outlines five high level strategic directions that address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues identified by the community (commonly referred to as “the quadruple bottom line”, and high level measures to track progress.

The five strategic directions are:

1. An ecologically sustainable Inner West
2. Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods
3. Creative communities and a strong economy
4. Caring, happy, healthy communities
5. Progressive local leadership

At the end of each term of the elected council, a report is prepared which demonstrates progress in implementing the CSP.

The report *State of the Inner West October 2021* documents Council’s significant achievements. Through key infrastructure projects including Marrickville Library, Ashfield Aquatic Centre and Dawn Fraser Baths, innovative arts programs such as EDGE and Perfect Match, record expenditure on capital works, and major environmental initiatives including solar

projects and becoming the first council in New South Wales to be 100 per cent divested from fossil fuels, Council has delivered progress against the community's vision for Inner West.

*State of the Inner West October 2021* will be published on Council's website and included as an attachment to this year's annual report as required under the Local Government Act.

The report will also be presented to the incoming council to inform their review of the CSP. Under the Act, following each election councils must review their CSP before 30 June the following year. The council may endorse the existing plan, endorse amendments to the existing plan, or develop and endorse a new CSP as appropriate to ensure that the area has a CSP covering at least the next 10 years.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **ATTACHMENTS**

State of the Inner West October 2021 to be circulated serperatly.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 7

**Subject:** COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY COVID CRISIS INTERVENTION TASKFORCE

**Prepared By:** Gabrielle Rennard - Community Wellbeing Manager

**Authorised By:** Caroline McLeod - Acting Director Community

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council adopt the draft Terms of Reference for the Council and Community Covid Crisis Intervention Taskforce.**

**DISCUSSION**

*On 28 September 2021, Council resolved C0921(3) Item 27 (13) that a terms of reference be brought back to the next Council meeting for the Council and Community COVID Crisis Intervention Taskforce.*

The Mayor held the initial Covid Crisis Intervention Roundtable with local Community Sector NGOs on Wednesday 22 September 2021.

The committee is made up of Mayor, IWC General Manager, IWC delegated staff and representatives from the Non-Government Organisations who received Council COVID crisis financial assistance in 2020 and 2021.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost will be met within existing operational budgets

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. [↓](#) Draft Terms of Reference



**Council and Community COVID Crisis Intervention Taskforce 2021**

**Terms of Reference**

**Vision**

The Council and Community COVID Crisis Intervention Taskforce will advise, support and respond accordingly to ensure that the community of the Inner West is best supported as we respond to the COVID pandemic, NSW Health Orders and lockdowns.

**Purpose**

The taskforce will:-

- Seek to share information and resources across the sector and LGA wherever possible
- Ensure support is provided to the most vulnerable members of the community
- Provide oversight and coordination in ensuring continuous service delivery to the inner west community
- Provide a platform to raise issues, challenges, concerns or solutions in responding to the COVID crisis

**Terms of Reference**

- To support Council and the community sector working as effectively as possible to ensure best possible outcomes for the inner west in a COVID safe manner
- To provide advice on collaborative and resource sharing opportunities that will assist and support the Inner West community through the pandemic
- To raise awareness, highlight issues of concern in the community or as identified by service providers
- To collectively problem solve in seeking best response and outcomes for the inner west community
- To ensure access to food, basic supplies and adequate support and assistance is provided to the most vulnerable members of the community and those in need

**Membership**

The committee is made up of Mayor, IWC General Manager, IWC delegated staff and representatives from the following Non-Government Organisations who received Council COVID crisis financial assistance in 2020 and 2021.

- Addison Road Community Centre
- Asylum Seeker Centre
- Community and Cultural Connections Inc
- Deadly Connections
- Exodus Foundation
- Gunawirra
- Headspace
- Inner West Neighbour Aid
- Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre
- Marrickville Youth Resource Centre

## INNER WEST

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre,  
Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services  
Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre  
Sanctuary House Women's Shelter  
St Vincent de Paul  
Youth Off the Streets

All of these services play a significant role in supporting the community of the Inner West. They are key collaborators in meeting the needs of vulnerable people and have key roles to play in managing current crisis and future needs in the Inner West.

### Meetings

Taskforce meetings will be coordinated by the Mayors Office.

The Taskforce meetings will be held remotely (via Teams)

The meeting frequency will be every 4 – 6 weeks or as determined by consensus of the membership.



**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 8  
**Subject:** RE-OPENING OF OUTDOOR AQUATIC CENTRES  
**Prepared By:** Simon Duck - Senior Manager Aquatics  
**Authorised By:** Graeme Palmer - Acting Director Planning

Item 8

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council:**

1. Note that the Outdoor Aquatic Centres re-opened from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September; and
2. Note that Officers have implemented a range of processes for the safe re-opening of the outdoor pools in line with conditions as determined by the public health order.

**DISCUSSION**

At the ordinary Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Council resolved in part to,

*5. Receives a report from Council officers on the process and precautions for reopening outdoor pools, Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre and Ashfield Aquatic Centre in a COVID-safe way, noting that Ashfield Aquatic Centre is currently being used as COVID testing centre.*

The recent announcements by NSW Health have determined that outdoor swimming pools were able to re-open on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September subject to requirements as outlined by the public health order. To this end, it can be confirmed that Council officers have undertaken planning to implement the appropriate safety procedures at the Aquatic Facilities. These processes include registering the Aquatics Centres with NSW Health Outdoor Pools as well as developing a range of operating protocols as below,

- Training, inducting and ensuring staff are aware of their safety obligations for the re-opening of the Aquatic Centres.
- Ensuring signage, communication, frequently asked questions, member messaging and other processes are in place.
- Creating safe entry, exit and customer registration processes.
- Adhering to safe and appropriate numbers of patrons within all areas of the Aquatics facilities at all times.
- Cleaning regimes are set up and in place.
- Appropriate levels of staff assistance are available at all times of operation including Covid Officers, Duty Managers, Centre Management and Customer Service staff.
- Check in and follow up processes for staff including ‘toolbox talks’ and other ongoing training processes.
- Adhering to the Public health Order in relation to information regarding vaccinations for staff or patrons.

- Modifying plans and processes as Public Health orders require.
- Partnering with the Café operators to ensure food and beverage provision is in line with Public Health orders.
- Ensuring lane allocations for numbers of swimmers supports overall numbers of entrants as they relate to 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup>.
- Create a ‘swim and go’ process where patrons will leave at the completion of their swim.
- Limit total entry times to 1 hour for all patrons.
- Supporting all information as above through ensuring public messaging including web-based information and public announcements direct to patrons attending the facilities.

The above information is captured and implemented via a range of site-based processes including operational documents, rosters, signage, Covid Plans and other processes. The information listed above will continue to be modified to reflect any changes to the Public Health Orders. Additional services such as Health and Fitness and other Aquatics Programs whilst are not able to operate from 27<sup>th</sup> September, are currently undergoing planning to ensure that the second phase of opening the facilities is done so in a safe and appropriate way in line with Public Health orders.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 9  
**Subject:** TREE MANAGEMENT DCP - REVIEW PROCESS  
**Prepared By:** Cathy Edwards-Davis - Director Infrastructure  
**Authorised By:** Peter Gainsford - General Manager

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the report be received and noted.**

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## DISCUSSION

The Inner West Council Tree Management Development Control Plan (Tree DCP) was adopted by Council in February 2020. At the Council meeting on the 11 February 2020, it was resolved:

*THAT Council:*

*Review the policy after 12 months of implementation and the review be reported to Council;*

Council is currently unable to undertake this review because of resources. The purpose of this report is to outline the proposal to review and resolve some of the inconsistencies that have been identified in the Tree DCP since adoption.

Trees located on private land generally require Council consent to prune or remove. The State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) (Vegetation SEPP) prohibits removing vegetation identified in a DCP without authorisation issued by a Council. Council's DCP identifies the vegetation that it applies to and sets out different forms of authorisation:

- A **Minor Works** application is utilised for the removal of specific tree species or dead trees
- A **Tree Permit** application is utilised for most trees unless covered by the Minor Works application or where the works is an exempt activity.
- **Exempt Activity** includes canopy lifting to 2.5m above ground level, selective pruning to a 3m clearance above the roof or face of structures and pruning of deadwood that does not have hollows or provide habitat for native fauna.
- A **Development Application** is only required where the request is for removal of trees identified on the Inner West Council heritage trees list or the tree forms part of an Aboriginal object or is located within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance or is located within a heritage conservation area or item where the works are determined to be not of a minor nature; or likely to have an adverse impact on a Heritage Conservation Area or Heritage Item.

## Positive Outcomes

The key positive outcomes from the new Tree DCP include:

- **Requirement for replacement tree planting**  
Council requires replacement tree/s to be planted as a condition of any consent to remove a tree to effectively maintain the urban forest canopy across the local government area.

- **Minor works application**  
The Minor Works Application is a free process that allows some pruning and removal work that previously required a permit
- **Land Zone Canopy Targets**  
Land Zone canopy targets have been introduced for different development types, ranging between 15 and 40%. These targets have improved tree planting outcomes in new developments
- **Reduced Development Applications for trees**  
A greater number of applications for tree pruning and removal may now be considered through a Minor Works application or Tree Permit application. This has reduced the number of formal Development Applications required for tree pruning and removal, providing an easier approval process for the community.
- **No mandatory requirement for Arborist reports**  
Tree DCPs from the former Councils had mandatory requirements for an Arborist report to accompany an application, regardless of the particular circumstances of the property or tree. An Arborist report (or other specialist reports) are now not mandatory. Council as the consent authority provides a determination based on information provided.

### Tree DCP Review

The following aspects of the Tree DCP require review:

1. Legal inconsistencies
2. Tree species list for Minor Works applications
3. Assessment criteria for pruning and removal
4. Right of appeal

These matters will be discussed in detail below.

#### 1. Legal inconsistencies

The legal inconsistencies include the following:

- The DCP is inconsistent with the Vegetation SEPP
- The two metre rule is inconsistent with the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act (EP&A Act)
- Clarification is needed as to whether the two metre rule applies to neighbouring properties.

#### Vegetation SEPP

The Tree DCP currently permits tree removal without development consent in heritage conservation areas and where a tree is part of a heritage item. This is inconsistent with the EP&A Act and the Vegetation SEPP.

Under the Vegetation SEPP, development consent is needed to remove vegetation that is:

- a heritage item; or
- within a heritage conservation area; or
- that is or forms part of an Aboriginal object; or
- that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance...

It is therefore recommended that the DCP be amended to require a development consent for removal of a tree that is within a heritage conservation area or that is part of a heritage item unless Council is satisfied that the removal is minor or for the maintenance of the heritage conservation area and would not adversely impact on the heritage conservation area.

### **Two Metre Rule**

Clause 5.2(i) of the Tree DCP says that approval will be given if a tree is within two metres of a dwelling or garage. This is inconsistent with the EP&A Act as it removes Council's ability to consider an application and decide it in any way other than to approve it.

Where legislation or a SEPP gives a public authority discretion to make decisions, e.g. to issue a tree permit or consent, the public authority must allow itself to consider each decision on its own merits. The tree's proximity to buildings is relevant but that criterion alone cannot mandate the outcome of the permit application.

Section 4.15 EP&A Act sets out everything that a consent authority must consider when assessing DAs, including applicable SEPPs, LEPs and DCPs, the likely environmental impacts of the proposed removal on the natural and built environment, submissions and the public interest. The blanket two metre rule does not allow for these EP&A Act requirements for DAs.

It is therefore recommended that one of the following amendments be adopted:

The Tree DCP be amended to say that distance of a tree to a dwelling or garage is a relevant matter for consideration and, where trees are less than two metres, that will be given significant weight in the assessment of the application. Other relevant considerations include habitat, environmental services, shade, scenic quality, amenity, structural damage to property, risk of injury. This amendment would allow for tree replacement to be a condition of consent.

OR

Except where a development consent is needed, make the pruning or removal of trees within two metres of a dwelling an exempt activity, which means that no approval is needed. It is noted that this does not allow a condition to be placed on the applicant requiring them to plant a replacement tree.

### **Neighbouring Properties**

Clause 5.2(i) of the Tree DCP says that approval will be given if a tree is within two metres of a dwelling or garage. It is unclear whether this applies only where the dwelling and tree are on the same property or whether this also applies where the tree is on one property and the dwelling is on the neighbouring property.

Consideration should be given to amending clause 5.2(i) of the DCP to clarify that it refers to trees that are two metres from any dwelling only on the subject property.

## **2. Tree species list for Minor Works applications**

Council is currently experiencing a large increase in the volume of Minor Works applications and as a result there are delays in the processing of permits. Council staff are utilising all available resources to reduce these delays. However, there are currently delays of six to eight weeks for all tree applications.

The Minor Works application has made the process easier for many. However, it has made some applications harder. For example, weeds such as privet now require an application whereas previously, they could be removed without any Council approval.

The tree species list should be split into two, allowing some trees to be removed without approval and other trees would be subject to a Minor Work application. The Minor Works tree species list needs to be reviewed and should only include weed species. Further, consideration needs to be given to reinstating the use of the Minor Works application only for those trees that do not exceed 10 metres in height above ground level.

### 3. Assessment criteria for pruning and removal

Section 5.2 of the Tree DCP outlines the application assessment criteria for pruning and removal. This section, as written, has resulted in a loss of evidence-based approach. The criteria is not in line with industry standards and adopted risk methodologies. Further, the criteria is confusing and can be contradictory. It is therefore recommended that this section be reviewed to improve clarity.

It is noted that Council has received complaints from residents where trees have been removed due to these assessment criteria changes. It is recommended that any future Draft Tree DCP be placed on public exhibition to allow for community engagement.

### 4. Right of Appeal

Section 5.3 of the Tree DCP outlines that in accordance with the Vegetation SEPP, applicants may appeal a Council decision within three months to the NSW Land and Environment Court.

Section 5.3 also allows for an internal Council review within six months of the determination. This internal review may be considered inconsistent with the Local Government Act which allows for a 28 day internal administration review by Council and the Vegetation SEPP. Consideration should be given to amending the internal Council review period to 28 days.

#### Timing on the Review

Council is currently in the process of recruiting a new Urban Forest Manager. Once this person has been appointed, they will be tasked with undertaking the Tree DCP review. It is likely that a Draft Tree DCP will be referred to Council in early 2022.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed review of the Tree DCP can be undertaken within existing resources. Should Council continue with the current Minor Works applications unamended, additional staff resources will need to be employed in order to manage the increase in applications being received.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 10  
**Subject:** INNER WEST ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASKFORCE UPDATE  
**Prepared By:** Billy Cotsis - Economic Development Team Leader  
**Authorised By:** Graeme Palmer - Acting Director Planning

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT:**

1. Council notes the update on the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce recommendations; and
2. \$138,000 be expended from the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce to fund the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Project

**DISCUSSION**

Eight individuals were selected from the community via an Expression of Interest (EOI) process, representing a range of industries; this included licensed premises, hospitality, chambers of commerce, the arts, retail, education, event management and employment within the government sector.

Cllrs Darcy Byrne and Louise Steer represented Council on the Taskforce. Cllr Byrne in his capacity as Mayor at the time, chaired the Taskforce.

The aim of the Taskforce was to examine the issues and outcomes of the COVID-19 impact on local businesses and to identify the opportunities to help the local economic recovery process. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Taskforce's 39 recommendations being considered and implemented by Council. Attachment 1 provides a list of the recommendations with relevant Council Officer comments in relation to the progress/status of each recommendation.

The Taskforce met over a period of four months between July to October 2020 to consider a range of issues impacting the local economy. A number of external stakeholders and staff addressed the Taskforce on a range of subject matters including the state of the economy, beautifying main streets, development assessment processes, arts and culture, engaging with government and business support needs.

