

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 3 December 2024

Meeting commenced at 6:33pm

Present:

Darcy Byrne	Mayor
Mat Howard	Deputy Mayor
Izabella Antoniou	Councillor
Liz Atkins	Councillor
Olivia Barlow	Councillor
Andrew Blake	Councillor
Jo Carlisle	Councillor
Vicki Clay	Councillor
Jessica D'Arienzo	Councillor
Kerrie Fergusson	Councillor
Victor Macri	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor
Philippa Scott	Councillor
Ismet Tastan	Councillor
Simone Plummer	Director Planning
Ryann Midei	Director Infrastructure
Ruth Callaghan	Director Community
Beau-Jane De Costa	Acting Director Corporate
Julian Sakarai	Acting Senior Manager Governance and Risk
Matthew Pearce	General Counsel
Manod Wickramasinghe	Traffic and Transport Planning Manager
Scott Mullen	Strategic Investments and Property Manager
Chris Sleiman	Chief Financial Officer
Erin White	Resource Recovery and Fleet Manager
Rocco Sergei	Coordinator Strategic Investments and Properties
Katherine Paixao	Business Paper Coordinator
Darcie Huisman	Business Paper Officer

APOLOGIES AND REQUEST FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Motion: (Howard/Clay)

That apologies from Councillor Smith be accepted.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Howard declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in *Item 5 – Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 18 November 2024* as he works in the Ministerial Office of the Minister for Transport, who in her capacity as the Member for Summer Hill has a representative on the Local Traffic Committee. He will remain in the meeting during discussion and voting as the vote of the State Member is exercised through a representative.

Councillor Barlow declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 5 – *Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 18 November 2024* as she works in the Office of Kobi Shetty MP, who in her capacity as the member for Balmain, has a representative on the Traffic Committee. She will remain in the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter as the vote is exercised through a representative.

Councillor Fergusson declared a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 39 – *Notice of Motion: 10km/h Shared Zone Brett Avenue, Balmain East* as she is on the Parents and Citizens (P&C) for Nicholson Street Public School, and Brett Avenue is widely used by school families on their daily commute. She will exit the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Motion: (Carlisle/Scott)

That Council note the disclosures of interest.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion: (Barlow/Scott)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

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.

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne left the meeting at 7:07pm and vacated the Chair. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Howard, assumed the Chair.

Councillor Macri left the meeting at 7:25pm

Councillor Macri returned to the meeting at 7:26pm

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, returned to the meeting at 7.34pm. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Howard, vacated the Chair and the Mayor, Councillor Byrne, assumed the Chair.

C1224(1) Item 48 Mayoral Minute: Inner West Sustainability Hub Next Steps

Motion: (Byrne)

- 1. That Council postpone the Circular Economy Round Table (scheduled for Monday 9 December) to be held in January 2025 instead and incorporate into the agenda of that forum a consultation on a promotional plan for the Sustainability Hub in 2025.**

2. That Council table a report for the February 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting with a draft promotional plan for the Sustainability Hub in 2025, incorporating feedback from the tenants as well as other relevant organisations. This should include consideration of a budget allocation for communications, promotion and events to be developed in consultation with these organisations, and a plan to increase signage and wayfinding to the Hub.
3. That Council identify a senior officer to be the primary point of contact for tenants at the Sustainability Hub and the coordinator of Council's oversight of the Hub. This is to be addressed in the report to the February 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 49 Mayoral Minute: Survey of Recreational Needs for Girls and Young Women

Motion: (Byrne)

That Council officers report to the March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting with a draft survey for consultation with local girls, young women and young gender diverse people about their recreational needs and preferences for new facilities. This should include a plan for how the survey would be widely promoted and disseminated, including use of social media and local organisations and networks.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Howard/Atkins)

That Council Suspend Standing Orders to bring forward the following items to be dealt with at this time:

1. Item 4 Public Exhibition - Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy
2. Item 9 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2025 Annual Review
3. Item 13 Update on Alcohol Free Zone at Loyalty Square Balmain
4. Item 14 Cycling Education Courses
5. Item 20 Investment Report at 31 October 2024
6. Item 24 Statistical Report on Code of Conduct Complaints 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
7. Item 25 Notice of Motion: Wicks Park Tennis Courts
8. Item 26 Notice of Motion: Automated Waste System
9. Item 28 Notice of Motion: George Street Sydenham dog park
10. Item 30 Notice of Motion: The Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre
11. Item 32 Notice of Motion: South Princes Highway, Tempe and Sydenham
12. Item 33 Notice of Motion: Hygienic disposal in men's toilets
13. Item 35 Notice of Motion: World War I memorial in Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield

- 14. Item 37 Notice of Motion: Wellington & Terry Street Pedestrian Crossings, Rozelle**
- 15. Item 38 Notice of Motion: 2025 Mode Shift Forum**
- 16. Item 41 Provision of 2 FOGO bins for Inner West Schools and Council-run Early Learning Centres**
- 17. Item 43 RFT 40-24 Design and Construction All Weather Outdoor Dining Coverage**
- 18. Item 45 Leichhardt Oval Food and Beverage Tender**
- 19. Item 47 1 Chadwick Avenue, Marrickville - Grant of Easement for Right of Carriageway Over Community Land**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Howard/Atkins)

That the following items be moved in globo and the recommendations contained within the reports be adopted:

- 1. Item 4 Public Exhibition - Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy**
- 2. Item 9 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2025 Annual Review**
- 3. Item 13 Update on Alcohol Free Zone at Loyalty Square Balmain**
- 4. Item 14 Cycling Education Courses**
- 5. Item 20 Investment Report at 31 October 2024**
- 6. Item 24 Statistical Report on Code of Conduct Complaints 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**
- 7. Item 25 Notice of Motion: Wicks Park Tennis Courts**
- 8. Item 26 Notice of Motion: Automated Waste System**
- 9. Item 28 Notice of Motion: George Street Sydenham dog park**
- 10. Item 30 Notice of Motion: The Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre**
- 11. Item 32 Notice of Motion: South Princes Highway, Tempe and Sydenham**
- 12. Item 33 Notice of Motion: Hygienic disposal in men's toilets**
- 13. Item 35 Notice of Motion: World War I memorial in Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield**
- 14. Item 37 Notice of Motion: Wellington & Terry Street Pedestrian Crossings, Rozelle**
- 15. Item 38 Notice of Motion: 2025 Mode Shift Forum**
- 16. Item 41 Provision of 2 FOGO bins for Inner West Schools and Council-run Early Learning Centres**
- 17. Item 43 RFT 40-24 Design and Construction All Weather Outdoor Dining Coverage**
- 18. Item 45 Leichhardt Oval Food and Beverage Tender**
- 19. Item 47 1 Chadwick Avenue, Marrickville - Grant of Easement for Right of Carriageway Over Community Land**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 4 Public Exhibition - Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council adopt the draft Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy, as attached to the report.
2. That Council place the adopted Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy on public exhibition, for a period of 28 days, and provide a report back to Council if Council receives any feedback that requires an amendment to the Work Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 9 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2025 Annual Review

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council approve the draft submission to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2025 Annual Review, as detailed in *Attachment 1* of the Council report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 13 Update on Alcohol Free Zone at Loyalty Square Balmain

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 14 Cycling Education Courses

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 20 Investment Report at 31 October 2024

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 24 Statistical Report on Code of Conduct Complaints 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council note the Statistical Report on Code of Conduct Complaints relating to Councillors and the General Manager for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 25 Notice of Motion: Wicks Park Tennis Courts

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council consider the upgrade of the Wicks Park Tennis Court synthetic turf as a part of the 2025/26 budget planning process.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 26 Notice of Motion: Automated Waste System

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council's waste management unit investigates the adoption of an automated waste management system for high density residential development, consistent with the guidelines adopted by neighbouring government areas such as Randwick Council (*Attachment 1* of the Council report). The report should be submitted back to Council for consideration within 6 months of this motion.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 28 Notice of Motion: George Street Sydenham dog park**Motion: (Howard/Atkins)**

That Council install the double gated entry system in the George Street off leash dog park and concrete that entry area as a part of the 2024/25 operational budget.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 30 Notice of Motion: The Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre**Motion: (Howard/Atkins)**