Towards the end of 2020, Taskforce members provided their key recommendations which forms the basis of Attachment 1. These recommendations were presented to Council on 24 May 2021, via a Notice of Motion where council resolved as follows

*THAT Council:*

1. Thank the members of the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce, Percy Allan, Erica Berchtold, Greg Khoury, Chrissy Flanagan, Mark Chapman, Monica Vardabasso, Morris Hanna and Kerrie Glasscock, for volunteering their time and expertise;
2. Notes the recommendations of the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce;

3. Refers the taskforce report to Council Officers to seek their advice on each recommendation, which is to be tabled at the June Ordinary meeting;
4. Officers meet with taskforce members to discuss the recommendations; and
5. Endorses the following recommendations for immediate implementation with an update to be provided in the report to the June Ordinary meeting:
  - a) Undertakes an external review of its borrowing capabilities to identify its capacity to invest additional capital in reducing/eliminating the infrastructure backlog;
  - b) Seeks advice and cooperation from rating agencies and the NSW Government's TCorp in assessing Council's borrowing capacity and review whether there are other mechanisms Council can use to raise capital to invest in infrastructure renewal;
  - c) Identifies the proportion of Council's procurement currently undertaken through suppliers within the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA) and makes it a priority to increase local procurement in future budgets;
  - d) Proposes to the NSW and Federal Governments that they establish a one-stop shop application process for all three tiers of government for approvals to open all businesses, and that the Inner West would host a pilot of the scheme; and
  - e) Develops an Inner West public space activation strategy to be rolled out in line with the lifting of public health restrictions with the specific goal of attracting and encouraging high levels of pedestrian traffic, economic activity and social interaction in the public domain.

## OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIONS TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY

In addition to the establishment of the Taskforce, and to help mitigate the impacts of the economic downturn and support the business community's confidence, Council has provided a range of support measures over the last 18 months. This includes, though not limited to, the following initiatives:

- Hardship form for commercial/business rates, providing relief for businesses experiencing hardship due to the loss of operating revenue or reduced disposable income,
- During the first lockdown in 2020, Council supported the arts industry with \$300,000 in grants for Covid relief initiatives and projects. This included small grants for Artist and Creative Practitioner Grants for creative development, new work and adaptation projects for creatives (up to \$5000) and Creative Spaces Grants to support survival and resilience in local creative spaces (up to \$20,000). The projects had to be delivered by the end of 2020,
- Council supported pick up and takeaway by encouraging businesses to post on Council's website, which Council in turn promoted,
- Committed to post lockdown communication and marketing to assist *local spend* and *local experience* initiatives. This has involved a combination of digital and static campaigns designed to improve footfall and confidence in the local economy,
- Council established the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce to help plan and coordinate the post-COVID-19 economic recovery of the Inner West,
- In October 2020, Council adopted the Night-Time Economy Action Plan to support the night-time economy and to support the diverse commercial, retail and entertainment options at night,

- In April 2021, Council established the Inner West Creative Network (IWCN) to provide support for the creative industries. The IWCN is designed as an industry umbrella association to represent creatives and advocate for more opportunities for creative industries and artists in the Inner West,
- Throughout 2021, Council has facilitated a range of support to help Chambers to promote their precincts, including support for promotional campaigns to generate local footfall,
- Supported the *Celebrate South King* project in June to generate interest in Newtown's South King Street and to generate footfall to the Newtown and Enmore precinct. 70 activations were held with businesses and creatives,
- A range of online workshops have been held with partners including the ATO to help upskill small businesses with financial planning, working with the ATO, 'future proofing' businesses and marketing sessions,
- Council has continued to deliver the Women in Business workshops and the mentoring program which first commenced in 2020,
- Local procurement workshops/seminars are being planned for post lockdown to help businesses understand how they can register for VendorPanel and to seek out opportunities to tender with Council,
- Rent postponement for Council tenants (upon request) due to the hardship of closing their business operations during the lockdown periods,
- Council is currently drafting the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines to help businesses with safe space requirements as per Public Health Orders. The guidelines will help hospitality businesses and local artists during the re-opening phase after lockdown,
- Businesses will be surveyed post lockdown for their business support needs. The business survey has been drafted and translated into multiple languages for distribution to businesses in every Ward,
- A range of Inner West Fest activations to generate footfall will be held over the summer period in 2022, with a number of businesses engaged with the process; many businesses participated with Inner West Fest initiatives held earlier this year specifically in Balmain, Rozelle, Leichhardt and Annandale,
- Proactively engaged with Service NSW to increase the take up of Dine and Discover in 2021,
- Support for local Indigenous businesses via workshops, engagement and the development of the draft Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy,
- Council is currently in the process of working towards establishing a "Special Entertainment Precinct" around the Enmore Theatre and Enmore Road,
- Facilitated meetings for business in Newtown and Enmore to re-establish a local chamber of commerce,
- Council provided an extension for the submission of an Annual Fire Safety Statement as many businesses were struggling with the constraints and duress of lockdown periods,
- Regulated food inspections were temporarily placed on hold during lockdown periods. Any Breaches of the COVID-19 Safety Plans relating to food business are monitored by NSW Health and enforced by NSW Police not Council,
- Extended timeframes for Development Compliance was provided upon request for businesses struggling during the lockdown periods,
- Council Rangers undertook passive surveillance of footway dining to ensure compliance with Public Health Orders,
- Council is exploring a joint information session with Service NSW to help businesses with the re-opening period.

The NOM identified five key recommendations. These include undertaking an external review of Council’s borrowing capabilities to address the infrastructure backlog; increasing local procurement in future budgets; proposing to the State and Federal Government a one-stop shop for approvals for businesses with the Inner West as a pilot; and developing a strategy and actions for public space activation to encourage higher levels of footfall.

In accordance with the NOM, Council officers reviewed the recommendations and provided a draft update for a special meeting with the Taskforce, which was held on 26 July 2021. This meeting discussed the recommendations and the draft responses from Council officers. Feedback provided by the Taskforce resulted in the need for a further review of the draft recommendations from Council officers and additional engagement with stakeholders.

The top four recommendations to immediately assist businesses with the post-lockdown recovery includes:

- The development and implementation of the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines, this will assist businesses deal with the public health order and special needs as well as providing a unique selling point to attract footfall;
- Support for local procurement via information sessions and by actively encouraging local businesses to register for the VendorPanel process;
- Support for beautifying main streets and key urban areas which will help to attract and retain visitation;
- Continued support for the live music and arts industries which have been significantly impacted by the lockdowns. These industries are currently being supported by a range of actions and strategies from Council.

One of the key projects and priorities, as outlined above, is the creation of the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines. The Guidelines will allow Council to trial:

- The use of public spaces for outdoor dining, including parking spaces (excludes mobility parking spaces)
- Expediting new or temporary applications for footpath dining
- A partnership program for hospitality businesses to hire local musicians and performers

This project will help address two of the top four recommendations identified in the report. In order to help fund the initial phase of the project, the following expenditure from the Taskforce budget is requested:

\$38,000 to support the Live Performance aspect of the guidelines, while a further \$100,000 is sought to for concrete barriers, installation and removal, and temporary change of street signs to implement outdoor dining needs for successful applicants by the businesses.

The Taskforce budget currently has a budget of \$138,000.

In addition to the Taskforce recommendations, Council has provided a number of other initiatives to help the local economy and businesses recover since the first lockdown period in 2020. Attachment 2 lists some of the key initiatives undertaken by Council.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

\$138,000 has been allocated to implement the Taskforce recommendations. It is recommended that the budget be expended on implementing the proposed Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines, as outlined in the report and in Attachment 1.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Recommendations Responses October.
2. [↓](#) Taskforce Report

**INNERWEST ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASKFORCE  
RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE**

The table below includes the 39 recommendations that have been identified by the Taskforce. It is broken up into the following sections:

**Capital Works, Development Assessment, Compliance, Main Street and Public Space Activation, Public Art, Local Environment Plan, Arts and Culture, Training and Business Assistance, Tourism, Youth.**

The table contains three columns. The first column details the recommendation, which is followed by comments from Council officers. The third indicates the progress of the recommendation. The progress is either complete, partially complete, ongoing – business as usual or being carried over for implementation in 2022.

CAPITAL WORKS	Comments	Status
<p><b>1. Undertakes an external review of its borrowing capabilities to identify its capacity to invest additional capital in reducing/eliminating the infrastructure backlog.</b></p>	<p>Professor Percy Allen, from the Taskforce, has undertaken a desktop review. The review undertaken relied on the FY18/19 Financial Statements. These do not include the Ashfield Aquatic Centre \$40M loan from TCorp. The repayment is \$1.3m every 6 months (\$2.6m per annum). This loan came with the following conditions for the life of the 20-year loan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debt Service Cover Ratio of 1.5: 1</li> <li>• Interest Cover Ratio of 3:1</li> <li>• Cash Expense Cover Ratio of 2 months</li> <li>• Investments – long-term 80% in A rated investments</li> </ul> <p>The financial statements used do not reflect the change in the current environment where Council offered the deferral of rates for up to 12 months which impacted cash flow. The majority of the banks reduced their lending activity in 2020, with lending criteria’s making it harder for organisations to receive loans. Council’s balance sheet</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	<p>remains strong; Council needs to maintain a solid balance sheet and cash flow for a sustainable financial future.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>The FY21/22 Operating Budget After Operating Grants is in deficit by \$7.4M. Working funds are in a negative position as well.</p> <p>Budget Ratios are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating Performance Ratios (3.03%)</li> <li>• Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio 87.25%</li> <li>• Unrestricted Current Ratio 3.16x</li> <li>• Debt Service Cover Ratio 4.4x</li> <li>• Rates, Annual Charges, Interest &amp; Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage 3.27%</li> <li>• Cash Expense Cover Ratio 12.01 months</li> </ul> <p>Addressing another element of the desktop review, it was suggested Council could take advantage of low interest borrowing a maximum level of 60% of its income. This figure would be approximately \$137.2 M.</p> <p>The annual repayments on a loan of \$137M:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Year Loan (Principal &amp; Interest) \$15,399,351</li> <li>• 20 Year Loan (Principal &amp; Interest) \$8,557,477</li> <li>• Total Interest Payable on Loan -             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 Years \$16,781,970.79</li> <li>○ 20 Years \$33,938,005.66</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Noting the substantial operating deficit, additional borrowing is not recommended at this time.</p>	
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	<p>In terms of benchmarking, the FY18/19 debt service cover ratio of 5.8 places Inner West below the median and average ratios for Council's across NSW.</p> <p>Finally, Council's capital works program for FY21/22 is now exceeding \$110M. This is almost double what is typically delivered in any one financial year, and any further projects would potentially stretch capacity.</p>	
<p><b>2. Seeks advice and cooperation from rating agencies and the NSW Government's TCorp in assessing Council's borrowing capacity and review whether there are other mechanisms Council can use to raise capital to invest in infrastructure renewal;</b></p>	<p>Council will need to manage its available operational funds over the coming years due to the impact from COVID-19. Council has and will continue to offer rates financial hardship deferral agreements with the ratepayers. Council is continually reviewing its efficiency and reinvesting efficiency gains back into the community. It is acknowledged there are challenges that will need to be monitored, particularly in the area of capital works and infrastructure management, but Council is actively working on meeting those challenges and ensuring that service levels are at the very least maintained or, if possible, improved.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>An approach has been made to TCorp. TCorp has advised they will assess Council's borrowing capacity at the time a loan application is received. TCorp did mention the current \$40m loan is secured by rates income.</p> <p>Options such as issuing Inner West Council bonds cannot be considered because Council is not permitted to raise capital in the manner. Current bond rates are tracking upwards which has an impact the lending rate by institutions.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	<p>Working capital is about to be depleted. However, Council should review and determine how Voluntary Planning Agreements can generate an alternative or complimentary source of funds to invest in infrastructure.</p> <p>It is advisable that Council avoid using working capital to create new infrastructure when the options to revitalise/renew infrastructure or work with other tiers of government are available.</p> <p><b>Asset Renewals Backlog</b></p> <p><i>Officer comment:</i></p> <p>Addressing points raised by the Taskforce pertaining to asset renewals backlog, asset maintenance ratio, building and infrastructure renewal ratio and Roads, bridges and footpaths, the following information is provided below.</p> <p>The infrastructure backlog ratio is decreasing:</p> <p>2020 – 9.62 2019 - 9.29 2018 - 10.27 2017 - 10.63</p> <p>In 2020, the figure rose slightly. The new assets this year vastly exceeded the renewals because of Marrickville Library and new affordable housing units. Substantial renewal works (\$26m) were undertaken in this year, particularly at Ashfield Aquatic Centre and Dawn Fraser Baths. However, as the works were not complete at the time, these renewal works will be reflected in the 2021</p>	
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	<p>figures and it is anticipated that this ratio will be lower again.</p> <p>The Council Asset Strategy states, that when an asset renewal backlog is identified, the asset renewal funding ratio is to be a minimum of 110%. If there is no asset renewal backlog the asset renewal funding ratio shall be not less than 100%. We are achieving this &gt;110% renewal ratio over the next three years.</p> <p>To continue to address the backlog long term, Council will need to focus expenditure on renewal rather than upgrade. Further, Council should minimise taking on new assets, which increases our depreciation and maintenance (for example WestConnex residual lands).</p> <p><b>Asset Maintenance Ratio</b></p> <p>The Asset Maintenance Ratio over the last four years is as follows:</p> <p>2020 – 98.77 2019 – 97.65 2018 – 78.33 2017 - 100</p>	
<p><b>3. Identifies the proportion of Council’s procurement currently undertaken through suppliers within the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA) and makes it a priority to increase local procurement in future budgets.</b></p>	<p>Local suppliers make up just under 13% of suppliers of Council’s current procurement. There are a number of strategies that can assist including making it easier for local suppliers to bid or quote for projects under a certain amount and to work with industry groups to promote working and quoting with Council. It is essential Council promotes opportunities within the local business</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

	<p>community for businesses to tender and register for the VendorPanel processes.</p> <p><b>Officer comment</b></p> <p>The Sustainable Procurement Policy was approved by Council in December 2019. Section 3.5 states:  <i>3.5. Social Sustainability with Positive Outcomes for the Local Community Council is committed to generating social value through procurement and purchasing processes so that Council's purchasing power maximises opportunities to generate positive outcomes and benefits for the people and communities (stakeholders) that Council serves. Council will preference local suppliers, organisations that employ people with disabilities, Indigenous suppliers or people that come from disadvantaged communities, where possible, where other factors are equal and reasonable comparative market rates are offered.</i></p> <p>In order to increase local procurement, a number of strategies will be considered or implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold an annual staff workshop to promote local procurement, the first will be held in November, 2021</li> <li>• Work with industry groups to promote ways to promote local businesses quoting and engaging as potential suppliers; a workshop will be held in October or November 2021</li> <li>• Annual workshop on how to support Aboriginal procurement, the first was held in May, 2021</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging local suppliers to register with VendorPanel to receive alerts when Council calls for quotes and submissions.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Actively encourages local suppliers to bid for Council procurement.</b></p>	<p>Council encourages local suppliers to consider making bids. However, Council could work with industry groups and chambers to promote working with and quoting for Council.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council will continue working with Chambers to promote local procurement and create an information session on local procurement, which is identified at Recommendation 5 below.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>
<p><b>5. Convenes a procurement forum for local suppliers.</b></p>	<p>The 2019 Sustainable Procurement Policy, highlights the importance of preferencing local as well disability, Indigenous, environmental. This is 'no targets' principle-based policy. Vendor Panel highlights local businesses which are registered on the system.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>A workshop was held in May, 2021 to encourage more spend on Aboriginal businesses. A local forum may create an expectation amongst businesses, however, a workshop is planned in October/November with the procurement team and VendorPanel for local businesses. If successful, a workshop will occur annually.</p>	<p>Complete (partial)</p> <p>Forum being developed for local suppliers.</p>

<p><b>6. Identifies the proportion of local procurement for NSW Government infrastructure projects under construction within the LGA and seeks an agreement with the NSW Government and its contractors to increase local procurement.</b></p>	<p>The State Government must remain impartial when it comes to supplier tendering for business as per their procurement guidelines and expectations from NSW businesses.</p> <p><i>Officer comment:</i></p> <p>This would need an agreement between State and Council and would also depend on whether there are cost effective local companies that align with the needs of infrastructure projects.</p> <p>A meeting is being sought with the State Government to ascertain the level of expenditure in the LGA and to map out pathways for Inner West companies and contractors to be considered for State procurement.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>
<p><b>7. Gives high priority to renewing worn out sandstone road and street kerbing, which is integral to the historic heritage of particular Inner West suburbs.</b></p>	<p><i>Officer comment:</i></p> <p>Relevant Sections of Council have been advised and made aware of this recommendation, particularly in areas such as Balmain. Discussion between Senior Council and members from the Taskforce pertaining to the importance of prioritising worn out sandstone road and street kerbing has occurred. A commitment has been made to stakeholders to monitor the sandstone concerns and report back at the end of the financial year.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>
<p><b>8. Renews and beautifies roundabouts in the LGA by repairing broken kerbing and installing art and/or green</b></p>	<p><i>Officer comment:</i></p> <p>Infrastructure and asset renewals is currently being undertaken across the LGA. Further discussion needs to be undertaken with creative industries and Council staff</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

<p><b>infrastructure on their traffic islands.</b></p>	<p>about art installation, the feasibility of the project and budget considerations.</p>	
<p><b>9. Continues to improve the tidiness and appearance of the main streets to make them look more attractive and appealing.</b></p>	<p>Urban planning and strategic planning take into consideration the need to improve the appearance of main streets as an ongoing matter.</p> <p><i>Officer comment:</i></p> <p>A Public Domain Design Guide is being finalised and various Masterplans are being developed to encourage this recommendation. The Public Domain Design Guide sits atop of the Inner West Council's public domain planning, providing general design and treatment recommendations which will enhance improvement across Council precincts.</p> <p>The Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines are being developed for local businesses</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT	Comment	Status
<p><b>10. Sets immediate targets for improving processing times for applications for businesses seeking to change the use of a premises.</b></p>	<p><i>Officer comment:</i></p> <p>In August 2020, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE) announced the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program. This program aims to deliver in improving processing times for development assessment and planning proposals/rezonings, to stimulate the economy and encourages the delivery of high-quality public and open spaces.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	<p>Council was successfully accepted into that program and Council has improved DA processing times under that program and continues to do so, which includes DAs for Change of Uses.</p>	
<p><b>11. Streamlines and simplifies the development application process, with a focus on speeding up processing times. Investigate industry innovations that could streamline the DA process further.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer Comment:</b></p> <p>Council has implemented business improvements to improve processing times for all DAs under the DPIE's Public Spaces Legacy Program and continues to implement such initiatives.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>12. Provides additional specialised customer service advice to businesses making applications in response to the changed economic conditions due to COVID19.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council provides a Duty Planning Service which helps support specialised customer service for various development types including businesses making applications such as small bars and breweries.</p> <p>Council has also endorsed a Planning Proposal seeking amendments to the draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2020 (IWLEP 2020) to allow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The extended trading of shops, business premises and kiosks between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm on main streets without approval (as exempt development), and</li> <li>2. Temporary small-scale cultural activities in certain business and industrial zones as complying development.</li> </ol> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound economic impact on the Inner West's cultural, creative and</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

	<p>performing arts sectors as well as retail and other businesses. The planning proposal supports these industries with innovative planning controls that simplify approval processes for cultural activities that will assist in their recovery.</p> <p>The planning proposal has been submitted to DPIE and is awaiting a Gateway Determination to progress the proposal for public consultation.</p> <p>Service NSW also provides a business concierge, which is a free service for businesses.</p>	
<p><b>13. Proposes to the NSW Government that it establishes a one-stop shop application process for all three tiers of government approvals to open a brewery/distillery, and that the Inner West would host a pilot of the scheme.</b></p>	<p>Service NSW has brought under its umbrella 80 partner agencies, however, none are from the federal tier of government or local.</p> <p>The micro-brewers have indicated that there is no need for federal involvement.</p> <p>A year ago, the NSW Government announced that it would allow Micro-breweries and small distilleries with a 'special drink on-premises authorisation' to apply to extend their trading hours after midnight, until as late as 2am. This authorisation is dependent upon gaining approval from Council for extended operating hours.</p> <p>In June 2019 NSW Liquor &amp; Gaming took active steps to remove unnecessary conditions on liquor licenses which limited a venues ability to provide live music. However, many venues have faced difficulty in gaining approvals for live music in their venues. The live music industry has been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic-induced shutdowns and restrictions on venues.</p>	<p>Partial completion</p> <p>Further discussions to be held over the next financial year with stakeholders.</p>

	<p>The Inner West micro brewers have proposed that Council grant breweries two-year trial, and expedited approvals, for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the extension of Brewery Taproom opening hours until midnight</b></li> <li>• <b>approval for outdoor dining</b></li> <li>• <b>approval to host live entertainment in their venues, regardless of existing conditions</b></li> </ul> <p>This trial should allow Council time to assess the impact of these activities and will greatly assist Inner West breweries, and the live music industry, with their COVID-19 recovery, particularly since reduced capacities and other restrictions are expected to be in place for some time.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Service NSW currently runs a Business Concierge program which links the applicant to relevant State Departments and Councils. However, this is not a 'one-stop shop' process as sought by the Taskforce. Initial discussions with Service NSW indicate that other sectors should be included, not just brewers. There is no need to include the Federal tier of government as the planning and regulatory powers are contained within State and Local Government tiers.</p> <p>Pertaining to the concerns raised by the micro brewers, Council is in the process of adopting new policies to allow live entertainment in various industrial and business</p>	
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	premises, without needing to make a development application. Consideration pertaining to conditions on existing DA's need to be addressed.	
<b>14. Requests that the NSW Government make permanent the arrangements implemented during the COVID-19 crisis that permitted licensed premises, such as a restaurant, café or small bar, to sell alcohol for takeaway and delivery.</b>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>These options have been useful for relevant businesses during lockdown periods. It is recommended that further consultation be undertaken with the four liquor accords, business chambers in the LGA and the police licensing sergeants post lockdown for an evaluation and feedback.</p>	Partial – meeting has been requested

COMPLIANCE	Comment	Status
<b>15. Surveys local businesses to find out how COVID-19 restrictions have impacted on their compliance costs.</b>	<p>A business survey was drafted and also translated in community languages for the Taskforce, though more generic than compliance. A new survey will be distributed post-lockdown.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>During COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 and 2021, a range of compliance costs were waved. Businesses were generally satisfied with measures adopted to support the local economy during the restrictions period.</p> <p>Council has a range of feedback mechanisms with the business community. A survey will be sent to businesses post-lockdown</p>	Partial completion

MAIN STREET AND PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVATION	Comment	Status
<p><b>16. Proposes to the NSW Government that the Inner West LGA become a pilot location for the Government's 24-Hour Economy Strategy, which identifies the priority of public space activation to support COVID-19-safe activity from the hospitality, retail and entertainment sectors.</b></p>	<p>Traditionally, the 24-Hour economy has been more suited to areas such Parramatta and the City of Sydney based on amenity, population, transportation in the late-night space and policing and crime prevention tools. The Inner West has different traits, including lower visitation numbers after certain hours. When Council undertook research for the Night-Time Economy Strategy and the draft Economic Development Strategic Plan, there was no immediate willingness to create a 24-hour economy from the business economy.</p> <p>However, discussions with the Taskforce members have shown that there is scope to consider key areas that could fit into the definition of a 24-hour economy, especially as it may lead to grants from the NSW Government.</p> <p>Considerations such as community safety and transport options are being nullified by Uber options after certain hours.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>It is recommended that Council work with liquor accords, business chambers, government agencies and key internal stakeholders to identify ways to safely support a late-night economy. This will be addressed with the draft Economic Development Plan due in early 2022. In addition, further discussion with the Taskforce and the 24-Hour</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

	<p>Commissioner will be held to ascertain possible opportunities. A proposed policy or guidelines that address outdoor dining needs will incorporate late-night trading needs for the hospitality and entertainment sectors.</p>	
<p><b>17. Conducts an audit of streets and laneways that could be activated for use by local businesses.</b></p>	<p>Council has been promoting the use of outdoor space and there has been a good take up of applications for outdoor space requirements. Council staff have met to discuss the concepts and staff have reached out to chambers and select businesses for feedback. There are no outdoor dining fees for businesses in the Inner West and one week processing time (approximately).</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>With COVID-19 remaining as a key factor for the community in the coming year, the use of outdoor space will be paramount. Council is preparing the COVID-recovery Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines and a number of precincts and streets and laneways are being identified for possible activations.</p> <p>In addition, two key laneways for a pilot have been identified. Significant work has already commenced in Foxes Lane as part of Ashfield Town Centre upgrade and three new artworks will contribute to Parramatta Road Urban Improvement Program. Engagement has been undertaken with Marrickville Chamber and local businesses for a further laneway activation. This is temporarily on hold due to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p><b>18. Develops an Inner West public space activation strategy to be rolled out in line with the lifting of public health restrictions with the specific goal of attracting and encouraging high levels of pedestrian traffic, economic activity and social interaction in the public domain.</b></p>	<p>Council is preparing the COVID-recovery Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines to allow and encourage safe use of public spaces by local restaurants, cafes, bars and licensed premises, when health orders allow, with the objective of facilitating the safe reopening of local hospitality businesses.</p> <p><b>Officer comment</b></p> <p>In addition to the draft Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Policy, the following public space activations initiatives are being undertaken to help attract footfall and visitation to the precincts.</p> <p><b>Inner West Fest and EDGE</b></p> <p>Council was scheduled to produce five Inner West Fests over 2021/22, prior to the current lockdown.</p> <p>Each festival runs for ten days and is community devised and delivered activation model – which ensured activations in precincts could continue while large scale events were on hold. Two successful Inner West Fest’s were held in the first half of 2021, however with current Sydney lockdowns the remaining three programs will now need to be held over February to April 2022. This will generate significant interest for visitors and supporting local spend.</p> <p>The annual EDGE Perfect Match sites have been selected in 2021, with 20 new major works are being rolled out to enhance highly visible public places.</p> <p>EDGE is investing in the development of new cultural content and engaging artists to work with communities and</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>
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	<p>businesses to build resilience and sustainability post pandemic.</p> <p>Once restrictions ease a number of new works will be ready for presentation in local venues, mainstreets and parks as part of Inner West (February/March), EDGE GreenWay (April/May) and EDGE Sydenham (August/September), all of these are planned for 2022.</p> <p>Any additional local festival or arts/culture activations that may be required would need both additional resources and additional staff to deliver.</p> <p><b>2020 Arts and Culture COVID Recovery grants</b> Council invested almost \$350,000 in arts and culture COVID recovery grants for 44 individuals and organisations in 2020. 19 projects have been completed and grants have been fully acquitted, 20 more grant recipients are in the process of acquitting their grants, four have had extensions and one has returned the funding. The grants were designed to be undertaken in the six months to end 2020. Less than half of recipients achieved that timeframe.</p> <p><b>Major partners funding</b> Council has commenced discussions with its major partners on their 2021 programs, including the following: Sydney Fringe Festival, Yabun Festival, Norton Street Festa, and Leichhardt Municipal Bands.</p> <p><b>Celebrate South King</b> In June, just before the current lockdown, over 40 activations took place in Newtown with businesses and creatives, generating increased footfall and visitation.</p>	
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	<p>It is recommended that \$100,000 be set aside from the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce for the Outdoor Dining initiatives and a further \$38,000 be used for the Live Performance aspect based on the Celebrate South King model</p>	
<p><b>19. Reduces regulatory compliance rules to make it simpler and cheaper to activate footpaths, car parks and other open spaces for use by businesses.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>There are no outdoor dining fees. The turnover for making a decision on applications is approximately a week. The use of carparks, street parking and footpaths is being considered by staff for the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>20. Continues its support of existing main street businesses.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>The Economic Development team work with main street businesses to promote their precincts and provide services to help them maintain competitiveness and growth. Almost every precinct or village has received support from the team pre, during and post COVID-19 as we position the Inner West as a hub for small to medium business, creative industries and micro-breweries.</p> <p>A range of post lockdown promotions and activations are being planned, commencing at the end of October.</p> <p>Council will continue to support public amenity and infrastructure needs that support main street businesses</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

PUBLIC ART	Comment	Status
<p><b>21. Engages main street property and business owners to expand Council’s Perfect Match program to all main street properties, seeking community input into art works, which can be displayed across multiple shopfronts, celebrating the character of each village.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Perfect Match is adequately resourced at present, and expansion is not possible without significant additional staff and budget resources.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>
<p><b>22. Create a public art program for the shopfronts in villages with significant high street commercial vacancies, and as part of that program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for EOIs from residents to nominate a block of their local high street for the pilot of the program</li> <li>• An online vote be held to choose the first pilot precinct</li> <li>• An Inner West street artist is engaged for the design</li> <li>• The owners, residents and business owners of the properties in that precinct be engaged on potential designs</li> </ul>	<p>Council funds a range of public art projects across the LGA via murals and installations. This will continue to be a core focus through successful projects such as Perfect Match.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>In June, a pilot was conducted in partnership with the Leichhardt Annandale Chamber of Commerce for four empty shopfronts on Norton Street. Decals including historical pictures were used and a local Aboriginal artwork. This was a success and has ensured that the row of empty shopfronts is no longer unsightly to the public.</p> <p>Legal advice was also obtained pertaining to Council arbitrarily erecting decals in other areas without the owners’ consent. Legal advised against this unless there is consent from the owner. There are a range of reasons why a shopfront may be vacant. This includes a lack of desire from the building owner to lease the premises, DA</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once complete, a street art festival be held in the precinct (COVID-19 dependant)</li> <li>• The landlords of empty shopfronts are actively encouraged to seek tenants to coordinate with the pilot</li> <li>• The pilot is evaluated, and subsequent executions assessed on the basis of empty shops activated during the pilot</li> </ul>	<p>considerations, lease negotiations with potential businesses or a temporary vacancy.</p> <p>It is recommended that Council pause on this recommendation as it may have high-cost implications and it would require commitment from property owners to allow Council to erect decals.</p> <p>The meeting of the Taskforce on 26 July appeared to highlight that this was not a significant priority.</p> <p>It is suggested that a more flexible model of activating High Streets with perceived vacancies be examined. A Council working group could work with businesses and community partners to pilot activations in strategic locations and could include live music, some decal stickers, public art, installations and workshops. These could dovetail with EDGE or Inner West Fest activations and the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines.</p> <p>The Economic Development team continue to work with chambers and relevant Council to identify opportunities to beauty main streets and villages.</p>	
<p><b>23. Supports a public art project in Alex Trevilian Plaza in Marrickville.</b></p>	<p>The Plaza is being revitalised by Council with upgrades and a public art project. A mural concept has been selected after public and business engagement around the mural and designs.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council has commissioned a mural for Alex Trevilian Plaza which will celebrate Greek culture, located on the site of a</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	<p>former Greek delicatessen. The work will commence after lockdown.</p> <p>A series of activations will occur over the next six months in the Plaza when lockdown measures are lifted, which will include the launch of the mural. This will involve the Marrickville Chamber, the events team and economic development.</p>	
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LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN	Comment	Status
<p><b>24. Consults with local residents and businesses about the potential for more shop-top housing on main streets to increase pedestrian traffic and to support main street economic activity.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>This will be encompassed by the work being undertaken as part of the Local Environmental Plan Phase 2B which seeks to amend Council’s planning controls for areas along the Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor, Ashfield North area and Bays Precinct.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>
<p><b>25. Reviews late-night trading controls as a matter of urgency</b></p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound economic impact on the Inner West’s cultural, creative and performing arts sectors as well as retail and other businesses. The planning proposal supports these industries with innovative planning controls that simplify approval processes for cultural activities that will assist in their recovery.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council has endorsed a Planning Proposal seeking amendments to the draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2020 (IWLEP 2020) to allow:</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	<p>1. The extended trading of shops, business premises and kiosks between 7am and 10pm on main streets without approval (as exempt development), and</p> <p>2. Temporary small-scale cultural activities in certain business and industrial zones as complying development.</p> <p>The planning proposal has been submitted to DPIE and is awaiting a Gateway Determination to progress the proposal for public consultation.</p>	
<p><b>26. Works with the NSW Government to reclaim Parramatta Road, like the reclaiming of Bourke/Crown Streets when the Eastern Distributor was built, which would include installing trackless trams.</b></p>	<p>Council officers routinely engage with the NSW Government pertaining to Parramatta Road, including transport and planning matters.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>This has been noted by the Council’s Planning Section. This would require a generational transition and significant consultation by the NSW Government. There are no plans by the government at this stage to undertake this project.</p> <p>Cluster promotion and other initiatives will be investigated further, with the taskforce members and planners to be consulted. This is recommended to undertake in 2022/23.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