- 1. That Council commence work to undertake a significant upgrade of the Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre, Tempe, with the objective of construction work commencing within this term of Council.**
- 2. That Council thanks staff for their work to repair and upgrade flooring and insulation and undertake other works in 2023.**
- 3. That Council note the Robyn Webster Sports Centre is one of the only large-scale indoor sports centres in the Inner West and is being used more and by a broader selection of sports and other users.**
- 4. That Council in the first quarter of 2025:**
 - a) host a roundtable of regular hirers of the Sports Centre and outdoor courts, as well as potential future hirers, to determine the specific needs of local sports clubs and opportunities for upgrades;**
 - b) write to all residents of Tempe inviting them to a public meeting, to be held at the Sports Centre, to determine community needs and opportunities for upgrades; and**
 - c) hold a meeting between the Director for Infrastructure and the family of Robyn Webster to seek their feedback and input, if desired.**
- 5. That Council commence the process of seeking grant and other funding from State and Federal governments to upgrade the Centre.**
- 6. That Council add the upgrade of the Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre to the regular reporting to the Major Projects Committee.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 32 Notice of Motion: South Princes Highway, Tempe and Sydenham**Motion: (Howard/Atkins)**

- 1. That Council provide a report to the May 2025 Council meeting detailing opportunities for public domain and other improvements on the section of the**

Princes Highway between the Cooks River and Railway Road, Sydenham, including:

- a) support for local businesses on the Highway;
 - b) additional tree plantings;
 - c) incorporation of Water Sensitive Urban Design elements and principles;
 - d) improvements to pedestrian and active transport infrastructure;
 - e) street furniture updates; and
 - f) signage.
2. That Council before May 2025, host a Roundtable with businesses on the Princes Highway between the Cooks River and Railway Road to seek feedback on opportunities for public domain and other improvements.
 3. That Council before May 2025, write to and survey residents in the surrounding streets about ways public domain and other improvements can be made to improve the Princes Highway between the Cooks River and Railway Road, Sydenham.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 33 Notice of Motion: Hygienic disposal in men's toilets

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council investigate whether there are any hygienic disposal bins in any Council men's toilets across the inner west.
2. That Council prepare a report with options for installation of one hygienic disposal bin in the men's toilets in each of the Inner West Council's aquatic centres and libraries, including identification of budget and options to add this service to the Sanitary and Hygiene Product Services contract approved in October 2023 for a 12 month trial.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 35 Notice of Motion: World War I memorial in Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council seek grant funding for and support development of a World War I memorial in Richard Murden Reserve, to be included in the Park Plan of Management.
2. That Council investigate the various State and Federal Government grants available, i.e., the Federal Government's Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program, and begin the application process.

3. That Council make use of the extensive research conducted by Haberfield resident Graeme McKay in developing the memorial.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 37 Notice of Motion: Wellington & Terry Street Pedestrian Crossings, Rozelle

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council notes that the need for pedestrian crossings at the Terry Street and Wellington Street roundabout have been adopted as part of the Rozelle North Local Area Traffic Management Study.
2. That Council expedite delivery of the crossings and prioritise funding for design and construction in the 2025/2026 budget.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 38 Notice of Motion: 2025 Mode Shift Forum

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council acknowledge the vital role Active Transport will play in the design and liveability of our communities as population and density increases in the Inner West.
2. That Council convene a forum by April 2025 consisting of Council representatives from the Planning and Transport departments, relevant community stakeholders and subject matter experts to;
 - a) agree on and produce a vision statement for our streets and community liveability in 10 years time;
 - b) identify key components of a holistic strategy to mode shift including education and infrastructure;
 - c) identify key projects and prioritise roll out and report back to Traffic Committee;
 - d) deliberate on Inner West mode shift targets and look at how these targets can be applied to corresponding council departments such as Planning and Transport;
 - e) identify potential shortfall in council resources to achieve targets and discuss solutions; and
 - f) identify State Government and Federal Funding sources and how they can be utilised to achieve determined outcomes.
3. That Council write to the Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads, e-bike and e-scooter operators to request key staff attend the Forum.

4. That Council report back to Council on the outcome of the forum and apply learnings to the 2025 revised Integrated Transport Strategy.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 41 Provision of 2 FOGO bins for Inner West Schools and Council-run Early Learning Centres

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council approve the provision of 2 FOGO bins per school or Council run Early Learning Centre at no additional cost, for weekly collection as part of the residential FOGO collection schedule.
2. That Council endorse a FOGO education program of ongoing support and engagement about how to transfer FOGO knowledge to the home, including a start-up pack, to assist schools and ELCs to take up the program successfully, being mindful of the budget implications discussed in this report.
3. That Council promote the availability of this service through Council's Sustainable Schools Network, and via other appropriate channels.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 43 RFT 40-24 Design and Construction All Weather Outdoor Dining Coverage

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council in accordance with clause 178 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation) declines to accept the tenders submitted by C2DA Developments Pty Ltd, Perfect Remediation Pty Ltd, and Spacecube Pty Ltd.
2. That Council in accordance with clause 178(3)(e) of the Regulation, enter into negotiations with any person (whether or not the person was a tenderer) with a view to entering into one or more contracts in relation to the subject matter of the tender on the basis that there is currently no acceptable tender provided.
3. That Council delegate the General Manager (or their delegate) to negotiate the terms of the new contract(s) and execute the new contract(s).
4. That Council once finalised, a Councillor Briefing Note is to be presented summarising the terms of the new contract(s).

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 45 Leichhardt Oval Food and Beverage Tender

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council accept the tender for catering services by VenuesLive Management Services (NSW) Pty Ltd, ABN 79 612 305 898 a wholly owned subsidiary of VenuesLive Management Services Pty Ltd ABN 34 612 296 312 (VenuesLive).
2. That Council authorise the General Manager to finalise negotiations and sign all associated documents and enter into a contract with VenuesLive Management Services (NSW) Pty Ltd, ABN 79 612 305 898 a wholly owned subsidiary of VenuesLive Management Services Pty Ltd ABN 34 612 296 312 (VenuesLive) to provide catering services at Leichhardt Oval.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 47 1 Chadwick Avenue, Marrickville - Grant of Easement for Right of Carriageway Over Community Land

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council approve, under Section 46(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* grant of an easement in favour of 1 Chadwick Avenue Marrickville (Lot A DP181106) for vehicular and pedestrian access over Council-owned Community land known as Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course.
2. That Council authorise the grant of the easement to the owners of Lot A for a sum of \$130,000 being a negotiated amount based on a valuation report prepared for Council by BEM Valuations (June 2023), subject to:
 - a) public notification of the proposed easement in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Act and consideration of any submissions received;
 - b) payment by the grantees of all costs incurred by Council including the preparation of the Deed Granting Easement and terms thereof and a Construction Deed;
 - c) payment of all other costs incurred by Council for registration of the Easement and preparation of a survey and terms of the easement; and
 - d) agreement with Council's engineers on the width and length of the easement, the design and surface material of the carriageway and any associated drainage arising from construction of the carriageway.
3. That Council approve delegation of Authority to the General Manager to sign all associated documents for survey, creation and grant of the easement.
4. That Council note any objections arising from public notification of the proposed easement will be required to be referred to the Minister for consideration of consent to grant the easement.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Carlisle)

That Council allow Clr D'Arienzo to speak for 2 additional minutes on Item 1.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Scott/Howard)

That Council allow Clr Byrne to speak for 2 additional minutes on Item 1.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 1 Update - LGA Wide Local Environmental Plan

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Byrne)

- 1. That Council thanks the staff for the well advanced work on rezonings that will cover precincts nearby to train stations, light rail stops and main streets in a LGA wide Local Environmental Plan (LEP).**
- 2. That Council notes that investigations and feasibility studies undertaken by Council show that the 6-storey rezonings proposed under the Government's Transport Orientated Development scheme will not lead to the required number of new homes actually being delivered.**
- 3. That Council notes that the feasibility studies undertaken demonstrate that small lot sizes and high land values in the Inner West mean that higher densities will be required to make amalgamation and development of these sites commercially viable.**
- 4. That Council commits to finalising and bringing a draft LGA-wide LEP no later than the April 2025 Council meeting.**
- 5. That Council commits to a public exhibition in April 2025.**
- 6. That Council writes to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to:**
 - a) seek deferral of the inclusion of Council with respect to the Transit Oriented Development and Low to Mid Rise Housing reforms noting the significant feasibility challenge and the work that has been completed to date;**
 - b) seek approval to use the Accelerated Plan Making process for the LGA-wide LEP;**
 - c) seek clarification on the timing and delivery of the Bays West TOD being led by the State Government as well as a commitment to involve Council in the creation of the Bays West precinct; and**
 - d) seek inclusion of non-market housing such that affordable housing, boarding houses, student housing and co-living will count towards the calculation of Council's dwelling targets.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 2 Rozelle Parklands and Easton Park Draft Plans of Management and Masterplans

Motion: (Byrne/Fergusson)