ARTS AND CULTURE	Comment	Status
<p><b>27. Initiates an Inner West Arts recovery strategy.</b></p>	<p>Many of the recommendations from the Taskforce appear in the Cultural Strategy and Action Plan which aims to support local arts in the COVID-19 recovery phase and beyond.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>The Cultural Strategy addresses a range of actions pertaining to the sector. Additionally, support has been provided for the Inner West Creative Industry Network. The Network was recently established to help the industry as an umbrella group.</p>	
<p><b>28. Uses the Inner West Live Music Census to consult with venues and artists on their current challenges and how to protect and bolster their services.</b></p>	<p>A census of performance study has been undertaken by the Live Music Office of NSW. Council provided contact lists and information to aid the development of the project. Council staff intend to engage further with the sector about impacts and responses to the current health crisis.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>It is proposed that artists be engaged to support the reactivation of local businesses immediately after the COVID lockdown period concludes. It is further proposed that Council invest \$30,000 in direct support for local artists and musicians to support business activations across the Inner West (60 artists at \$500 each). This could form part of the Outdoor Dining initiative.</p> <p>This will support artists, businesses and generate localised activations, social media engagement and excitement for local artists and venues. An EOI process will be created for the project.</p> <p>Furthermore, Council staff will reach out to each Liquor Accord meeting to discuss the challenges facing venues.</p>	<p>Partial completion</p>

	<p>It is anticipated that these meetings will resume at the end of the year.</p> <p>Additional initiatives are being planned to support the industry in the recovery phase. A new <i>entertainment precinct</i> has been identified for Enmore which will help protect live music venues. This could be a trial/prototype for other areas in the LGA.</p> <p>A survey of venues and artists, which will be different to the business survey to be conducted will also be developed to ascertain challenges facing the industry.</p>	
<p><b>29. Expedites the implementation of the ‘exempt development’ provisions for arts uses of industrial and local centre zones.</b></p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound economic impact on the Inner West’s cultural, creative and performing arts sectors as well as retail and other businesses.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council has endorsed a Planning Proposal seeking amendments to the draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2020 (IWLEP 2020) to allow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The extended trading of shops, business premises and kiosks between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm on main streets without approval (as exempt development), and</li> <li>2. Temporary small-scale cultural activities in certain business and industrial zones as complying development.</li> </ol> <p>The planning proposal supports these industries with innovative planning controls that simplify approval processes for cultural activities that will assist in their recovery.</p>	<p>Partial completion</p>

	<p>The planning proposal has been submitted to DPIE and is awaiting a Gateway Determination to progress the proposal for public consultation.</p> <p>Council is currently in the process of working towards establishing a “Special Entertainment Precinct” around the Enmore Theatre and Enmore Road. This will be an area defined under the LEP in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amplified music is regulated by a plan prepared by Council, not other state legislation</li> <li>- Requirements for noise attenuation apply to sensitive development in and possibly adjacent to a precinct (e.g. new residential buildings)</li> <li>- Live music venues are given an extra 30mins of trading time on their liquor licence</li> </ul>	
<p><b>30. Undertakes an economic impact study of the value of live performance and cultural venues to the Inner West LGA, based on the spaces identified in the Inner West Live Music Census.</b></p>	<p>It is important that a study be undertaken. This could be considered at the end of 2021/22 when the economy is not in lockdown and has recovered from the current position.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>To do justice to such a study, pre COVID-19 era data from 2019 would be required. In turn, this would not help in predicting the future needs. 2020 or 2021 data will not be reliable due to the lockdowns.</p> <p>A census of performance study has been undertaken by Mr John Wardle, the Policy Director for the Live Music Office of NSW. Council provided contact lists and information to aid the development of the Live Music</p>	<p>Partial implementation, with a view to addressing this recommendation with the year.</p>

	<p>Census. Council staff intend to engage further with the Live Music sector about COVID impacts and responses.</p> <p>It is noted that the NSW Government has invested significant new one off funds in live music across the Inner West.</p> <p>Council continues to support local venues and promote live music and performance through What's On listings and partnerships with FBI radio on The Line Up Gig Guide and the Live Music Planning Liaison Service</p>	
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<b>TRAINING AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p><b>31. Investigates the possibility of partnering with the Federal Government's Department of Education, Skills and Employment for the delivery of a "jobs fair" in the LGA.</b></p>	<p>Discussion is underway with TAFE, the Federal Government and other key stakeholders for a "jobs fair." NSW TAFE has held a number of these initiatives in the past.</p> <p><i>Officer comment:</i></p> <p>A jobs or employment will be costed out for the 2022/23 financial year and held with relevant government partners. The draft Economic Development Strategic Plan outlines employment as a key plank in the local economy. Action items will be developed around education, skills and employment promotions and trainings with stakeholders.</p> <p>Council is preparing a draft Economic Development Strategic Plan and this action will be considered as part of the deliverables.</p>	<p>Partial implementation, with a view to addressing this recommendation with the year.</p>

<p><b>32. Partners with local TAFEs to investigate the potential to establish a traineeship program at Council for local students.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council currently has a range of traineeships and roles for students in place through Human Resources (People &amp; Culture). Further investigation of this strategy is on hold due to the current Delta strain outbreak.</p> <p>This recommendation will be considered for 2022 and engagement with Aboriginal representatives will be sought.</p>	<p>Partial implementation, with a view to addressing this recommendation with the year.</p>
<p><b>33. Organises for an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider to hold an information session with local employers to discuss the apprenticeship support incentives that are part of the Federal Government's COVID-19 response.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>A similar event was held years ago, with minimal success. Discussions will be held internally and with partners to determine if Council is best placed to host or support an information session.</p> <p>A session is being considered for April, 2022</p>	<p>Partial implementation, with a view to addressing this recommendation with the year.</p>
<p><b>34. Consults with local business chambers to find ways to encourage residents to shop locally.</b></p>	<p>Economic Development works extensively with and consults with chambers, associations and liquor accords including regular consultation and attendance at meetings. The team has promoted and supported shop local or rather 'local experience' campaigns before and during COVID-19 and shall continue down this path.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Current restrictions make it difficult for residents to shop anywhere other than their immediate LGA. A new</p>	<p>Complete – part of regular interaction with Chambers</p>

	<p>campaign is being planned for the coming quarter which will include comms and marketing initiatives to promote our precincts and places to shop and generate a local experience. Council has undertaken a number of static and digital campaigns over the past year to promote 'local spend' and 'local experiences.'</p> <p>During FY 20/21, Council ran static and digital campaigns to support and promote local spend and experiences.</p>	
<p><b>35. Surveys all local businesses to find out what further assistance they require due to the COVID-19 crisis.</b></p>	<p>A business survey was developed with the taskforce and translated into multiple languages for the Inner West Business Inc on behalf of the chambers. However, it was paused in consultation with the Inner West Business Inc., who are the chamber umbrella group.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Feedback is ascertained from stakeholders and chambers on a regular basis. A survey will be sent to business owners post-lockdown.</p>	<p>Partial completion</p>

TOURISM	Comment	Status
<p><b>36. Recognises the importance of tourist visitation to the Inner West in our economic recovery.</b></p>	<p>Council is strongly committed to the visitor economy and we have developed actions to generate the numbers and interest from local and potentially international visitors when the borders open up by 2022. Tourist visitation is vital to the growth of the local economy post lockdown.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

	<p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council has committed to a range of marketing initiatives and public space activations for the Inner West from October through to summer and beyond. This will assist with visitor attraction. Council is also supporting and resourcing key chambers to help promote their precincts.</p> <p>An Art in Public Places Policy is recommended as an action in the Inner West Cultural Strategy, as are regulatory improvements to make it easier to host cultural activations in the public domain. The Cultural Strategy includes a number of actions that support cultural tourism including a Digital Communications Plan, branding and place specific cultural activations to promote the local creative sector. The Plan would cost as much as \$200,000 for the development and implementation and \$50,000 per annum for a two day per week officer.</p> <p>A Digital Communications Plan would include promotional strategies, highlighting local creatives, telling the story of local creative places and people and targeted promotion.</p> <p>Council has existing cultural maps on its website and is trialling a new QR system to promote local cultural sites.</p>	
<p><b>37. Develop a tourism strategy as part of plans for the economic recovery. This should include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying the specific attractions which apply to each local community and whether they have local or global appeal.</li> </ul>	<p>As identified in the status update at 36, a range of tourism actions are already being planned or actioned.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>A tourism strategy is not recommended as there are a series of initiatives in place to promote visitations and to tap into domestic visitors and day trippers.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Business as usual</p>

<p>- How to tap into the domestic tourism market to attract more tourists to the Inner West.</p> <p>- Utilising cost-effective digital campaigns to encourage Sydneysiders to “pop in” to the Inner West. E.g., You can pop into Ashfield, you can pop into Marrickville, you can pop into Leichhardt. This can include digital maps that show you where you can see public art, eat the best food, how to get around on public transport.</p>	<p>Council currently has Creative Trails and tours, Aboriginal Cultural Tours, Inner West Fest and Edge, and the Ale Trail to help generate visitation post-lockdown. We also have links with Destination NSW that can be further enhanced without the need to create a new strategy.</p> <p>Council currently uses social media and partner media agencies to promote localised campaigns across the LGA and in each Ward.</p> <p>Therefore, a further, standalone tourism strategy is not recommended at this time.</p>	
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YOUTH	Comment	Status
<p><b>38. Engages with local youth support organisations to formulate a strategy to support young people’s employment, training and social needs.</b></p>	<p>One of the key projects for the Children’s and Youth Team is the development of employment pathways and opportunities for young people in the Inner West, with particular focus on marginalised young people and First Nations young people.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>A youth employment initiative was undertaken in 2018 and 2019 with the Economic Development team, however, it had limited scope and reach.</p>	<p>Partial completion</p>

	<p>The Economic Development team will work with the Children’s and Youth Team to map out a long-term vision for young people’s employment, training and social needs. This will link in with the draft Economic Development Strategic Plan.</p>	
<p><b>39. Approaches local liquor accords to request their support with youth training and employ</b></p>	<p>Liquor accords have not met since early 2021. They are not designed as training bodies and function at a more sporadic level than chambers, the latter usually holding training sessions or network events.</p> <p>Initial discussions have been held with key industry representatives. Further approaches will be made to explore possibilities for youth training and employment.</p> <p><b>Officer comment:</b></p> <p>Council is in the process of ascertaining what opportunities will exist in the future as the economy returns to a level of normalcy post lockdown.</p> <p>A meeting of the accord presidents and the brewery industries could be set for early 2022 to discuss a range of issues and projects, including the training and employment opportunities for young people over 18 at licensed venues.</p>	<p>Partial implementation, with a view to addressing this recommendation with the year.</p>

**Attachment 3****Council support for local businesses**

In addition to the taskforce recommendations, Council has provided a number of other initiatives to help the local economy and businesses recover since the first lockdown period in 2020. These initiatives include:

- Hardship form for commercial/business rates, providing relief for businesses experiencing hardship due to the loss of operating revenue or reduced disposable income
- Council supported *pick up and takeaway* by encouraging businesses to post on Council's website, which Council in turn promoted.
- During the first lockdown in 2020, Council supported the arts industry with \$300,000 in grants for Covid relief initiatives and projects. This included small grants for Artist and Creative Practitioner Grants for creative development, new work and adaptation projects for creatives (up to \$5000) and Creative Spaces Grants to support survival and resilience in local creative spaces (up to \$20,000). The projects had to be delivered by the end of 2020.
- Committed to post lockdown communication and marketing to assist local spend and local experience initiatives. This has involved a combination of digital and static campaigns designed to improve footfall and confidence in the local economy.
- In October 2020, Council adopted the Night-Time Economy Action Plan to support the night-time economy and to support the diverse commercial, retail and entertainment options at night.
- In April 2021, Council established the Inner West Creative Network (IWCN) to provide support for the creative industries. The IWCN is designed as an industry umbrella association to represent creatives and advocate for more opportunities for creative industries and artists in the Inner West.
- Throughout 2021, Council has facilitated a range of support to help Chambers to promote their precincts, including support for promotional campaigns to generate local footfall
- Supported the Celebrate South King project in June to generate interest in Newtown's South King Street and to generate footfall to the Newtown and Enmore precinct. 70 activations were held with businesses and creatives.
- A range of online workshops have been held with partners including the ATO to help upskill small businesses with financial planning, working with the ATO, 'future proofing' businesses and marketing sessions.
- Local procurement workshops/seminars are being planned for post lockdown to help businesses understand how they can register for VendorPanel and to seek out opportunities to tender with Council.
- Rental postponement for Council tenants (upon request) due to the hardship of closing their business operations during the lockdown periods.
- Council is currently drafting the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines to help businesses with safe space requirements as per Public Health Orders. The guidelines will help hospitality businesses and local artists during the re-opening phase after lockdown
- Businesses will be surveyed post lockdown for their business support needs. The business survey has been drafted and translated into multiple languages for distribution to businesses in every Ward.
- A range of Inner West Fest activations to generate footfall will be held over the summer period in 2022, with a number of businesses engaged with the process; many businesses participated with Inner West Fest initiatives earlier this year specifically in Balmain, Rozelle, Leichhardt and Annandale.

- Council provided an extension for the submission of an Annual Fire Safety Statement as many businesses were struggling with the constraints and duress of lockdown periods.
- Regulated food inspections were temporarily placed on hold during lockdown periods. Any Breaches of the COVID-19 Safety Plans relating to food business are monitored by NSW Health and enforced by NSW Police not Council.
- Extended timeframes for Development Compliance was provided upon request for businesses struggling during the lockdown periods.
- Council Rangers undertook passive surveillance of footway dining to ensure compliance with Public Health Orders.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 11

**Subject:** INNER WEST OUTDOOR DINING AND LIVE PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

**Prepared By:** Billy Cotsis - Economic Development Team Leader

**Authorised By:** Graeme Palmer - Acting Director Planning

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council:**

1. Note the update on the draft Inner West Outdoor Dining and Live Performance project; and
2. Endorse the reallocation of \$138,000 from the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce to partially fund the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance project

## DISCUSSION

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 14 September 2021, Council resolved that:

1. *Council urgently prepare a COVID-recovery outdoor dining and live performance policy to allow and encourage safe use of public spaces by local restaurants, cafes, bars and licensed premises, when health orders allow, with the objective of facilitating the safe reopening of local hospitality businesses;*
2. *The draft policy include consideration of the following temporary uses of public spaces in the opening-up phase following lockdown, noting that existing disability access to footpaths must be maintained:*
  - a) *Use of parking spaces in front of premises for outdoor dining and live performance;*
  - b) *Temporary closure of main streets and / or adjoining side streets by Council to create space for safe outdoor dining and live performance with the required barriers and application process to be undertaken by Council. The cost effectiveness of purchasing rather than hiring barriers as well as extended rather than temporary closures should be assessed;*
  - c) *Expediting new or temporary applications by businesses for footpath dining;*
  - d) *Council undertaking the approval process for outdoor dining and live performance in newly identified areas so that individual applications from businesses aren't required;*
  - e) *Use of Council car parks for outdoor dining and live performance;*
  - f) *Use of Councils parks nearby to main streets for outdoor dining and live performance; and*
  - g) *Provisions already enacted by the City of Sydney in response to the 2020 lockdown for outdoor dining and live performance that can be implemented in the Inner West.*

3. *The draft policy include options for how funding from festivals and events that have not proceeded due to the lockdown can be redirected to a small grants program to allow hospitality businesses to hire local musicians and performers to provide entertainment at outdoor dining locations; and*
4. *The draft policy is to include localised options for all Inner West main streets in recognition that a variety of approaches may be needed in different suburbs and the whole of the Inner West hospitality and live performance sectors will need new outdoor options to operate.*

The local economy has been significantly impacted by the restriction on movement due to the Covid-19 Public Health Orders. Visitation, footfall, international student numbers and tourism numbers have been significantly restricted due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, resulting in a loss of trade.