1. That Council endorse both Rozelle Parklands and Easton Park draft Plans of Management for public exhibition following their amendment as outlined in the relevant section of this report, noting the draft Plans of Management for Easton and Rozelle Parklands have been developed together due to their proximity, nevertheless they have separate pathways thereafter due to their different ownership status.
2. That before giving public notice of the draft Plan of Management for Rozelle Parklands (amended), Council forward a copy of the draft POM (amended) to TfNSW and to the Minister for Roads, and proceed immediately to public exhibition for a period of 42 days.
3. That Council note the failure of Transport for NSW to make the sporting fields available for safe usage by local clubs for the 2024 winter season or the commencement of the Summer Season.
4. That Council write to the Secretary of Transport for NSW expressing our frustration that Transport for NSW has failed to make the fields available for use by local clubs and requesting a meeting between the Secretary and the Council's General Manager to resolve this and to progress agreement over Care, Control and Management of the Parklands being transferred to Council following the adoption of the Plan of Management.
5. That Council endorse the draft Plan of Management for Easton Park for that portion owned by Council (Lot 70&72 DP 1254804) and publicly exhibit this for a period of 42 days concurrently with the Crown land section of the Easton Park, once the Minister for Lands and Property has been notified.
6. That Council place the draft Plans of Management on Public Exhibition throughout December 2024 and January 2025 to allow for the final Plans to be tabled for adoption at the February 2025 Ordinary Council meeting.
7. That Council note that draft Plans of Management achieve an increase of parking on Lilyfield Road of more than 80 parking spaces which will greatly improve parking access for local residents and sporting users.
8. That Council note that Council advised Transport for NSW of the need for safe pedestrian crossings to be incorporated into the initial design of the Parklands and that failure to do so has resulted in ongoing safety problems for pedestrians crossing Lilyfield Road to the Park.
9. That Council note that Council officers have completed the design of the two proposed pedestrian crossing on Lilyfield Road and that construction can be completed in February pending approval of lighting by AUSGRID.

10. That Council direct the General Manager to engage with AUSGRID to insist that they urgently expedite the approval of the lighting necessary for the pedestrian crossings to be installed on Lilyfield Road.
11. That Council include in the Plan of Management to be reported in February 2025 addition provisions to support the use of the Amphitheatre including lighting, seating, staging and storage.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 3 Post Exhibition - Draft Biodiversity Strategy

Motion: (Fergusson/Scott)

1. That Council adopt the Biodiversity Strategy with the inclusion of the following items in the Action Plan:
 - a) continue investigations into establishing microforest trial sites in the Ashfield-Djarrawunang and Stanmore-Damun wards;
 - b) investigate opportunities to progressively remove Camphor laurel and Himalayan ash trees on Council-owned land and replace them with appropriate native trees, including the feasibility of setting a target for removal;
 - c) investigate opportunities to reduce or cease regular maintenance and mowing of areas of green space in parks and other Council-owned land to allow native bush to regenerate and establish bushcare corridors, including a trial at Robson Park, Haberfield;
 - d) recognise that well-planned medium and high density housing can provide opportunities to increase biodiversity, and investigate and prioritise opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity when planning for housing growth and accompanying infrastructure, including as part of the Inner West LEP and DCPs;
 - e) report annually to Council on progress of key actions, implementation plans, and targets contained within the strategy; and
 - f) explore how data collection undertaken by volunteers can be provided by Council to the public, with sensitive data removed.
2. That Council update the Policy Register and publish, as applicable, internally and externally the adopted Biodiversity Strategy.
3. That Council acknowledge the contribution made by local resident David Noble to the visual development of this strategy through the supply of Inner West wildlife photographs.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Amendment (Antoniou/Atkins)

That Council includes in the Action Plan that Council investigates and reports back on current and potential future biodiversity offset sites that may be impacted in upcoming works such as Gadigal reserve, and instances that may risk biodiversity in these offset sites are to require approval by resolution.

Motion Lost

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake and Tastan

Against Motion: Crs Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti and Scott

Procedural Motion (Scott/D'Arienzo)

That Council allow Cllr Howard to speak for 2 additional minutes on Item 5.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 5 Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 18 November 2024

Motion: (Howard/Barlow)

That Council receive and adopt the recommendations of the Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 18 November 2024, subject to the following amendments:

- a) Item 16 - *Mackey Park and Carrington Road Survey Area, Marrickville*: Request for extension of M2 Residential Parking Scheme: that Council write to affected residents explaining the actions taken to date and inviting residents to attend a town hall meeting to be organised in February 2025 and held in South Marrickville; and that council investigate and consult the Marrickville Red Devils on establishing a kiss and ride zone at a location near Mackey Park on Saturdays; and
- b) Item 17 - *Tempe Reserve - Parking Study*: that Council write to affected residents explaining the actions taken to date and inviting residents to attend a town hall meeting to be organised in February 2025 and held in Tempe.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Carlisle)

That the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

The meeting was adjourned at 8.28pm

The meeting recommenced at 8.41pm

C1224(1) Item 6 Love your Club: Support for local clubs**Motion: (Howard/Carlisle)**

1. That Council endorse the proposed Love Your Club program including the establishment of the Inner West Small Clubs Network.
2. That Council host a forum of the Inner West Small Clubs Network once established, inviting all local small clubs to attend and provide input on the program, and with George Catsi invited as guest speaker.
3. That as part of the program, Council develop:
 - (a) a pledge which local clubs can opt to sign onto, committing their intention to transition away from poker machine revenue; and
 - (b) a grants application process open to clubs who sign the pledge through which Council can assist local clubs with minor infrastructure projects.
4. That Council include information in the program on how local clubs can apply to be designated as Special Entertainment Precincts.
5. That Council receive a report back on the above initiatives to the March 2025 Council meeting.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Amendment (Atkins/Barlow)

6. That Council initiate preliminary conversations with the current leaseholders of Gladstone Park Bowling Club and Ashfield Bowling Club, the two council owned venues which currently house poker machines, to begin discussions on possible steps towards becoming pokie-free venues and to help develop a supported transition plan and, in the interim, encourage the operators to display and actively promote harm minimisation support services as an immediate initiative.
7. That Council replace "Love your Club" with "Love your Community" in point 1 of the primary motion.

Motion Lost

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake and Tastan

Against Motion: Crs Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti and Scott

C1224(1) Item 7 Making use of Leichhardt Oval for live music and performance**Motion: (Byrne/Fergusson)**

1. That Council endorse the draft Expression of Interest inviting proposals for the use of Leichhardt Oval for live music and performance for up to 4 events in 2025.
2. That Council endorse the preparation of the amendment of the Plan of Management for Leichhardt Park to permit the use of Leichhardt Oval for live music and entertainment.

3. That Council Arts and Events Officers be granted delegated authority to review and expand the expression of interest criteria and plans for the promotion of the process.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 8 Bill Smoothing and Pensioner Rebate

Motion: (Scott/D'Arienzo)

1. That Council defer consideration of bill smoothing and the pensioner rebate to February 2025.
2. That a Councillor briefing on the mechanism and cost of bill smoothing and options for expansion of the pensioner rebate be held before the February 2025 meeting.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 10 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule and Major Capital Projects Committee Schedule

Motion: (Scott/Carlisle)

1. That Council endorse the following Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule in 2025:

January – Recess
Tuesday 18 February
Tuesday 11 March
Tuesday 29 April
Tuesday 20 May
Tuesday 17 June
July – Recess
Tuesday 19 August
Tuesday 23 September (Deputy Mayor Election)
Tuesday 28 October
Tuesday 11 November
Tuesday 2 December

2. That Council approve the publication of the Council Meeting Schedule on Council's website and Service Centres.
3. That Council endorse the following Major Capital Projects Committee Meeting Schedule in 2025:

Monday 24 February 2025
Monday 31 March 2025
Monday 28 April 2025
Monday 26 May 2025
Monday 23 June 2025
Monday 25 August 2025
Monday 22 September 2025
Monday 20 October 2025
Monday 17 November 2025

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 11 Gambling Harm Minimisation

Motion: (Atkins/Howard)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council receives a further report in 6 months updating Council on progress on the actions listed in the report as being underway.
3. That Council recommits to holding a Gambling Harm Minimisation Roundtable in August 2025.
4. That Council shares gambling harm minimisation campaign materials from the Office of Responsible Gambling and GambleAware, including information about free counselling services, in English and other languages in libraries and on the Inner West Council website to help increase awareness of gambling harms and to broaden the reach of these important campaigns.
5. That Council investigate and receive a report back on the feasibility of phasing out gambling advertising on council-owned property prior to the next Gambling Harm Minimisation Roundtable, exempting advertising pertaining to local clubs.
6. That Council writes to the Minister for Communications seeking a government response to all of the recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs report of its inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm, You Win Some, You Lose More.
7. That Council includes resources and information on reducing gambling harm in the Inner West Council Seniors Directory.
8. That Council work with organisations in the sector such as Wesley Mission to develop means of quantifying the harm in the Inner West caused by gambling, and community sentiment for removing poker machines.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 12 Two New All-Weather Sporting Fields in Callan Park

Motion: (Byrne/Scott)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti and Scott

Against Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake and Tastan

C1224(1) Item 15 FOGO Food Recycling Update

Motion: (Howard/Byrne)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council note the Protection of the *Environment Legislation Amendment (FOGO Recycling) Bill 2024* and that Inner West Council is ahead of the game.
3. That Council confirm that the Rebate for Reusable Nappies, Sanitary and Incontinence products is to permanently continue, funded through the Domestic Waste Reserve.
4. That Council increase the number of intended social media communications with “how to help” hints making FOGO work over the Summer to three in each of the weeks in December, January and February.
5. That Council update the FOGO Summer Comms Campaign schedule and circulate to councillors via councillor briefing no later than 6 December 2024.
6. That Council ensure the Inner West Council website is up to date and contains new information with “how to help” hints about managing pests, smell and other common complaints around FOGO in warmer weather and that this information is prominently displayed on the Inner West Council website.
7. That Council include “how to help” hints in each of the community newsletters to be printed in Summer months.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 16 Door knocking residents as an engagement technique on major projects

Motion: (Clay/Carlisle)

1. That Council defer consideration of Doorknocking Residents as an Engagement Technique Report to February 2025.

2. That Council Officers table further information in relation to how the initiative can be more broadly applied to consult the community on Council's policies, programs and projects, for report to the Council meeting in February 2025.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub

Motion: (Carlisle/Howard)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council officers report back to Council no later than March 2025 on options to rebuild a new purpose-built facility, potential funding sources, procurement strategies, and possible temporary alternative locations that might be accessed while work is underway or in the event the former Jets Club is not a viable location.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 18 Reconciliation Action Plan - Quarterly Report

Motion: (Carlisle/Antoniou)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 19 Together2 Social Enterprise Cafe

Motion: (Byrne/Fergusson)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 21 Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment Update

Motion: (Scott/Byrne)

1. That Council receive and note the report.

2. That Council report back at each meeting on the progress of the Leichhardt Oval refurbishment including progress against the budget, project milestones, and reporting on risks.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 22 Update on Creative Use of Town Halls

Motion: (Howard/Barlow)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council report back in February 2025 with further information about an Expression of Interest process for the use of the basement or other spaces within Marrickville Town Hall as a venue for live music and multicultural performance.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 23 Mandatory Reporting to Council of Report received from Fire & Rescue NSW

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Antoniou)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council investigate potential grant or additional support opportunities that the Boarding House Inspection Program could undertake to help boarding houses in the Inner West reach and maintain compliance. This report is to be brought to Council for the March 2025 meeting.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 27 Notice of Motion: Open Space

Motion: (Macri/Howard)

1. That Council investigate the opportunity to increase the provision of new open space in the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) precinct masterplans and contributions framework within the rail corridor to meet the needs of the existing community as well as future needs of the incoming population. A potential location for the Dulwich Hill open space zone is shown on the attached aerial photographs. As part of informing this investigation, the following consultation must be undertaken:

- a) consultation with the state government and TfNSW regarding feasibility analysis of a central green spine park above the rail corridor and potential funding arrangements for the project; and
- b) consultation with representatives from Lane Cove Council on the delivery of the St Leonards South Masterplan rezoning and open space, including ownership / maintenance arrangements and key construction considerations.

2. That the findings be reported back to Council within 3 months of this Notice of Motion.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 29 Notice of Motion: Schwebel Street, Marrickville

Motion: (Howard/Macri)

1. That Council progress plans to make Schwebel Street one-way in a west to east direction from Illawarra Road to Carrington Road.
2. That Council report to the Local Traffic Committee no later than May 2025 with:
 - a) plan, indicative budget and timeline to develop and design road treatments to make Schwebel Street one-way and to undertake community consultation;
 - b) an assessment of whether Schwebel Street is suitable for new active transport connections and opportunities to upgrade and improve lighting on the stairs between Schwebel Street and Charlotte Avenue; and
 - c) Consideration of improvements at the intersection of Illawarra Road and Schwebel/Warburton Streets.
3. That Council report back to councillors on the status of works to restore the sandstone wall on the northern side of Schwebel Street via councillor briefing prior to 31 December 2024.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 31 Notice of Motion: Pedestrianisation of Illawarra Road, Marrickville

Motion: (Howard/Barlow)

1. That Council include in the upcoming consultation on the draft Masterplan for Marrickville Town Centre consideration of options to activate, pedestrianise or create either a temporary or permanent shared zone on Illawarra Road between Marrickville Road and Petersham Road.
2. That Council investigate grant opportunities to progress the idea if it has broader public support.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Clr Scott tabled a community submission on Albert Parade Park and Playground, which is available at the end of these minutes. *

C1224(1) Item 34 Notice of Motion: Albert Parade Reserve, Ashfield

Motion: (Scott/Carlisle)

1. That Council convene an onsite meeting at Albert Parade Reserve in Ashfield to consult local residents on implementing improvements to the Reserve as indicated in the Pocket Parks Plan of Management, including a timeline for those works in parallel with the preparation of the Pocket Parks Plan of Management.
2. That Council receive and note the tabled community submission on Albert Parade Reserve and considers its contents when preparing an improvement plan.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 36 Notice of Motion: New Kitchen Clontarf Cottage Balmain

Motion: (Fergusson/Byrne)

1. That Council note that work is in preparation to replace the Clontarf Cottage roof shingles in the first quarter of 2025.
2. That Council install a new kitchen in Clontarf Cottage by August 2025 that can be used for small scale functions for the purpose of reheating food, storing cold items such as platters and drinks and reconfigure in a way that maximises bench space for food preparation. Including:
 - a) replacing the existing gas oven with an electric oven; and
 - b) replacing the small bar fridge with a full-size fridge.
3. That Council investigate energy efficient heating and cooling options for the main rooms with a report back to the March 2025 meeting.
4. That Council create a marketing strategy for Council community venues with a focus on an uptake in bookings for Summer 2025 and with a report back at the March 2025 meeting.
5. That Council investigate planning for disability access at Clontarf Cottage in advance of the 2025/26 capital works budget. Plans were previously drawn up that considered the heritage status of the building that may be utilised.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Councillor Fergusson left the meeting at 9:33pm as she had declared a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 39 as she is on the Parents and Citizens (P&C) for Nicholson Street Public School, and Brett Avenue is widely used by school families on their daily commute.

C1224(1) Item 39 Notice of Motion: 10km/h Shared Zone Brett Avenue, Balmain East

Motion: (Byrne/Scott)

1. That Council note that the need for 10km/h Shared Zone in Brett Avenue has been identified as an option in the ongoing work preparing the Balmain East/Birchgrove Local Area Traffic Management review.
2. That Council prepare a report, including identification of budget and refer to the traffic committee for investigation.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Fergusson

Councillor Fergusson returned to the meeting at 9:34pm

C1224(1) Item 40 Notice of Motion: Integrity in Local Government – Property Developer and Lobbyist Register

Motion: (Blake/Howard)

1. That Council note:
 - a) the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in 2023 exposed three former local government councillors in South Sydney for engaging in serious corrupt conduct;
 - b) in 2023 Operation Tolosa found that the City of Canada Bay Council Mayor and others engaged in serious corrupt conduct between November 2015 and February 2019. Operation Tolosa reiterated the need for a lobbyist register in local government;
 - c) the NSW Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) contains the framework for regulating conduct, honesty, disclosures of interest, misconduct, and corruption. Section 439 imposes a statutory duty on a councillor to “act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out his or her functions”;
 - d) the Act also allows for the creation of a “model code” which sets out the minimum standards of conduct for council officials. Its purpose includes assisting officials to act in way that “enhances public confidence in local government”;
 - e) as local government officials we play a crucial role in the decision-making process, not limited to property development, however in the Model Code and the Act the word lobbyist is not mentioned;
 - f) the Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011 that is in place covers lobbyists, ensuring that lobbyists comply with ethical standards of conduct and other requirements set out in the Lobbyists Code. However, this Act does not apply to local government officials;
 - g) the rules for lobbying that the state and federal government face, must be the same rules applied to local governments. Recent ICAC findings support this with Operations Dasha (2021), Eclipse (2021) and Witney (2022) specifically considering and making recommendations relating to