The Inner West is notable for its quaint, quirky and occasionally *space challenged* small businesses. This has always added to the attraction for locals and visitors to enjoy the Inner West's vibrant precincts, especially at a cosy café or licensed premises. This type of selling point for the Inner West is now under threat due to post lockdown rules set by the NSW Government, requiring either a two-metre (outdoor) or four-square (outdoor) metre rule per patron. Businesses, in particular hospitality, are severely restricted in terms of capacity. This in turn effects:

- number of patrons on business premises,
- customer experience,
- money spent per bill,
- job numbers, and
- profit margins.

Prior to Covid-19 the Inner West's Economy was worth \$10.6 billion or the equivalent of 1.74% of the NSW economy. There are approximately 21,000 active businesses, though this number rises further with various businesses that operate from home or for short term periods. Just under 15,000 local business have a physical, static presence in the Inner West such as a shopfront or office. Covid-19 and the resultant downturn in the economy resulted in a loss of 2.13% the economy's value by the end of the 2019/20 Financial Year, the equivalent of \$138 million, with a similar decrease figure for the 2020/21 Financial Year expected.

The impact of Covid-19 is similarly felt elsewhere in NSW and across Australia. According to the NSW Government, Gross State Product contracted by 0.7 percent in 2019-20, with over 6 percent of the NSW workforce losing their employment. The 2020-21 projected deficit by the State Government was \$16 billion and this figure will likely be repeated for the 2021-22 Financial Year Due to the ongoing lockdown and restrictions on trade. Federally, the Government has announced a budget deficit of \$134 billion for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

### Council Support for Local Businesses

In order to mitigate the impacts of the economic downturn and to help the business community's confidence, Council has provided a range of support measures over the last 18 months to help businesses as they navigate a return to full time business operations. This includes, though not limited to, the following initiatives:

- Hardship form for commercial/business rates, providing relief for businesses experiencing hardship due to the loss of operating revenue or reduced disposable income,
- During the first lockdown in 2020, Council supported the arts industry with \$300,000 in grants for Covid relief initiatives and projects. This included small grants for Artist and Creative Practitioner Grants for creative development, new work and adaptation

projects for creatives (up to \$5000) and Creative Spaces Grants to support survival and resilience in local creative spaces (up to \$20,000). The projects had to be delivered by the end of 2020,

- Council supported pick up and takeaway by encouraging businesses to post on Council’s website, which Council in turn promoted,
- Committed to post lockdown communication and marketing to assist *local spend* and *local experience* initiatives. This has involved a combination of digital and static campaigns designed to improve footfall and confidence in the local economy,
- Council established the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce to help plan and coordinate the post-COVID-19 economic recovery of the Inner West,
- In October 2020, Council adopted the Night-Time Economy Action Plan to support the night-time economy and to support the diverse commercial, retail and entertainment options at night,
- In April 2021, Council established the Inner West Creative Network (IWCN) to provide support for the creative industries. The IWCN is designed as an industry umbrella association to represent creatives and advocate for more opportunities for creative industries and artists in the Inner West,
- Throughout 2021, Council has facilitated a range of support to help Chambers to promote their precincts, including support for promotional campaigns to generate local footfall,
- Supported the *Celebrate South King* project in June to generate interest in Newtown’s South King Street and to generate footfall to the Newtown and Enmore precinct. 70 activations were held with businesses and creatives,
- A range of online workshops have been held with partners including the ATO to help upskill small businesses with financial planning, working with the ATO, ‘future proofing’ businesses and marketing sessions,
- Council has continued to deliver the Women in Business workshops and the mentoring program which first commenced in 2020,
- Local procurement workshops/seminars are being planned for post lockdown to help businesses understand how they can register for VendorPanel and to seek out opportunities to tender with Council,
- Rent postponement for Council tenants (upon request) due to the hardship of closing their business operations during the lockdown periods,
- Council is currently drafting the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines to help businesses with safe space requirements as per Public Health Orders. The guidelines will help hospitality businesses and local artists during the re-opening phase after lockdown,
- Businesses will be surveyed post lockdown for their business support needs. The business survey has been drafted and translated into multiple languages for distribution to businesses in every Ward,
- A range of Inner West Fest activations to generate footfall will be held over the summer period in 2022, with a number of businesses engaged with the process; many businesses participated with Inner West Fest initiatives held earlier this year specifically in Balmain, Rozelle, Leichhardt and Annandale,
- Proactively engaged with Service NSW to increase the take up of Dine and Discover in 2021,
- Support for local Indigenous businesses via workshops, engagement and the development of the draft Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy,
- Council is currently in the process of working towards establishing a “Special Entertainment Precinct” around the Enmore Theatre and Enmore Road,
- Facilitated meetings for business in Newtown and Enmore to re-establish a local chamber of commerce,
- Council provided an extension for the submission of an Annual Fire Safety Statement as many businesses were struggling with the constraints and duress of lockdown periods,

- Regulated food inspections were temporarily placed on hold during lockdown periods. Any Breaches of the COVID-19 Safety Plans relating to food business are monitored by NSW Health and enforced by NSW Police not Council,
- Extended timeframes for Development Compliance was provided upon request for businesses struggling during the lockdown periods,
- Council Rangers undertook passive surveillance of footway dining to ensure compliance with Public Health Orders,
- Council is exploring a joint information session with Service NSW to help businesses with the re-opening period.

There are four key elements of the Covid era that effect businesses. The Inner West has already navigated the first two points below. As of the middle of October, the Inner West will be in the *Recovery Phase* which leads into an era of living with the virus.

- Pre Covid
- Shutdown Impacts
- Recovery Phase
- New Normal (living with the virus)

Over the course of the next few months, the Inner West will be welcoming visitors from across Sydney, interstate and abroad, Public Health Orders permitting. Visitors will once again take advantage of some of the best eateries, pubs including heritage pubs and micro-breweries, arts and cultural offerings as well as local Aboriginal Tours, that Australia has to offer.

With Public Health Orders limiting indoor capacity, new Council initiatives such as the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance project will help hospitality businesses bounce back and generate much needed interest and local spend across the Inner West precincts and villages. This will have a positive effect for the entire economy, not just hospitality businesses, as people are enticed back to their local precincts to enjoy in a safe and accommodating manner.

To help generate vibrancy and much needed social media attention for businesses, the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance project will enable hospitality businesses to safely maximise space options. This includes the use of footpaths and road space options, as well as a number of carparks and laneways that have been identified for consideration by Council.

Prior to Covid-19, up to 80% of residents left the LGA for work during the traditional work week. Covid has ensured most of these workers remain here during the current lockdown and the post-lockdown period. A staggered return to non-Inner West workplaces will also be of benefit for local businesses post lockdown, especially if they find reasons to visit and experience local precincts.

In 2020, the NSW Government and the City of Sydney supported an increase of alfresco drinking and dining options across the City including at The Rocks. The new measures ensures that cafés, bars, restaurants, theatres and hotels could apply for outdoor dining licences without needing to obtain planning approvals. This was welcomed by businesses, Chambers and Liquor Accords.



Image 1: City of Sydney alfresco dining with concrete barriers

As part of the Recovery Phase and New Normal (living with the virus), outdoor space needs to be maximised. Key precincts have been identified across all Council Wards, though, Council is encouraging all eligible hospitality businesses to apply. This process will take into consideration access, safety and amenity needs as well the location of the business, and whether the road space is a classified road.

### Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines

In accordance with the Notice of Motion from 14 September and the need for more public domain space to be activated, Council officers have developed draft guidelines for the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance project which is at Attachment 1. The draft guidelines have been developed in place of a policy to ensure the project can be expediated to coincide with the NSW Government’s “roadmap to freedom” – the opening up of the economy in mid-October. The guidelines also provide Council staff the ability to amend the document to keep abreast of any changes in the NSW Government legislation and health orders. The Guidelines are for a period of 12 months, however, a review of the project will occur after 6 months.

The Guidelines have been developed based on best practice models from the City of Sydney Council, relevant legislation such as the Roads Act 1993 (Section 125) and The Liquor Act (2007) and with the input of various internal sections of Council such as Regulatory Services and Traffic and Transport Planning and external stakeholders such as Police Area Command, industry groups and local chambers. The draft guidelines allow:

- The use of public spaces for outdoor dining, including parking spaces (excludes disability parking spaces, exempt roads, roads with a speed limit above 50 km),
- Expedite new or temporary applications for footpath dining without application fees,
- To support a partnership program for hospitality businesses to hire local musicians and performers,
- The total area (square metres) of the footpath and road space to be used for outdoor dining – limitations will be dictated by Covid requirements (currently 2 square metres per person),
- The outdoor dining area location and proposed hours of operation (must align with development consent conditions); Maximum hours of operation for approved outdoor dining areas are between 8am and 10pm, 7 days per week. Hours of operation further restricted under the premises’ development consent conditions,
- Liquor Licence details if applicable, which must be displayed at all times,
- Site plan to highlight the areas of footpath and/or roadway that the business is seeking to occupy,
- Approvals will be handled by Council in the first instance. Approval from the Traffic Committee, which consists of representatives from the NSW Transport Department, NSW Police and Council Traffic Engineers, will be required for any road space dining applications,

- Council is working on establishing a clear/streamlined assessment process which will include external stakeholder input such as the NSW Police,
- If an applicant is seeking outdoor dining on the road space, and an adjoining business is an eligible food and drink business, business owners must show coordination with the adjoining business in the application. This will either result in a joint application between neighbouring business, or evidence that coordination with an adjoining business was attempted and they were not interested,
- Progress on the project and guidelines will be provided through Briefing Notes to Councillors.

In addition, the temporary use of car parks (partial), parks (partial) and pocket parks, temporary laneway activations or closures and the use of existing public plazas, will be considered based on safety and amenity.

### Community Benefits

The benefit of the project to the community is on many levels. Though, on the surface it appears to be a direct support for hospitality businesses, it will have the following knock-on effect for the economy:

- Safe space for people to dine and drink, as per the NSW Public Health Orders,
- Support for the local creatives who have been impacted by a loss of performance opportunities,
- Significant social and mainstream media interest, which will benefit all businesses in a precincts and villages as it generates discussion about Inner West areas,
- Supporting vibrancy and local activation which will generate high levels of footfall and visitation to precincts and villages – this in turn will act as a means to promote all offerings in precincts and villages,
- Encourages applicants to liaise with neighbouring businesses which could lead to joint promotions.

Other points that are included in the draft Guidelines are safety measures such as concrete barriers and road space requirements, accessibility and adding a positive contribution to the streetscape.

### Covid Impact on Events

Covid has had a huge impact on the events industry, with many in the industry decimated and all events essentially shut down for long periods of time. A Councillor briefing is scheduled on 6 October regarding the Council events and cultural activations scheduled between January – June 2022. These events, cultural activations and Inner West Fest will all contribute to the Covid recovery and will potentially tie in with the outdoor dining and performance guidelines / activations. Following the briefing, a further report will come to Council regarding the delivery of these events under Covid restrictions.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In order for the project to achieve its objectives, the following costings are estimated for expenditure over the course of the 2021/22 Financial Year.

Each parking space allocation will cost \$3800 for installation of concrete barriers and removal at the end of the project or termination of agreement. Council is expecting an approximate total of 50 businesses across the Inner West to make an application for use of roadway space.

The use of a parking space where a parking meter is in operation, will result in an approximate revenue loss of \$58.50 per spot per day.

With supplement costs such as access ramps and street signage, it is anticipated that approximately \$200,000 will be required for this component of the project, giving access to 50 parking spaces.

The partial closure of carparks is estimated at approximately \$8000 for each site, with an expectation that up to five car parks (partial) could be used.

A further \$20,000 is allocated for possible (temporary) laneway closures.

The live music component of the project will cost \$80,000 spread across all precincts and participating businesses via an EOI process. Council will also consider non hospitality businesses.

Concrete Barriers	\$200,000
Partial closure of carparks	\$40,000
(Temporary) laneway closures	\$20,000
Live performance	\$80,000
Advertising and marketing (including possible decals for barriers)	\$40,000

In order to fund the project, Council is proposing that \$138,000 be allocated from the Inner West Economic Recovery Taskforce budget to partially fund the Outdoor Dining and Live Performance project. This has been outlined in the Inner West Recovery Taskforce Recommendations Report to Council for the 12 October meeting of Council.

An additional \$244,000 will be required to fund the project based on estimated volume of 50 applications by Inner West businesses which will be considered as part of the first quarter budget review and a revised events schedule.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. [Outdoor Dining and Live Performance Guidelines](#)

INNER WEST

**Inner West's 2021/2022 Interim outdoor dining guidelines**

These guidelines are temporary measures in place to support food and drink premises through COVID-19 restrictions

DRAFT

INNER WEST

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## INNER WEST

**Application of these guidelines**

These interim guidelines are in place to support food and drink businesses through ongoing COVID restrictions. They are to be utilised by any food and drink businesses looking to expand outdoor dining areas onto the footpath and in limited circumstances onto the road space.

These guidelines have been formulated under the Section 125 of the Roads Act 1993 and relate to use of the footpath and road for outdoor dining purposes only. Use of private land, parks and other areas are not relevant to these guidelines.

**General outdoor dining area objectives and provisions**

*Application: These objectives and provisions apply to all outdoor dining applications*

Objectives

Outdoor dining areas must:

- A. Be safe and protected from vehicles and cyclists
- B. Allow for the sharing of the footpath for pedestrians and other users
- C. Be accessible and not compromise accessibility
- D. Not unreasonably impact on neighbourhood amenity
- E. Be attractive and well maintained
- F. Be a positive contribution to the streetscape

Outdoor dining furniture

1. Outdoor dining areas may accommodate the following furniture:
  - a. Tables
  - b. Chairs
  - c. Planter boxes or pot plants
  - d. Outdoor heaters
  - e. Astro turf
  - f. Outdoor rugs
  - g. Barriers (see clause X below)
  - h. Umbrellas (see clause X below)
2. All outdoor furniture is to be high quality, safe and visually appealing. – use the standard clause conditions please
3. Furniture may only be located within the approved outdoor dining area(s).
4. Benches are not to be used for seating as they limit participation for wheelchair users ?
5. Barriers must:
  - a. Have a maximum height of 900mm



- b. Not include third party advertisements ? this is often used and effective barriers
- 6. Umbrellas:
  - a. Must have a minimum clearance of 2.1m to what ? to the underside of the umbrella and not contain heaters
  - b. Must not be located beneath an awning
  - c. Must be securely anchored – to what ? there no anchor points in the footpath
  - d. Must be collapsed and/or brought in during windy weather
  - e. Must not extend over the road way, or where use of the road is part of the outdoor dining approval, not beyond the installed barriers.
  - f. Must not include third party advertisements
  - g. May include drop down wind protection screens if they are transparent and not made of glass – no do not allowed drop down screens

Length of approval

- 7. Use of the footpath or road space has a maximum approval length of 12 months under these interim guidelines.
- 8. Prior to the approval period ending, businesses must re-apply for outdoor dining space, public liability insurance renewal .
- 9. Council may at any time terminate or temporarily suspend the approval. On what grounds specify the matters around why the approval and how ?