- corruption risks associated with the lobbying of councillors;
- h) on 22 August 2022, the Office of Local Government responded to ICAC's findings by issuing a circular announcing it proposed to develop guidelines to enhance transparency around the lobbying of councillors and a model policy on lobbying to support councils to implement the guidelines, with the policy supplementing their codes of conduct; and
 - i) we, as Councillors, must lead the way in holding our own integrity to the high standard we want, and our community wants, by pushing for the same rules to be had across all three levels of government.
2. That the General Manager be requested to develop a procedure by which Inner West Councillors be required to publicly disclose their meetings with registered lobbyists and property developers on the Council's website in the same fashion as state ministers and report back to Council by April 2025 with a draft policy for council to consider putting on public exhibition.
 3. That Council writes to the Office of Local Government to acknowledge the model policy on the lobbying of councillors has been drafted by the Office of Local Government, and to express support for the release of the consultation draft as soon as practicable.
 4. That if the consultation draft be released prior to the development of an Inner West Council policy, it be used as the basis for the development of Inner West Council's policy.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Confidential session

Procedural Motion: (Carlisle/D'Arienzo)

That Council enter into Confidential session.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Confidential Session

That in accordance with Section 10A(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, the following matters be considered in Closed Session of Council for the reasons provided:

C1224(1) Item 42 Finalisation of Negotiations of Collection Service Garbage, FOGO and Recycling (Section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*) that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

C1224(1) Item 44 Petersham Town Hall Creative Hub EOI (Section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*) that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

C1224(1) Item 46 Update on the EOI for the development of affordable housing on Council land (Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993) that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

Motion: (Clay/Fergusson)

That Council move back into the Open Session of the Council meeting.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

RESOLUTIONS PASSED DURING CLOSED SESSION

C1224(1) Item 42 Finalisation of Negotiations of Collection Service Garbage, FOGO and Recycling

Motion: (Howard/Scott)

1. That Council approve the SWS offer for the recycling services in the North and South area, for the contract term of 7 years with 3 x 1 year extension options, commencing on 31 March 2025, in line with the terms tendered.
2. That Council consider the expansion of the day labour service prior to the calling of tenders for the West area (FOGO, garbage and recycling) collection services in 2025 with an expected commencement date of 16 December 2026.
3. That Council establish an Inner West Waste Management Working Group for a period of one year:
 - a) with the objective of:
 - i. Investigating complaints and concerns about waste collection in the Inner West and making recommendations on possible improvements
 - ii. Informing a strategic pathway for waste management contracting into the future
 - iii. Exploring opportunities to expand day labour operations in the collection of waste across the Inner West into the future, including for the West area (FOGO, garbage and recycling) due to commence in December 2026;
 - b) comprising Cr Mat Howard (Chair), Cr Philippa Scott, Cr Vic Macri and Cr Andrew Blake, the Director of Corporate (Alternate Chair) and other staff as determined by the General Manager;
 - c) to meet at least bi-monthly, unless otherwise determined by a majority of councillors and the Director of Corporate; and
 - d) with agendas and minutes recorded and made available as appropriate and as determined by the Director of Corporate.
4. That Council staff meet and form a separate working group comprising Council staff, representatives from Homes NSW and community housing providers to improve and streamline waste collection in large social and community housing communities in the Inner West.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

C1224(1) Item 44 Petersham Town Hall Creative Hub EOI**Motion: (Howard/Scott)**

- 1. That Council receive and note the report.**
- 2. That Council staff report to the March 2025 Council meeting with a recommendation for a license agreement with the successful applicant.**

Motion Carried**For Motion:** Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan**Against Motion:** Nil**C1224(1) Item 46 Update on the EOI for the development of affordable housing on Council land****Motion: (D'Arienzo/Antoniou)****That Council defer this matter to the next Council meeting and request staff to provide a councillor briefing prior to that meeting.****Motion Carried****For Motion:** Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott and Tastan**Against Motion:** Nil

Meeting closed at 9.57pm.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Item #	Speaker	Suburb
Item 1:	Paul Mortimer Michael Deller Justin Simon Mark Skelsey	Marrickville Croydon Summer Hill Dulwich Hill
Item 2:	Paul Avery	Balmain
Item 3:	Naomi Margaret Scott Neil Kenzler	Dulwich Hill Haberfield
Item 5:	Anja-Mia Woodward-Watson Neil Tonkin	Marrickville Lilyfield
Item 12:	Matthew Bowen Chris Hall Paul Avery	Lewisham Lilyfield Balmain
Item 27:	Noel Corkery Michael Barnett	Marrickville Vaucluse
Item 34:	Noni Hollonds	Ashfield
Item 35:	Graeme McKay	Haberfield
Item 38:	Bruce Ashley Fiona Campbell Neil Tonkin	Dulwich Hill Lewisham Lilyfield
Item 39:	Will Atkins	Balmain East
Item 46:	Simon Konstantinidis Arthur Alepidis Peter Calligeros	Marrickville Beverly Hills South Coogee

tabled community submission on Albert Parade Park and Playground

Redacted in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, Table to s. 14 (3) reveal an individual's personal information.

5/6/2023

Parks Planning Department
Inner West Council
CC: Tim Brown and Fiona Cui

Subject: Request for Improvement of Albert Parade Park and Playground (REQ2023-057136)

Dear Tim and Fiona,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident and advocate for the improvement of our local community's recreational spaces. I would like to bring your attention to the current state of Albert Parade Park and its playground, and urge you to consider investing in its enhancement for the benefit of our residents, particularly our children.

Since 1876, Albert Parade Park in Ashfield has served as a cherished gathering place for families, friends, and individuals seeking outdoor recreation and leisure activities. It provides fantastic biodiversity for local wildlife (including a pair of Tawny Frogmouths) and a backyard for those without one. However, over time, neglect and wear and tear have taken a toll on the park's infrastructure, making it less inviting and safe for its visitors.

Firstly, the playground in Albert Parade Park requires immediate attention. The existing equipment is aging, outdated and limited in terms of its variety and inclusivity. With the rapid growth of our community and the increasing number of young families, it is vital that we provide a safe playground that caters to children of all ages and abilities. By introducing modern, safe, engaging, and accessible play structures, we can create a space that promotes physical activity, imagination, and social interaction.

Additionally, the overall maintenance and landscaping of Albert Parade Park is in need of improvement. The park's pathway is very narrow and has become uneven and hazardous, posing a risk to visitors, especially the elderly and those with mobility challenges. Old garden beds, not currently in use, pose a trip hazard, and the central rock garden has eroded exposing the plastic underlayer. By addressing these issues, we can ensure that our park remains a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Moreover, Albert Parade Park would greatly benefit from the addition of amenities that promote community engagement and facilitate recreational activities. For example, updating the drinking fountain to include a water bowl for dogs, providing picnic tables and updating the fitness equipment would promote a healthy and active lifestyle for residents of all ages and abilities.

Investing in the improvement of Albert Parade Park and its playground would not only enhance the quality of life for our community but also preserve the history of the Albert Parade heritage area. A well-maintained and thoughtfully designed park serves as a valuable asset, promoting a positive image of our community and fostering a sense of civic pride. Something not yet fully realised in the Ashfield area.

I kindly request that the Inner West Council allocate resources and funding to prioritize the enhancement of Albert Parade Park and its playground. I urge you to consider collaborating with community members,

relevant stakeholders, and experts in landscape design and playground development to ensure that the revitalisation efforts align with the needs and aspirations of our diverse community.

Please find attached further details about the current condition of Albert Parade Park a summary of recommendations and verbatim feedback from local community members.

Thank you for considering this request. I trust that by investing in the improvement of Albert Parade Park and its playground, we can create a vibrant and inclusive recreational space that enriches the lives of our residents and fosters a strong sense of community.

I look forward to hearing positive news regarding the progress of this initiative. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]
Ph: [Redacted]

Redacted in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, Table to s. 14 (3) reveal an individual's personal information.

Community support

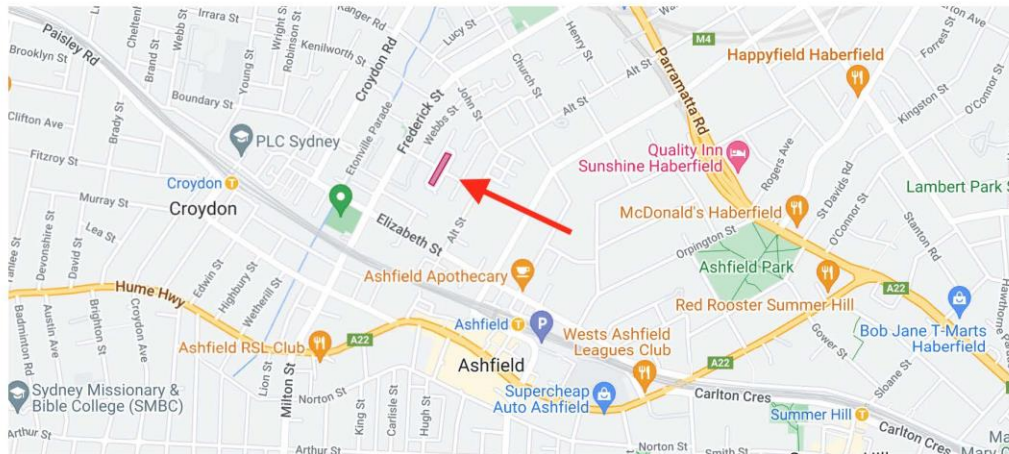
Below are the names and contact details of community members who actively support this initiative. Note that this is only a subset of people who provided feedback as some chose to remain anonymous.

Name	Suburb	Email	Phone
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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Albert Parade Park - site details

Albert Parade Park is a moderate sized reserve situated amongst mixed zoned residential dwellings (R2 and R3) on the north side of Ashfield. The nearest alternate recreation areas (suitable for a picnic or gathering) are Ashfield Park (1.5 km) and Centenary Park Croydon (1 km).



While most visitors are local residents within walking distance, there is also easy access to the park.

Access summary

- 850m to Ashfield Station (approx 11 minutes walk)
- 300m to nearest bus stop on Frederick St
- 450m to Ashfield Aquatic Centre (approx 6 minutes walk)
- Plenty of street parking around Albert Parade

The size of the reserve is approximately 3900m² (almost 1 acre) and is part of a heritage and environmental zoning in the area. It is zoned as a general heritage item (heritage report attached) with the following statement of significance:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- * A place of considerable historic and aesthetic quality, with some splendid planting, including remnant natural vegetation; spatial dimensions which enhance the architectural qualities of the very diverse buildings erected around it; and making it one of the most important public open spaces in the Municipality.

Summary of responses and recommendations

A survey was sent out to local community members on the 24th May 2022. It was sent out through local Facebook groups and word of mouth and was open for submissions for 10 days. 26 people responded. Below is a summary of the findings. The specific data and verbatim open text responses are attached at the end of this document.

Park usage

- 40% of survey responders visit the park multiple times a week. With over 25% visiting every day.
- Over 70% visit with children and 25% visit with their dogs. There is also a significant number of people who visit on their own.
- Visitors enjoy a range of activities in the park including (but not limited to):
 - Playing in the playground
 - Picnics
 - Exercising
 - Walking dogs
 - Enjoying the natural environment

Condition of the park and playground

- 50% of responders rated the condition of Albert Parade Park as *poor or below average*. With 40% rating it as just average.

There were many comments about the condition of the park including:

- "If it was nicer we would visit frequently as we live very close."
- "The play equipment is in need of renovation!"
- "Park feels a bit old and forgotten"
- "Park equipment is dated and some is unsafe, park land could be put to better use for the community"
- "the park is looking very tired and needs rejuvenation"
- "Often in poor shape and unkept. Requires more consistent upkeep."
- "Please improve this park! It's really run down and has so much potential."
- "The rock garden is looking very sad and the footpath is uneven."
- "The ground around the play equipment being like bark chips is often mixed with glass or other unsafe materials."

For more verbatim comments please see the full survey responses attached.

Recommendations

Based on the survey responses, it is recommended the following work be undertaken to improve the park for the community and maintain it as a significant landmark in Ashfield.

Item or area to be addressed	Description of improvements recommended
Footpath	The footpath through the park is narrow and has formed cracks. It is recommended to widen and re-concrete the footpath to make it more accessible and safe for 2 people to pass each other.
Drinking fountain	Replace the old drinking fountain with a modern style fountain that includes a dog bowl at the bottom. This would provide better water access (especially if it includes a tap for filling water bottles) and improves the amenities for community members with dogs.
Rubbish disposal	Add rubbish amenities (one or two bins would do) to the park near the road (to provide for easy collection). There are currently no bins which means there is often rubbish left on the ground in the park.
Exercise equipment	Add additional exercise equipment for mixed abilities to encourage more older people to visit the park. The current exercise bars have very limited options for usage.
Play equipment	<p>There are a number of suggestions for improving the playground which are summarised here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add soft fall matting below the climbing equipment and swings - this helps with both safety and accessibility for people using mobility aids. • Replace existing equipment with multi-ability inclusive equipment. The current equipment is not suitable for young children or people with different abilities. E.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stairs instead of cargo netting ○ Interactive elements at ground height ○ More interesting elements to engage with rather than just climbing • Convert one swing to be an accessible swing. • Picnic table near playground for eating and parties. • Shade sail for additional shade during summer. There is however already significant natural shade so this would be nice to have. <p>The equipment at Centenary Park in Croydon, and the playground at Ashfield Park were cited by a number of the respondents as good inclusive playgrounds.</p> <p>Another example can be seen at Memorial Park Mosman where the below linked playground has been installed. We have visited the playground in Mosman and found it very engaging and enjoyable for both babies and school-aged children.</p> <p>https://www.lappset.com/Products/Product/play-centre-m/137602</p>

Landscaping - south of the footpath	<p>South of the footpath includes the playground and exercise equipment.</p> <p>Around this area it is recommended to improve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the two unused concrete garden beds as they are currently trip hazards. • Plant additional local native vegetation to complement the existing native trees and provide a visual barrier between the play areas and the road. • Create an interactive garden for children to explore.
Landscaping - north of the footpath	<p>North of the footpath includes a rockery garden, a circular garden bed containing dying rose bushes and a bed of agapanthus at the very end.</p> <p>Around this area it is recommended to improve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the rockery bed (as it is in very poor condition) and replace it with native bush plants. This would retain the look and feel but would be lower maintenance. • Remove the rose garden (as the roses are in very poor condition) and either remove the garden bed altogether or replace with local native plants that do not require much (if any maintenance) • Tidy up the remaining garden beds and fix the broken edging so they appear looked after and not forgotten. <p>This organisation (Wildflower https://www.wildflower.org.au/) comes highly recommended for creating excellent public spaces utilising local native species that thrive in their local environment. They are also an indigenous-led organisation.</p>
Safety fencing or vegetation barriers	<p>To increase safety of the playground and other areas, it is recommended to add fencing or vegetation barriers especially in areas where children will be playing close to the road.</p>
Off leash dog area	<p>There are currently no off-leash dog areas in the whole of Ashfield. Many residents already use this park to walk their dogs and would appreciate an off leash area - especially as there are many residents living in apartments.</p> <p>Options for council to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fence off part of Albert Parade Park as an off leash dog area 2. Convert the nearby Rotary Park into an off leash area - this park has very low community usage currently, it's an appropriate size and situated very close to the heavily used Albert Parade Park.
Signage	<p>Remove the old negative signage (i.e. "no ball games") and replace it with appropriate inclusive signage to promote positive interactions with the space. This will create a more welcoming space and friendly atmosphere.</p>

Seating and picnic spaces	Install picnic style tables to promote the use of the space for group gatherings (i.e. birthday parties). Communal BBQ facilities would also be of great benefit particularly on the south end near the playground.
Toilets	<p>Install a small toilet block at the north end of the park to support small group gatherings and cater for people who are not close neighbours of the park.</p> <p>This is however a large request and while it would be great to have, it's understood that this may be beyond the scope for this project.</p>

Heritage considerations

As mentioned in the site details. This park falls within the Albert Parade heritage study (details attached).

It is clear that the park is a significant local place as it was set aside as a "recreation reserve" when it was initially subdivided in 1876. This only adds to the importance of maintaining and improving it for public use. Understandably, some consideration will need to be made to how to improve the park while maintaining the heritage significance.

Within the heritage study there is mention of "geometric arrangement of lawns, edged garden beds, shrubs, hedges and an array of specimen trees". There is also mention of a tennis court being in use until the 1930s.

It is unclear from the report (or through online searches) exactly when the garden beds were installed. They are concrete (not sandstone like the gutters) so are unlikely to be original. The only things mentioned in the study to likely be original are the specimen trees and sandstone gutters around the park.