Public Liability Insurance

- 10. Public liability insurance up to value of \$20,000,000 must be obtained by the operator/proprietor and remain active whilst the outdoor dining area is in use. The policy must cover any action that may arise as a result of the use of the footway. The policy shall indemnify Council against any claims and Inner West Council must be recognised on the Policy as an 'Interested Party' and specify the materials to be used on the footpath/roadway. The Insurance Policy must clearly show commencement and expiry dates. If the insurance policy lapses during the outdoor dining licence period, use of the outdoor dining area must cease immediately.

### Footpath specific provisions

*The following provisions are specific to outdoor dining applications located on the footpath*

Limitations

- 11. In many circumstances, outdoor dining on the footpath will not be possible. This may be due to the following:
  - a. Limited footpath space
  - b. High pedestrian traffic
  - c. Designation of a shared zone
  - d. Existing street furniture and other fixtures on the footpath

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- e. Other issues identified by Council staff during assessment
- f. Classified roadway where transport NSW does not support footpath dining due to safety concerns.

### Location

- 12. Outdoor dining areas must be located on the footpath in front of the premises unless written consent has been obtained from the adjoining land occupiers. Outdoor dining in front of neighbouring residential uses is not permitted.
- 13. Outdoor dining areas must be within the prevailing alignment of other outdoor dining areas along the streetscape.
- 14. If there is no prevailing alignment, the following applies:
  - a. Against the building line if the footpath is less than 3.5m wide – this has a risk DDA ? may be need to reconsider this clause – see our standard assessment
  - b. Towards the kerb if the footpath is greater than 3.5m wide
- 15. If the site is on a classified road and/or there is no room for footpath dining towards the kerb, outdoor dining areas along the building line may be further considered subject to assessment by transport NSW and pedestrian safety .
- 16. Council aims to create a straight path of travel along footpaths that does not meander between shopfronts and the kerb.
- 17. A minimum 0.6m clearance must be maintained between the kerb and the outdoor dining area. This does not apply if adjacent an outdoor dining area on the road space.

*Note: Council staff may request amendments to the location of the outdoor dining area due to contextual and accessibility factors.*

All applications will be assessed on their merits and subject to suitable information being provided.

### Path of travel

- 18. Council aims to create a straight path of travel along footpaths that does not meander between shopfronts and the kerb.
- 19. A minimum clearance of 1.5m must be maintained at all times for a path of travel – pram and dog test
- 20. The path of travel is to be measured from the edge of the outdoor dining area(s) to any obstruction or object on the footpath.  
Obstructions and objects on the footpath may include: delete these not really required
  - a. Kerbs
  - b. Nature strips
  - c. Street trees\*
  - d. Garden beds
  - e. Pylons\*
  - f. Fixed street furniture\*

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- g. Fences\*
- h. Bollards\*
- i. Electrical and communication cabinets\*
- j. Bins
- k. Bicycle parking
- l. Parking meters (if not operational\*)
- m. Telegraph poles\*
- n. Light poles
- o. Water fountains
- p. Decorative elements\*
- q. Other fixed objects that Council considers an obstruction

They do not include:

- r. Single poles for parking and traffic signs\*
  - s. Awning or balcony support structures\*
21. Obstructions and objects listed above with an asterisk(\*) may be located within outdoor dining areas.
22. Include any other matters we currently assess

Awning structural certification as per exempt and compliance with BCA for exempt development – exempt development standard

### Road space specific provisions

*The following provisions are specific to outdoor dining applications located on road space- note approval from the traffic committee will be required for any road space dining .*

*Hostile vehicle requirements for protection of diners important*

#### Limitations

23. Road space unsuitable for temporary conversion to an outdoor dining area includes:
- a. Bus stops or bus zones
  - b. Roads with speed limits of more than 50km/hr
  - c. Clearways
  - d. Classified roads
  - e. Parking for Australia Post, police, fire, ambulance, or car share
  - f. No stopping zones
  - g. Bike lanes
  - h. Accessible parking
  - i. In-road fire hydrant

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- j. Kerbside within 10m of an intersection
  - k. Parking in front of a residence
24. Potentially suitable road space includes:
- a. Unrestricted kerbside parking
  - b. Timed parking, whether metered or unmetered
  - c. Motorbike parking
  - d. Residential permit parking (so long as the space is not directly in front of a residence)
  - e. Drop off/pick up zoned parking
  - f. Loading zones
  - g. Taxi zones
  - h. No parking zones

### Location

25. Outdoor dining on the road should be in front of the benefitting premises, including the front, side and rear boundaries.
26. In some circumstances, extending in front of an adjacent premises is acceptable if:
- a. The applying premises does not have opportunity for outdoor dining directly in front of their premises,
  - b. The proposed outdoor dining area is viewable from within the premises and can be effectively managed,
  - c. The adjoining premises has opted not to apply for outdoor dining on the road space, or they are not eligible to.

### Sharing on road outdoor dining areas

27. In some circumstances, sharing a space between businesses will be permitted. This is especially relevant for a space in front of an adjoining café and restaurant, where the café may only require it for day-time hours, and the restaurant at night.
28. Coordination between businesses on their outdoor dining applications is required to facilitate this. If this cannot be coordinated, the premises in front of the outdoor dining space will prevail.

### Minimum depth of outdoor dining area

29. To be allocated road space, the outdoor dining area must result in a minimum depth of 1.2m. This must consider the installation of a 600mm thick barrier within the confines of the parking space(s) and that it does not impede the safe passing of traffic.

### Accessibility

30. 900mm wide ramps must be installed to make every outdoor dining area accessible.
31. Multiple ramps may be required to ensure each table in the outdoor dining area is accessible.



32. Benches are not to be used for seating.
33. An obstruction free 900mm landing at the base of the ramp must be maintained at all times to ensure wheelchair users can effectively manoeuvre around the space.

Decorating concrete barriers

34. The outdoor dining licence holder may decorate the on-road concrete barriers, so long as:
  - a. Decorations do not include advertising or business identification.
  - b. They do not contain material that discriminates against or vilifies any person or group, or is offensive or sexually explicit.
  - c. Wrapping and sticking decorations to barriers is the only means of decorating them. Any installation must be easily removable and the barriers should be able to be made good with minimal effort.

### Submission requirements

Re-allocating parking spaces and other limited kerbside road space and the footpath for outdoor dining is a complex task that requires specific details from business operators. And will require approval from the IWC traffic committee.

Firstly, it must be determined if the kerbside and/or footpath adjacent the food and drink premises is eligible for outdoor dining. Clauses 11, 22 and 23 of these guidelines list the circumstances where outdoor dining is possible and prohibited. Further to this, consideration must be given to the safety and useability of the space for outdoor dining.

Below is a list of the details Council requirements for an application:

*General details*

The outdoor dining application must be completed and include:

- Applicant’s details
- Businesses details
- The premises existing development consent number
- The outdoor dining areas proposed hours of operation (must align with development consent conditions) maximum 10pm
- The total area (square metres) of the footpath and road space to be used for outdoor dining – limitations will be dictated by Covid requirements (currently 2 sq metres per person)
- Liquor licence details, and temporary change of boundaries form (see heading below)
- Details of coordination with adjoining businesses (see heading below)
- Site plan (see heading below)

*Police referral will be required and approved prior to any approval for pubs and small v]bars and special conditions will be relevant for monitoring of the premises = police requirements to be included conditions to be attached*

*Social impact statement*

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*Security cameras CCTV – security management plan ect*

### *Liquor Licence details*

If the subject premises has a liquor licence and would like to serve alcohol in the proposed outdoor dining area, this must be made clear on the application. The *Liquor licence application: temporary change of boundaries* form must also be submitted with the outdoor dining application.

The applicant will be required to send this form to Liquor and Gaming NSW, seeking their support for the application once the application has been approved. If deemed acceptable, Liquor and Gaming will issue this approval soon after the outdoor dining licence is approved.

### *Coordination with adjoining businesses*

Re-allocating road space for outdoor dining comes at significant cost to Council. To roll out new outdoor dining spaces efficiently, Council requires applications to be coordinated between adjoining food and drink businesses.

If you're seeking outdoor dining on the road space, and an adjoining business is an eligible food and drink business, you must show coordination with the adjoining business in your application. This will either result in a joint application between adjoining business, or evidence that coordination with an adjoining businesses was attempted and they were not interested. If your food and drink business is part of a row, coordination with all businesses in that row is required.

As streetscapes are not consistent, and there are not parking spaces in front of all businesses, it may be the case that Council allocates road space for outdoor dining to a business that is not directly adjacent to the business. This will be considered on a case by case basis. dont agree with this

### *Site Plan*

Critical to a good application is a site plan that shows the required level of detail for Council officers to make an assessment on the eligibility of footpaths and road space for outdoor dining areas. There are a number of ways this can be done, including: use of high resolution aerial photographs that are accurately annotated; professionally drafted site plans; or, indicative site plans with accurate annotations.

Whatever the method of producing a site plan, the following key information MUST be shown on all plans:

- A site plan identifying building location and the kerb scaled and fully dimensioned drawings professionally drawn.
- All plans shall be fully dimensioned and drawn to a standard and prepared by a professional draughtsperson or designer .
- Hand drawn sketches will not be acceptable.
- Shaded area identifying the footpath and/or road space outdoor dining area
- Identify all objects, obstructions and furniture on the street. Most potential items are listed under clause XX of these guidelines. They must be identified if they are located within or outside of the proposed outdoor dining area(s) photos could
- Identify the entrance and all windows to the subject premises. This demonstrates if the outdoor dining area(s) can be seen and managed from within the premises



- Clear indication that a 1.5m wide, obstruction free path of travel is maintained along the footpath
- Labelling the names of adjacent businesses and if applicable indicate their approved outdoor dining area(s)
- If proposed on road space, show the following:
  - Current kerbside parking signage,
  - Width of the road
  - Width and length of the proposed outdoor dining area on the road space in sq metres

During the assessment process, Council may request amendments or additional information to the proposed outdoor dining area.

When drafting an outdoor dining area on the road space, there are limited types of concrete barriers that can be utilised. Details of these are provided in Appendix 2 of these guidelines.

Examples of site plans are included in appendix 1 of these guidelines.

### Standard conditions

The following is list of standard conditions that will be applied to outdoor dining licences. These may be edited to suit a particular situation, and additional non-standard conditions may also be included to address particular site issues.

#### Outdoor dining licence inclusions

An outdoor dining licence will be issued with:

- Date of issue
- Name and address of businesses
- Outdoor dining licence number
- Footpath and/or road space outdoor dining description
- Square metres of space allocated on the footpath and road space for outdoor dining
- Site plan with outdoor dining area indicated
- Outdoor dining licence expiry date
- A list of conditions affecting the outdoor dining licence

#### General Conditions for all outdoor dining

- **Public Liability Insurance**  
The applicant must maintain and bear the cost for a Public Liability Insurance policy for the amount of \$20 million. The policy must cover any action that may arise as a result of the use of the outdoor dining areas. The policy shall indemnify Council against any claim and Inner West Council must be recognised on the Policy as an 'Interested Party'. The Insurance Policy must clearly show commencement and expiry dates.

VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

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If the above policy lapses during the 'approved license period', all furnishings must be removed from the outdoor dining area.

- **Outdoor dining licence on display at all times**  
The applicant must display a copy of their outdoor dining licence at the front of their premises. It must be viewable to any member of the public, Council officers and other relevant authorities at anytime.
- **Hours of operation**  
Maximum hours of operation for approved outdoor dining areas are between 8am and 10pm, 7 days per week. Hour of operation further restricted than this under the premises development consent prevail otherwise.
- **Storage of furnishings**  
All outdoor dining furnishings are to be brought in before the closing time identified in the hours of operation condition above.
- **Interim outdoor dining guidelines**  
The outdoor dining areas approved under this licence are to be operated in accordance with the Interim outdoor dining guidelines available on Council's website.
- **Liquor licence**  
Alcohol may only be sold/served in accordance with the premises liquor licence.
- **Outdoor dining area is to be kept clean and tidy.**  
It is the licence holders responsibility to keep the outdoor dining area clean and tidy at all times. This includes the regular removal of rubbish, debris, discarded items, spills, vermin, vandalism and graffiti.
- **Outdoor furnishings**  
Outdoor furniture is to be high quality, well maintained and built for purpose. All furniture should be visually attractive and clean. Chairs, tables, umbrellas and barriers should be sturdy, level and safe.
- **Umbrellas**  
Umbrellas are to have a minimum clearance of 2.1m. They must be securely weighted down and are to be collapsed and brought in during windy weather. The safety of umbrellas is the sole responsibility of the outdoor dining licence holder. Umbrellas must not overhang the road or if located on an approved road space outdoor dining area, they must not overhang the allocated outdoor dining area.
- **Amenity**  
It is the outdoor dining licence holders responsibility to ensure that sound levels coming from patrons in your outdoor dining area are reasonable and do not impact on the amenity of nearby residences.
- **Smoking**  
Smoking is prohibited in all outdoor dining areas.
- **Path of travel**

# INNER WEST

Regardless of the approved outdoor dining area plan, a 1.4m wide obstruction free path of travel must be maintained at all times along the footpath.

- **Access as required**

Use of the outdoor dining area must not obstruct access for Council, any statutory authority, or any other person under the control of the Council of its express authority to carry out maintenance, repairs, or replacement of public works and utility services such as, electrical power, communication cabling, water, sewer, stormwater, or the like. Use of the outdoor dining area can resume when declared acceptable to do so.

- **Revocation or suspension of outdoor dining licence**

Council may at anytime revoke or suspend an outdoor dining licence by giving seven days written notice. This may be due to be a breach in the outdoor dining licence or interim outdoor dining guidelines, or a change in Council’s desired use of the footpath or road space. If Council identify a health or safety issue, the licence can be suspended or revoked immediately.

Referral body conditions

Covid conditions

Road space specific conditions

- **Accessibility of tables**

All tables within any road space outdoor dining area must be accessible to wheelchair users at all times. Bench seats are not permitted.

- **Ramps**

A minimum clearance radius of 900mm is to be maintained around the top and base of each ramp installed to access outdoor dining areas on the road space.

- **Decorating barriers**

The outdoor dining licence holder may decorate the on-road concrete barriers, so long as:

- Decorations do not include advertising or business identification
- They do not contain material that discriminates against or vilifies any person or group, or is offensive or sexually explicit.
- Wrapping and sticking decorations to barriers is the only means of decorating them. Any installation must be easily removable and the barriers should be able to be made good with minimal effort.

## Definitions

### Outdoor Dining Area

The area on the footpath or road space approved by Council for the consumption of food and drinks associated with a food and drink premises.

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**Road Space**

Any part of the road that is for the movement or parking of vehicles, unless otherwise converted to an outdoor dining area.

**Path of travel**

An obstruction free passage on the footpath of at least 1.4m wide that must be maintained at all times.

**Eligible food and drink business**

A legal business that primarily involves the sale of food and/or drink products for consumption on site.

DRAFT

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 12  
**Subject:** 2020/21 ANNUAL DESIGNATED PERSON DISCLOSURE (PECUNIARY INTEREST) RETURNS  
**Prepared By:** Katherine Paixao - Acting Governance Manager  
**Authorised By:** Peter Livanes - Acting Director Corporate

Item 12

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council note the tabling of Pecuniary Interest Returns of Councillors and Designated Staff for the return period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.**

**DISCUSSION**

Council’s Code of Conduct requires councillors and designated persons who are in positions identified by the General Manager as at 30 June 2021 to disclose any pecuniary interests in an annual return within three months of 30 June each year. These returns must be tabled at the first meeting of Council following the last day of lodgement, which is 30 September.