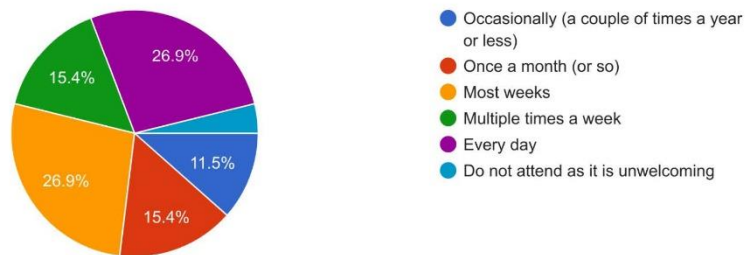
Based on the broad nature of the heritage study, there is no reason to delay or reject improvements to this park. The absence of maintenance is currently undermining its heritage significance as "one of the most important public open spaces in the municipality".

We trust that the council can create an improvement plan that balances the needs of the community with the heritage significance of this site.

Survey responses - verbatim

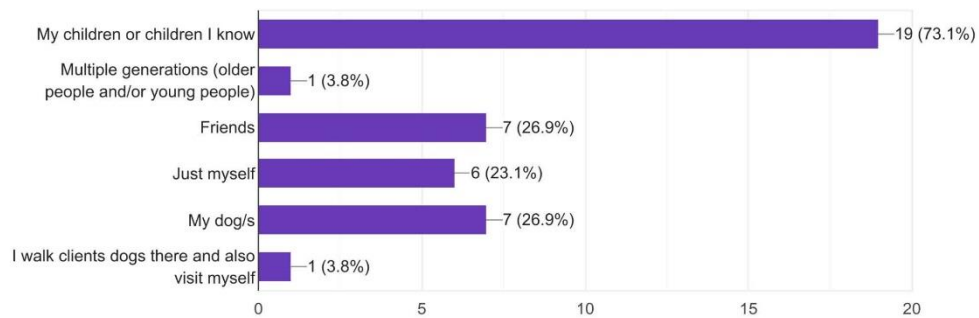
How often do you visit Albert Parade Park (approximately)?

26 responses



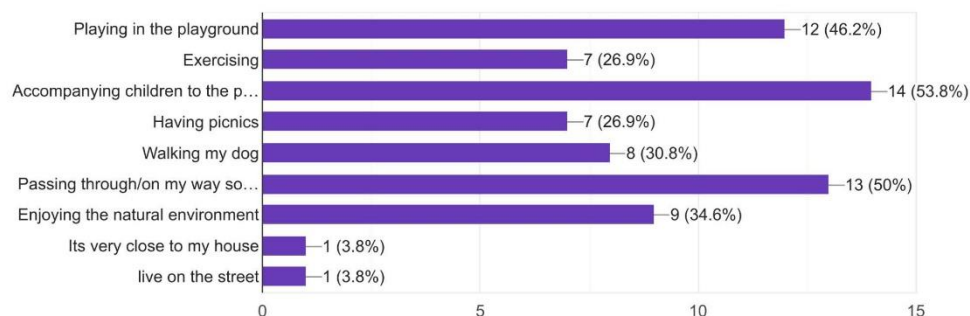
Who do you visit Albert Parade Park with?

26 responses



Why do you visit Albert Parade Park? (select all that apply)

26 responses



Why do you support the park upgrade?

Local parks are important public resources. Albert Pde Park is very well used but the play equipment is small and outdated. A new set of play equipment that is appropriate for a range of ages and is shaded would be well utilised by the many families who live in this part of Ashfield!

If it was nicer we would visit frequently as we live very close.

The play equipment is in need of renovation!

I'm very happy with the park as is, but keen to find out what improvements are going to be suggested.

We live close and it would be nice to have updated play equipment. Park feels a bit old and "forgotten"

I live nearby and visit most weekends with my son. It's a beautiful space but needs some love.

More enjoyable time for my children and family

It needs an upgrade to make it safer and more accessible

It's a beautiful park and a central spot for community connection and health both physical and mental. This was especially present during covid lockdown and has continued to be clear to locals.

Park equipment is dated and some is unsafe, park land could be put to better use for the community

More seating, plants would be great

I'm there every day and the space has so much potential

It could do with an upgrade to make it more appropriate for gatherings of the local community

Would be good with fenced and some garbage bins around

Because the park is looking very tired and needs rejuvenation

The park is in a great location but the park is very dated and could very much use an update to remain similar to others nearby

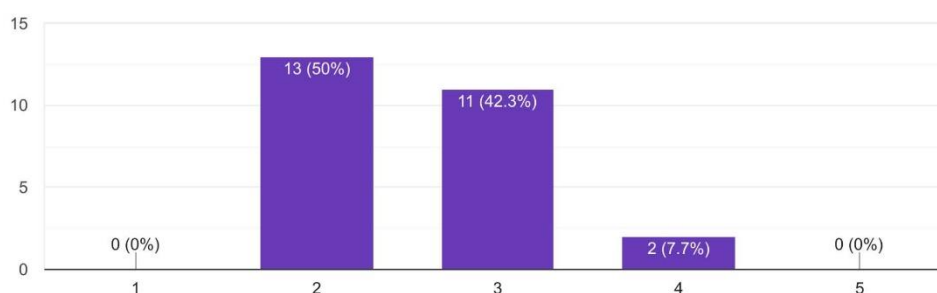
Often in poor shape and unkept. Requires more consistent upkeep. Playground could be updated.

The playground could be made much safer and we would benefit from a fenced area for dogs, or also improving reserve on the corner of alt and Albert parade and turning that into a dog park. There should also be bins at the park to stop littering.

Please improve this park! It's really run down and has so much potential.
It's a very cute spot and excellent to have that green park space but it needs some love to make it a better utilised space
It is not really a public park, it tends to be a residents only zone
Okay equipment is outdated and difficult for younger children
I would love to see the children's play equipment upgraded.

How would you rate the overall condition of the park, including the playground equipment?

26 responses



What do you like about the park?

We like the location, particularly the quiet setting. We like the trees and wildlife (the tawny owls!).
Off the main road, quiet area.
Shady park in a relatively quiet street
Quiet, play equipment, exercise equipment, it's quite natural and not super tidy/ trimmed as other parks can be. Love the birds.
Small, local
It's a beautiful green space that is close to home
Mix of playground, open space for kicking balls
That it is big plenty of grass
Is local and large.
The trees, gardens, playground, seclusion from big roads, combo of open space and more private areas
I love the big trees and the nature. I love that it's in a quiet area
Its quieter
The greenery, quiet
The size and the kid enjoys the playground
The green space in a built up area

Location, quite street. Easy parking
It's in a beautiful location surrounded by apartments and young families. It could really be a fantastic place for these families to gather and play, however, it is not very inviting as it stands.
It's a quiet oasis and a great place to take my son
Private and quiet, but still a centre for the community
It's big and there's lots of trees
Quiet, nice place to eat lunch while passing
The tree cover is wonderful. More natural shade than most other parks
So close to where we live. The kids love the swings and the monkey bars. Often see other people from the neighborhood which is nice.

What needs to be improved?

The equipment and ground surface.
The plastic play equipment should be replaced, with fences and benches. The greenery plantings could also do with a refresh.
Play equipment
The playground definitely needs an upgrade. The rock garden is looking very sad and the footpath is uneven.
Newer/cleaner playground, with accessibility for younger children. Better seating for sharing food (tables?). Remove rose garden.
I would like to see some fencing around the park. I have seen children including my own running onto the road very quickly. The ground around the play equipment being like bark chips is often mixed with glass or other unsafe materials. A soft ground would be much more safer and accessible for toddlers
Playground and garden beds, footpaths
Needs new play equipment with soft fall, more exercise equipment, a bin with dog poo bags, a wider footpath
Seating, paths, lighting and ambience
Community garden would be amazing
The gardens need improvement and there is a lack of seating or shelter hat could make it a great gathering space
Surroundings
The garden beds plus more seating
Garden facilities (general tidying up) Playground facilities (update)
The playground needs updating and the park itself needs much more frequent upkeep. Perhaps there could be some more amenities for families to enjoy the park and get outside, like a public bbq. It's quite a nice large space that is surrounded by many apartment buildings and could be utilised to much more advantage than it currently stands.
The playground (equipment, ground surface), there should be a fence and there should be bibs
generally fix up the landscaping - removing old garden beds to make more usable green space. Provide additional amenities - specifically there are no bins, dog bags or dog drinking spots. Make the playground safer, and add exercise equipment for older people.
Playground equipment, maybe could fit an enclosed dog space, better seating, undercover seating, bbq area
Less NO signs, the park seems to be covered in them, moreso than any other park

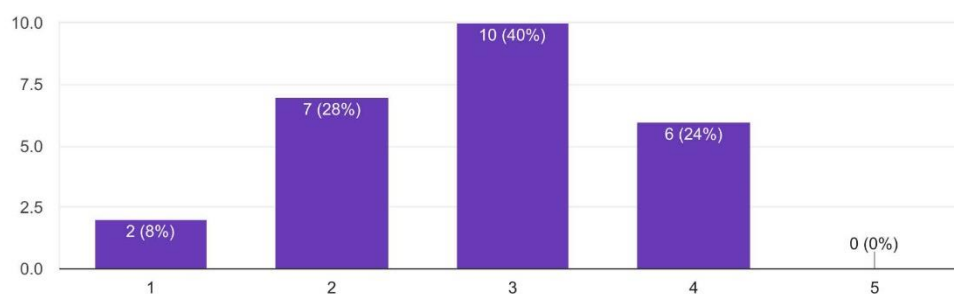
Upgraded play equipment that is more appropriate for 2-5 year old children to use without assistance.
Upgrade in the play equipment would be great.