Given this meeting takes place online, Councillors wishing to view the pecuniary interest returns may contact the Governance Coordinator before or after the meeting during business hours.

In addition to being publicly available on request, these returns will also be published on council’s website as soon as practicable. A general redaction of all residential street addresses will be applied to all forms.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No: C1021(2) Item 13**

**Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: MANAGEMENT OF DISABILITY PARKING SPACES**

Extraordinary Council Meeting at its meeting on 05 October 2021 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 October 2021.

**From: Councillor John Stamolis**

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**MOTION:**

**THAT Council receive a report back on its management of disability parking spaces:**

- a) number of disability parking spaces in the Inner West, new applications and closed permits (over time);**
  - b) how people can apply for these spaces;**
  - c) renewal processes for disability parking spaces;**
  - d) what process is in place when these spaces are no longer needed; and**
  - e) whether there is a process to open up use of these spaces if the permit holder is away for extended times.**
- 

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 14

**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: STREET TREE PLANTING UPDATE

Extraordinary Council Meeting at its meeting on 05 October 2021 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 October 2021.

**From:** Councillor John Stamolis

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**MOTION:**

**THAT Council receive a report on:**

- a) on its street tree planting over 2020 and 2021;
  - b) where this activity has taken place (by suburb or ward);
  - c) how streets are selected for tree planting;
  - d) how consultation with residents takes place; and
  - e) how narrow footpaths and pedestrian access are managed.
- 

**Background**

Councils street tree planting appears to be progressing well with increased investment as part of the Covid stimulus package.

Residents see this as a very positive program. The only concerns arise where footpaths appear too narrow to allow tree planting and pedestrian access.

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No: C1021(2) Item 15**

**Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: SYDNEY SWAN'S WOMEN'S TEAM, NEWTOWN JETS AND HENSON PARK**

Extraordinary Council Meeting at its meeting on 05 October 2021 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 October 2021.

**From: Councillor Darcy Byrne**

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Welcome the announcement by the AFL that the Sydney Swans will be admitted to the AFLW league;**
- 2. Recommit to hosting the Newtown Jets and Sydney Swans Women's professional sporting teams at Henson Park and seek to make the ground an official home ground for the Swans Women's team;**
- 3. Work with the Newtown Jets and Sydney Swans to prepare a development application and submit a grant application to the NSW Government for the upgrade of facilities to allow both teams to play elite sport at Henson Park into the future; and**
- 4. Commit to maintaining ongoing, unfettered public access to Henson Park for the community as occurs currently.**

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Director Infrastructure:**

The Plan of Management for Henson Park has been adopted and permits the proposed upgrade. Council staff have been meeting with AFL and the Jets to discuss a pathway forward to progress their proposed development.

AFL are currently preparing a Heritage Study, which is a requirement for a pre-DA meeting.

Council staff intend to put a report to Council in October to outline further details on the proposed development. Specifically, the report will address:

- Legal advice is currently being acquired to determine if a public-private partnership (PPP) is required.
- The report will seek formal endorsement from Council to sign Owner's Consent (prior to lodgement of the DA)
- An estimated cost of works. It is noted that the proposed development is not currently funded.
- An estimated timeframe for the works.

Depending on the PPP, an Agreement to Licence and Heads of Agreement with AFL and Newtown Jets will need to be negotiated regarding the future Licence and sharing of the grounds. The Agreement to Licence needs to also outline the ongoing community access to the grounds.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 16  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: CODE RED FOR HUMANITY

Extraordinary Council Meeting at its meeting on 05 October 2021 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 October 2021.

**From:** Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz

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**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

1. Note the United Nations (UN) has issued a code Red for Humanity advising that only with immediate, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including methane gas, is it possible to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius and avoid the consequences of greater global warming including intense and frequent hot extremes, heatwaves, and heavy precipitation and, in some regions, agricultural and ecological droughts;
2. Note that if other countries were to adopt emissions targets similar to our own, it is very likely that global temperatures would increase by at least 2 degrees, and possibly by as much as 3 degrees;
3. Write to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Energy and Emission Reductions asking the Government commit to a 2030 target for at least a 75% reduction in emissions ;
4. Call on our local Federal Members for Grayndler, Barton, Reid and Sydney to take the Community Protection Pledge;
5. Note the “NSW Audit Report: Managing climate risks to assets and services” and call on the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister of Planning to urgently adopt the recommendations; and
6. While preparing Council’s next Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Short and Long Term Financial Plans, Planning Instruments consideration will be given to the *Climate Risk Ready NSW Guide and Course* and the improvement of council’s overall and interim net zero targets, in line with the “Race to Zero Starting Line” criteria, and other initiatives for keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees

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**Background**

Here in the Inner West we are already feeling the effects of Global Warming, with inundation of the Marrickville Golf Course and the need to raise the changerooms at the Dawn Fraser Baths. Our storm water and sewerage systems will fail more often due to heavier rainfall and higher sea levels. Our air quality was severely impacted by the bushfires in early 2019 and our tree canopy and vegetation will suffer in prolonged periods drought. Our food supply is also at risk.

***Climate Emergency***

On 14 May 2019 Inner West Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency including Council’s key performance indicators and policies by May 2020 - C0519(1) Item 7 Notice of Motion: Declaration of Climate Emergency, Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 May 2019,

[https://innerwest.infocouncil.biz/Open/2019/05/C\\_14052019\\_MIN\\_3696\\_WEB.htm](https://innerwest.infocouncil.biz/Open/2019/05/C_14052019_MIN_3696_WEB.htm)

**“Code Red for Humanity” - Secretary-General, UN**

*“We must act decisively now to keep 1.5°C alive. We are already at 1.2°C and rising. Warming has accelerated in recent decades. Every fraction of a degree counts. Greenhouse- gas concentrations are at record levels. Extreme weather and climate disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity. That is why this year’s United Nations climate conference in Glasgow is so important.” - Secretary-General Calls Latest IPCC Climate Report ‘Code Red for Humanity’, Stressing ‘Irrefutable’ Evidence of Human Influence <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sqsm20847.doc.htm> (viewed 17 September 2021)*

**The IPCC’s ‘code red’:** On 9 August 2021, the IPCC released its [latest report](#), which is a comprehensive assessment of the physical science of climate change. It is the most important climate science update for almost a decade.

*[The report shows](#) that terrible and irreversible changes to our planet can be avoided only with immediate, deep and sustained emissions reductions. The report clearly states that the climate is changing at a rate unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years, and that the change is being driven in large part by the burning of [fossil fuels](#).*

*The report makes clear that every tonne of greenhouse gas emitted matters: ‘[With every additional](#) increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger. For example, every additional 0.5°C of global warming causes clearly discernible increases in the intensity and frequency of hot extremes, including heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, as well as agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions.’*

Source: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, IPCC, August 2021  
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>

**Statement by the Secretary-General on the report by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( 17 September 2021 )**

Today’s report from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the Nationally Determined Contributions of all Parties to the Paris Agreement shows that the world is on a catastrophic pathway to 2.7-degrees of heating...  
<https://www.un.org/sq/en/node/259106> (viewed 18 Sep 2021)

**Community Protection Pledge: Taking Action on Extreme Weather - Emergency Leaders for Climate Action**

Australians are experiencing disaster after disaster – from bushfires to deadly heatwaves to more intense rainfall and greater risk of floods. The impacts are being felt all over Australia, with some communities facing a cascade of disasters.

The Community Protection Pledge is a set of **10 commitments that every Federal MP can sign** to commit to protecting Australians now, and into the future.

*Community Protection Pledge: Taking Action on Extreme Weather, Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA), <https://emergencyleadersforclimateaction.org.au/community-protection-pledge/> (viewed 17 September 2021)*

**NSW Auditor: Managing climate risks to assets and services (7 Sep ‘21)**

DPIE and NSW Treasury’s support to agencies to manage climate risks to their assets and services has been insufficient.

In 2021, key agencies with critical assets and services have not conducted climate risk assessments, and most lack adaptation plans.

DPIE has not delivered on the NSW Government commitment to develop a state-wide climate change adaptation action plan. This was to be complete in 2017.

There is also no adaptation strategy for the state. These have been released in all other Australian jurisdictions. The NSW Government’s draft strategic plan for its Climate Change Fund was also never finalised.

DPIE’s approach to developing climate projections is robust, but it hasn’t effectively educated agencies in how to use this information to assess climate risk. NSW Treasury did not consistently apply dedicated resourcing to support agencies’ climate risk management until late 2019.

In March 2021, DPIE and NSW Treasury released the Climate Risk Ready NSW Guide and Course. These are designed to improve support to agencies.

***What we recommended***

DPIE and NSW Treasury should, in partnership:

- enhance the coordination of climate risk management across agencies
- implement climate risk management across their clusters.

DPIE should:

- update information and strengthen education to agencies, and monitor progress
- review relevant land-use planning, development and building guidance
- deliver a climate change adaptation action plan for the state.

NSW Treasury should:

- strengthen climate risk-related guidance to agencies
- coordinate guidance on resilience in infrastructure planning
- review how climate risks have been assured in agencies’ asset management plans.

Source viewed 17 Sep 2021, <https://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/our-work/reports/managing-climate-risks-to-assets-and-services>

**Race To Zero**

Race To Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.

It mobilizes a coalition of leading net zero initiatives, representing **733 cities, 31 regions, 3,067 businesses, 173 of the biggest investors, and 622 Higher Education Institutions**. These ‘real economy’ actors join 120 countries in the [largest ever alliance](#) committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. Collectively these actors now cover nearly 25% global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and over 50% GDP.

The objective is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of COP26, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement.

This will send governments a resounding signal that business, cities, regions and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.

More about Race To Zero Campaign at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Urban Sustainability Manager:**

Staff have no comment for points 1-5.

Comment for point 6 - In December 2019 Council adopted the Inner West Climate and Renewables Strategy which targets a 75% reduction in community emissions by 2036 and zero emissions before 2050. The community target is based on the *Inner West Pathway to Zero Emissions* (2019) report prepared by Kinesis. This report quantifies and describes the Inner West community carbon footprint, models future scenarios, considers Council's areas of influence, and makes recommendations for key actions that support community emissions reduction. Refer <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/environment-and-sustainability/at-council/response-to-climate-change/climate-and-renewables-strategy>. The recommended targets and key actions were incorporated into the adopted Climate and Renewables Strategy.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 17

**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENTS' PRECINCT COMMITTEES FOR THE INNER WEST COUNCIL

Extraordinary Council Meeting at its meeting on 05 October 2021 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 October 2021.

**From:** The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

**MOTION:**

**THAT:**

1. Council consult with the inner west community in October on:
  - a) Whether they would like to see Residents' Precinct Committees (RPCs) established;
  - b) Which areas the RPCs could represent;
  - c) Where RPC meetings could be held locally;
  - d) How often they would like to see their local RPC meet;
  - e) How much support they want the RPCs to have from council; and
  - f) What they would like the role Councillors to be in their local RPC.
2. Relevant Council staff are also consulted on how best they can work with local RPCs:
  - a) To share information and seek feedback; and
  - b) To consult on local issues including: development applications in the area; traffic management proposals; proposed council policies and plans; changes to local services; plans of management and all of council issues such as our strategic planning documents, budget and delivery plan.
3. The results of the consultation to be brought to Council in a report to the Ordinary Council meeting on 9 November 2021 with recommendations on the establishment of RPCs where there is support; and
4. Noting that council will be in the caretaker period from November 5, council provides clear direction now that pending support being demonstrated from community consultation, Council gives in principle support to the establishment of Residents' Precinct Committees for the Inner West Council.

**Background**

Residents' Precinct Committees are committees of residents who meet regularly to discuss matters of concern in the local area. They are usually run and chaired by local residents.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has really highlighted the importance of local. The establishment of Residents' Precinct Committees (RPCs) will help further connect and support local

communities. RPCs are an anchor for the local community, bringing neighbours together; helping new arrivals to the area settle in; providing local information and advice and helping to identify those who need help. They are also an important voice for the local community and a bridge between council and local communities.

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Communications and Engagement Manager:**

The current Council considered a report on advisory committees in December 2017 and adopted a structure of local democracy groups in May 2018 that did not include Resident Precinct Committees. Consideration of establishment of Resident Precinct Committees should be a matter for the new Council, to be elected in December 2021.

Under S402A of the Local Government Act, Councils are required to “prepare a Community Engagement Strategy to support the development of all their plans, policies, programs and key activities. This includes those relating to IP&R, as well as strategic plans and programs required under other legislation. Engagement activities should be incorporated into one overarching strategy, to be endorsed by council.” Under the recent amendments to the Act, Councils are required to establish and implement a Community Engagement Strategy in accordance with section 402A, within 12 months after the next election.”\*

Council staff will be reviewing our practice and researching other Council's engagement strategies to inform the new Council's development of its Community Engagement Strategy.

\* [IPR - Guidelines \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/ipr-guidelines)

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No: C1021(2) Item 18**

**Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: ENDING PERIOD POVERTY IN THE INNER WEST**

Extraordinary Council Meeting at its meeting on 05 October 2021 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 October 2021.

**From: Councillor Lucille McKenna OAM**

Item 18

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Receive a report from Council Officers on a pilot program of supplying free period products in Council-run libraries, pools, community centres, sporting ground change rooms, and highly utilised public toilets. The report include an assessment of the need for the service and the costs; and**
- 2. Consult with relevant community organisations, health services, schools and sports clubs about the pilot in developing the report.**

**Background**

Period poverty describes the effect of girls and women missing out on community engagement and educational opportunities because of being unable to afford or ask for menstrual products. Period poverty has a particularly detrimental effect on women who are homeless, whether that means sleeping rough, couch surfing or staying in unstable or overcrowded accommodation excluding them from employment and social opportunities.

Governments at many levels are taking action to address this inequality. Free menstrual products are supplied in Scotland (all public buildings, under Scottish legislation) New Zealand (schools) and Victoria (schools) The NSW Department of Education is trialling a schools program in 2021. Melbourne City Council agreed in April 2021 to fund a year-long pilot program to make sanitary products available in public change rooms, recreation centres, swimming pools, community centres and libraries.

The Inner West Council could adopt a similar program, making free period products available in Council run libraries, pools, community centres, highly-utilised public toilets.

The benefits of initiating such a program would include:

- Ensuring supply of essential hygiene products to people in need
- Facilitating increased community and educational engagement by girls and women, reducing barriers to education (library) and sporting opportunities (pools, public toilets at sports grounds)
- Reducing the stigma associated with periods

Melbourne City Council’s trial program for 6 sites for one year was reported to cost \$10 000 for the year.

Appropriate sites could include a mix of Council’s facilities frequented by young people such as libraries and pools; community facilities, accessible public toilets and change rooms at sporting grounds.

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 19  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: EASTON PARK SPORTING FIELD SURFACE  
**From:** Councillor Darcy Byrne

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

1. Undertake a resurfacing of the Easton Park sporting field surface during the current offseason to allow the ground to be playable for the 2022 winter season; and
2. Write to the Government seeking consideration of extension and connection of the proposed Rozelle Parklands into Easton Park to create one continuous green space and request again that the Government commence the development of the Master Plan for the Rozelle Parklands, including the transparent disclosure of costings, as a precondition for Council accepting care, control and management of the Parklands.

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Director Infrastructure:**

The Easton Park sporting ground upgrade is currently budgeted for 2025/26 in Council's LTFFP. Staff are aware that the field is currently in poor condition and at the next budget review, were planning on bring forward the budget to 2023/24.

Resurfacing of the sporting ground surface during the current offseason is not feasible as the works require design and procurement. Further, suitably qualified contractors would not be available within this short timeframe.

Should Councillors be of a mind to bring these works forward, the earliest this works could be completed would be 2022/23, commencing in November 2022. The funding required would be approximately \$320k.

In the interim, staff have already begun the annual renovation program for Easton Park, with the following works planned:

- Sprayed 10/9/2021 for broadleaf weeds, removal of rye grass, pre-emergent weed control and fertiliser to stimulate root growth.
- Uncover the pitch and level around it with one width maxi roll turf.
- Scarify the field to remove all the patchy winter grass and all thatch, opening the way for the Summer grass growth.
- Fertilize in a few weeks once the Winter grass has died off.
- Treat with insecticide.
- Amendment works to cricket pitch surrounding with the turf to be laid on border off synthetic pitch.
- Monitor turf growth in the goal mouths and lay turf if necessary. Staff believe a lot of this will come back once we scarify and posts come down.

Staff believe the above works will allow the sporting ground to last through to Summer 2022. Staff will continue to monitor the field throughout the renovations.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 20  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: CLOSURE OF PATH THROUGH LEICHHARDT SECONDARY  
**From:** Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz

**MOTION:**

**That Council write to the department of education requesting that the path opposite Hill Street Leichhardt, connecting Balmain Road to Derbyshire Street be kept open to the public.**

**Background**

The education department has advised the community that the path connecting Balmain Rd to Derbyshire Street, at Hill St Leichhardt will be closed to the public (which has now occurred).

In conjunction with pedestrian crossings on Balmain and Norton Street, this path provides a direct pedestrian and cyclist path from White’s Creek to Hawthorne Canal, the length of Leichhardt via Hill and Allen Streets.

**Officer’s Comments:**

Staff have no comment

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 21  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: INQUIRY INVESTIGATION  
**From:** Councillor Julie Passas

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Wants an Inquiry Investigation by the NSW Auditor General to ascertain whether improvements are required on the culture and performance of this Council; and**
- 2. Notes the leadership turmoil on the first Inner West Council.**

**Background**

In the interest good governance for our residence, there needs to be an inquiry investigation by the NSW Auditor General to ascertain whether improvements are required on the culture and performance of this council.

All findings could only improve the way council operates.

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Acting Director Corporate**

From time-to-time the Auditor-General receives requests for special reviews or is alerted to matters of concern in relation to individual councils.

The Auditor-General may carry out a performance audit on a single council including their efficiency, effectiveness, economy or compliance with laws. Issues under consideration in such an audit could include the effectiveness of financial and performance management, governance, legislative compliance and the effectiveness of service delivery.

A Director from the NSW Audit Office attends all Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee meetings. The Committee is comprised of three (3) independent members and Councillors Steer and McKenna OAM.

The most recent financial audit from the NSW Audit Office of the General Purpose Financial Statement shows an unmodified opinion of the GPFS and demonstrates Council exceeding all financial performance measures.

Council's most recent community perception survey indicates that 92% of the community is at least somewhat satisfied with Council's performance and this has been consistent throughout this term of Council. Council is also developing expanded performance measures and service statements that will help inform the community of our ongoing performance and this will form part of the 22/26 Delivery Program.

Council's is committed to continuous improvement and will measure its' progress using the Australian Business Excellence Framework (ABEF). The ABEF will measure our performance across a range of categories including customer orientation and sustainable results/performance. This approach will also give Inner West Council the ability to benchmark our performance against other organisations. The results of any improvement measures will be reported to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

Our progress to high performance and a culture of excellence can be addressed by the ARIC Chairperson under the resolution passed at the Council meeting of 28 September requiring the Chairperson to attend Councillor briefings biannually.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 22  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: COST BENEFITS  
**From:** Councillor Julie Passas

**MOTION:**

**THAT a full report come back to Council detailing the benefits and costs and why the Inner West Council should remain a member of SSROC, Local Government NSW and other such groups.**

**Background**

This motion seeks a full report on the benefits and costs and why the Inner West Council should remain a member of SSROC, Local Government NSW and other such groups.

Residents have a right to know if their rates are being spent in a fiscal manner.

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Acting Director Corporate**

*In 2019, Council resolved:*

*THAT:*

1. *Any proposal to leave or to join an external Local, Regional or State-wide Committee or Organisation eg Local Government NSW, SSROC and SCCG must come to Council for endorsement;*
2. *The membership of Inner West Council in the Sydney Coastal Councils Group be retained and renewed for 2020/21 financial year; and*
3. *All current regional and state memberships be renewed.*

Officers can provide a report on current memberships, their costs and benefits.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 23  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: MEALS ON WHEELS  
**From:** Councillor Julie Passas

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**MOTION:**

**THAT Council urgently recommence Meals On Wheels to our elderly and less mobile as possible.**

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**Background**

This motion calls on the Council to urgently investigate the reintroduction of Meals On Wheels.

The latest concerning reports show that our elderly and less mobile residents are at risk of malnutrition. The vast majority in this category do not drive nor shop online, their access to nutritious food is limited.

Council supports many organisations that support younger groups however it is problematic for the elderly and vulnerable to access.

Meal on Wheels was a service that worked well for many years and should recommence as soon as possible, Council has the facilities for this desperately required Community Service.

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Acting Director Community:**

On 12 November 2019, Council considered in closed session the paper *Commonwealth Funding of Client Services* (C1119(1) Item 25) and endorsed the recommendation contained in the report.

The paper recommended that Council notify the Commonwealth of its intention to withdraw from providing Commonwealth funded home-based client services because it was not cost effective for Council to deliver the service based on the small size of our service. The Commonwealth funding model was changing from block funding to individualized funding which would make the service increasingly unviable.

The City of Sydney took over the former Leichhardt Council clients and Australian Unity Home Care Services took over the former Marrickville Council clients. The former Ashfield Council did not offer a meals on wheels service at the time of amalgamation. The older residents were transitioned to the new provider. This transition process was finalised by 31 December 2020.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 24  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: BUNNINGS TRAFFIC  
**From:** Councillor Victor Macri

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Commence a campaign to lobby Bunnings about improving traffic arrangement at Tempe;**
- 2. Campaign includes ads in local newspapers, social media and installation of banners at high-visibility locations near Bunnings Tempe and consider ads in the SMH also the Telegraph;**
- 3. Writes to NSW Minister for Roads seeking approval of traffic signals installation on Princes Highway to provide controlled access to Bunnings; and**
- 4. Writes to all residents of Sydenham, Tempe and St Peters advising of Council's advocacy and calling on residents to lobby the NSW Government for a better outcome**

**Background**

The LATM's for development proposals are normally done prior to DA consent being issued. This is to ensure the amenity of the surrounding the area is not adversely impacted by the operation of the development. In this case the LATM was deferred to the construction certificate stage. Hence once the LATM was completed it shows impacts to 15 local streets ,local businesses, the safe operation of Tempe Primary School and what could only be described as a very dangerous traffic movement of an unsignalised right hand turn off the Princes Hwy across 3 lanes of traffic a cycleway and a pedestrian footpath.

This a position that is not supported the Traffic Committee, the chair, Ron Hoening's representative and the Police.

I have had multiple meetings with the DPiE and TFNSW on their concerns with the installation of the traffic signals on the Princes Hwy. All of their concerns have been answered. They have failed to give justification why the signals cannot be installed. Note that the signals were part of the original considerations by Bunnings for the site.

Bunnings has also put in a modification to their consent to increase the FSR of the site by more than 2000 square meters this will intensify the use and add to the impact on local streets unless the signals are installed and the one way movement through the site is adopted with all exiting traffic via these signals. Also requesting the removal of the clause that the LATM needs to be completed prior to the activation of the construction certificate which will make it impossible to achieve what the LATM is designed to do, that is the operational impacts of the development are managed on their site not the local road network.

Financial implications

The cost of the campaign to come from the Communications budget

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Communications and Engagement Manager:**

A campaign including ads in local newspapers, social media and installation of banners could be undertaken for approximately \$5,000 and could be funded from the Communications budget. Advertising in the metropolitan newspaper would require approximately additional \$20,000.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 25  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: THRIVE BY FIVE  
**From:** Councillor Mark Drury

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Endorse the Thrive by Five campaign to support high-quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning and childcare;**
- 2. Formally advise Local Government NSW and Australian Local Government Association, that Council has endorsed the Thrive by Five campaign and supports the Associations in their involvement in the campaign;**
- 3. Write to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the Leader of the Opposition Anthony Albanese, the Minister for Education and Youth Alan Tudge, the Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth Amanda Rishworth & our local Federal Member(s) of Parliament, seeking bipartisan support for the campaigns objectives; and**
- 4. Endorse the distribution and display of the Thrive by Five information on Council premises, primarily in childcare centres, as well as involvement in any relevant actions arising from the initiative.**

**Background**

I am calling on Councillors to support the Thrive by Five campaign. During the first five years of life, the human brain develops to 90 per cent of an adult's size.

This makes the early years critical for lifelong learning and wellbeing. Early learning can help give children the best start in life, impacting on their future health, wellbeing, working potential and social participation.

Every child should start school ready to build on/broaden their learning, with the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

But Australia's early learning and childcare system has become outdated and expensive.

Although it's an essential service, Federal Government funding has failed to keep pace, leaving families out-of-pocket with expenses and creating unequal access to appropriate, high-quality early learning and childcare.

Parents, educators, experts, people from all sides of politics and all walks of life have come together to support this campaign which aims to ensure every Australian child can benefit from high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning and childcare.

Reform of the early learning and childcare system will drive workforce participation, particularly for women, boost productivity and GDP, boost our nation's education performance, and give children the best possible start in life.

Reducing out-of-pocket costs for working families will flow directly into increased household spending. A high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning system will allow an extra 98,800 parents, mainly women, to get back into the workforce, boosting productivity and the economy.

Many Australian women don't work more than three days a week because that is the tipping point where the cost of care becomes unreasonably expensive when compared with earning potential. As a result, these women experience difficulty when they try to increase the amount they work and face lifelong challenges through lost earnings and low superannuation. Many women drop out of the workforce because of the cost of early learning and childcare.

Local Government runs hundreds of centres around Australia. IWC is one of the largest local government providers in NSW

This is not a party-political issue: the campaign calls on all sides of politics to commit to supporting early learning and childcare.

I am recommending that we support this campaign and call on all parties to commit to support a high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning system that creates a brighter future for our children.

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 26  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION:PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG  
**From:** Councillor Pauline Lockie

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council**

- 1. Flies the Progress Pride Flag instead of the Rainbow Flag during Mardi Gras Festival (February/March) and Pride Month (June) each year, and at other times significant to the LGBTIQ+ community as required or requested;**
- 2. Allocates funding for this initiative, which staff have estimated will cost around \$600, from the Wellbeing materials budget and**
- 3. Ensures the existing Rainbow Flags are reused or recycled.**

**Background**

The Progress Pride Flag was designed by non-binary artist and graphic designer Daniel Quasar in 2018. It incorporates the existing six-colour Rainbow Flag designed by Gilbert Blake, and a chevron that incorporates the white, pink and blue colours of the Trans Pride Flag designed by Monica Helms to represent trans, non-binary and gender diverse people, and black and brown stripes to represent marginalized people of colour, people living with AIDS, those no longer living, and the stigma surrounding them.



Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras adopted the Progress Pride Flag during this year’s Mardi Gras Festival to better represent the diversity of the LGBTIQ+ community. It will continue to adopt the Progress Pride Flag for the Mardi Gras Festival 2022 and into the future. Cities, local governments and institutions around the world have already opted to do the same.

As an area that celebrates our inclusivity and diversity, I am now proposing the Inner West Council continues to demonstrate our support for all within the LGBTIQ+ community by flying the Progress Pride Flag at Balmain Town Hall, Ashfield Civic Centre, Petersham Town Hall, Marrickville Town Hall, Newtown Hall and Lackey Street Piazza, Summer Hill, and at other times significant to the LGBTIQ+ community as required or requested.

Dedicated flags will continue to fly for Transgender Day of Visibility (31 March – 7 April) and Intersex Awareness Day (26 October – 2 November).

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 27  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: MENTAL HEALTH  
**From:** Councillor Mark Drury

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**MOTION:**

**THAT:**

1. Council notes that October is Mental Health Month and we congratulate staff for putting together a program to mark this with a video competition, collaborative art projects, inclusive story time, online dance class, and social connection opportunities. We note the tone of the activities is to provide opportunities to get involved and improve mental health; and
  2. Noting the impact of COVID and the lockdowns on our mental health and that some people may not recognise the first signs of mental ill health we determine to set aside \$5K to engage a reputable organisation to offer to local non government staff, volunteers, residents and such as mental health first aid so they are better equipped to spot the early signs of ill health and help link residents in need to appropriate services.
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**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

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**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 28  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: IMPLEMENT INNER WEST COUNCIL PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY  
**From:** Councillor Louise Steer

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**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

1. Prioritise the first annual review of the public toilet strategy resolved by Council on 13 October 2020;
  2. Prioritise for construction the projects identified in the public toilet strategy, with Camperdown Memorial Rest Park toilet given first priority;
  3. Update Councillors at the meeting on 28 October 2021 with a progress report on the schedule for construction of projects identified in the public toilet strategy;
  4. Staff review whether funding for the public toilet strategy in the 2021-2022 budget is adequate and if found to be inadequate, devise appropriate solutions and report findings to Council;
  5. Note that the Council website information about the public toilet strategy has not been updated since 4 September 2020; and
  6. Update the Council website with accurate and up to date information about the projects identified in the public toilet strategy.
- 

**Background**

Council's public toilet strategy was resolved unanimously by Council on 22 September 2020. To date, no projects identified in the public toilet strategy have been completed, even where funds have been allocated in the budget.

<https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/public-toilet-strategy>

Due to Covid pandemic lockdown restrictions, pressure is being placed on public parks due to greater use of the parks for picnics and recreation. In some areas, including Camperdown Memorial Rest Park, portable toilets have been installed as a temporary measure. In others, such as Enmore Park, existing toilets have been re-opened. This increased use has highlighted the need for the public toilet strategy to be prioritised as a matter of public health and safety.

Councillors have proposed a large number of motions concerning public toilets in every ward over the last four years. A quick search of past minutes produced 213 results concerning toilets. Prioritising the public toilet strategy as part of Council's capital works program will provide a coherent solution for the LGA's public toilet needs.

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 30

**Subject:** T01-19 MARRICKVILLE AND ST PETERS TOWN HALLS - EXTERNAL WORKS

**Prepared By:** Julian Oon - Property Project Manager

**Authorised By:** Cathy Edwards-Davis - Director Infrastructure

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation contained in Confidential Attachment 1.**

**DISCUSSION**

On the 27 August 2019, a tender advertisement was placed for T01-19 seeking suitably qualified and experienced builders to undertake external façade works at Marrickville and St Peters Town Halls.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications are outlined in the confidential attachment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Marrickville & St Peters Town Hall External Works Evaluation - *Confidential*

***This attachment is confidential in accordance to commercial information of a confidential nature (Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993) that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.***

**Item No:** C1021(2) Item 31  
**Subject:** RFQ64-21 LOCAL ROAD ASPHALT MILL AND FILL CONTRACT  
**Prepared By:** Mark Bye - Project Officer  
**Authorised By:** Cathy Edwards-Davis - Director Infrastructure

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council adopt the recommendation contained in Confidential Attachment 1.**

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## DISCUSSION

On the 28 July 2021, Inner West Council invited quotations for the Local Road Asphalt Mill and Fill Services 2021-2022 from the SSROC Panel for Sustainable Pavements - RCG T2020-09.

A copy of the full RFQ evaluation report can be found in confidential **Attachment 1**.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Works to be funded from the Capital Works Program.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Request for Quotation (RFQ) Evaluation Report - *Confidential*  
***This attachment is confidential in accordance to commercial information of a confidential nature (Section 10A(2)(d)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1993) that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.***
2. Evaluation Spreadsheet - RFQ 64-21 Local Road Asphalt Contract FY21-22 - *Confidential*  
***This attachment is confidential in accordance to commercial information of a confidential nature (Section 10A(2)(d)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1993) that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.***