Why is improving the park important to you?

It's important for people to have functional and lovely public spaces to meet and spend time. When public spaces are welcoming and high quality, they can build community and foster cultural vibrancy. In this particular corner of Nth Ashfield, there is not a huge amount of public green space, so it's important that we invest in improving what we do have access to.
Because I live very close and walk past everyday. It would be good to have another nice park within walking distance.
There isn't another park around for quite a distance.
We live very close.
Because for residents nearby, it's a little oasis of green - particularly those in units with no backyards.
More appealing local park for my family and neighbours
Because we don't have a back yard so outside play at locals parks are so important
It would help accessibility for less mobile people and children, it improves physical and mental health of community and brings community together.
It's my closest local park and green space
Having a local park
I visit with my dog every day and have a view from my apartment
I'm a local who frequents the park often
For safety and cleanliness
To make it more assessable to the local community
It helps so much with the value of the surrounding properties which are mostly apartments that rely heavily on good green spaces nearby
One of the nicer locations for a park in North Ashfield that has good space and isn't on the side of a busy road. Having this location improved would surely increase community engagement with the outdoors.
For safety and as it is very much a community hub
I want this to be a park that my child can grow up to enjoy and cherish as a favourite green space in our area.
Creates a better community and ways to enjoys nature and our local area
Make it more inviting
Albert Pde park is practically our backyard and is important infrastructure for the local community and children to get together
Because its our closest park and it also serves as a meeting point for many local families in Albert parade and the surrounding streets.

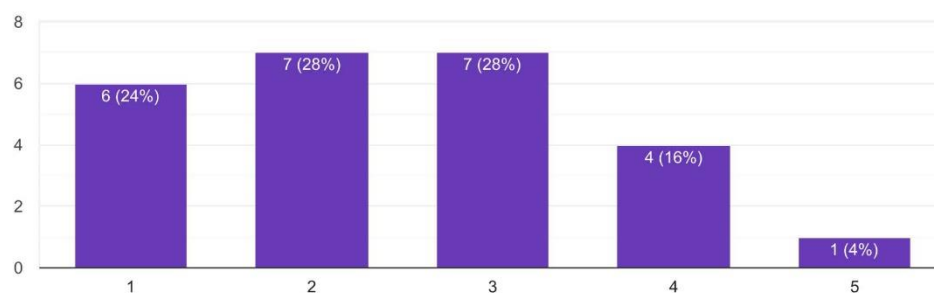
How safe do you feel the playground equipment is?

25 responses



How accessible do you feel the playground equipment is?

25 responses



Summary of open comments to the above questions

The playground doesn't effectively cater to any age group. It is not easy to use as the parent of a small infant, as there are too many places your child could fall. However, it's also not particular engaging for older children.
Modern playgrounds have many allowances that make them accessible to children of all abilities and Albert Pde is sorely lacking on this front.
Could be better
A bit older style equipment
The equipment is old and rusty in some areas. There is not really anything available for differently abled children.
Both children have had falls from the playground - more than other playgrounds at similar ages. Children couldn't play when they were younger (<2yrs) because of height/ladders

No soft fall, broken equipment, nothing for kids with disabilities
I don't have children but the equipment could use an upgrade
I believe playgrounds shouldn't be too safe so I'm not overly concerned about this.
I find access easy however can see it could be an issue for some
From an onlookers point of view
The playground is very dated, and completely inaccessible to those who are in a wheelchair or disabled in another manner.
It's very average and has aged. There's no accessible equipment for children who may have disabilities.
I know children who have fallen from the equipment and broken bones. It's not very safe at all. Also it's not accessible to children of different ages and abilities, there is no equipment for young children not yet climbing.
Easily accessed & visible
More appropriate for older school age children
I doesn't feel unsafe yet but it is getting old and not being a major park I do worry that it might not be well maintained when it does start to become unsafe. There is no fence which is problematic for people with toddlers who run.

What do you like about the playground?

We use the swings often! Our 11 month old baby likes the slippery dip but can't really use any other part of the equipment.
Away from the main road. Has a nice grass area to use.
Basic but all you need if you want kid to have some outdoor play in natural environment.
Mainly it's proximity to home.
The swings for sure and the attempt at activities for different ages.
Location close to home. Playground and space for playing with balls
How easy is to find and get to and its usually quiet
I like the location, that's about it
the outdoor gym bars are nice!
Nothing... the kid loves it though 🤔
Unable to answer as don't have young children who would use it
Great location, it's protected from the road by trees, some sun and also plenty of shade.
I like the fact that there is a playground to begin with. But, it needs updating.
It's fair equipment and my son enjoys playing on it
the fact that it exists is great, but I would go to another playground if there was a good one close enough.
N/A adult no kids
Good natural shade
So close and in the centre of a lovely, quiet street/parade.

What would you like to see improved?

Shade sails, accessible swings, accessible paths/ramps that lead from the street to the equipment, soft fall ground, equipment that caters to a large range of ages.
Rubber ground like most parks. Equipment upgrade.
Maintenance of broken equipment is important. Trees provide enough shade.
Updated equipment, soft fall mat.
New equipment, a shade cover, more variety of activities
More accessible playground for different ages/abilities. Table for sharing meals/parties. Flatten/extend soft fall under swings so no trip hazard
Soft fall mat, some shading and fencing
Just a general upgrade and fix of pathways.
Improved surfaces and footpath.
Playground is very close to the road, a fence along that side would be ideal
More equipment but my opinion is more that the entire park could be better maintained and the gardens needs improvement
Maybe adding more play equipment
Fixing/ replacing broken equipment. Also the equipment seems not very "age appropriate" for any age group (boring for older kids and too challenging for younger kids). More well targeted equipment would cater more appropriately to kids in the area
Soft and accessible grounds, fixing equipment (or replacing entirely as surely it's time), a shade cloth, and generally a more interesting and inviting playground for children.
Fence, shade, improved ground surface, accessible equipment
Please add proper soft fall ground, it's really dangerous right now! I'd also like to see equipment that is suitable for children of different ages and abilities - with things to interact with from the ground for children not climbing.
Also, we need a bin and some sort of barrier from the road. Maybe just some planting would be nice - just something to deter children a little.
More seating & tables
More appropriate equipment for younger kids. E.g. stairs rather than cargo ladders
Soft fall mat, fence, shade, updated equipment that would satisfy a larger age range.

Which other parks do you like to visit and why?

We love the ramps and slides at Centenary Park in Croydon, the in ground trampolines at Darrell Jackson Gardens in Summer Hill, and the easy to supervise equipment at Underwood Reserve in Summer Hill.
Elizabeth Street park, Croydon oval park. Maintained better, soft ground, better equipment.
Ashfield Park is fenced and has a good variety of equipment. It's also attractive.

St John's church, wests Croydon, the strand Croydon, Ashfield park. All due to proximity.
Ashfield park - lots of equipment.
Algie Park in Haberfield and Darrel Jackson Gardens in Summer hill. Both have newer, large playgrounds with lots to do, lots of green space and very family friendly
Darrell Jackson Gardens, Strathfield Park, five dock park.
The one near ashfield pool I forgot the name sorry, Darrell Jackson, haberfield Gardens Park. They also have safe and accessible equipment
Centenary Park Croydon.
Centenary Park, Ashfield park, both have great play equipment for a variety of ages. Centenary Park has an off leash dog area.
New Summer Hill Park, love the trampolines but needs more shade
Ashfield Park. Good walking path
Wangal park. Love the equipment, basketball court and skate park
Hawthorne Canal - open green space
I'm always looking for parks that have good seating or at least comfortable grass spaces to picnic and possibly bathroom access
Ashfield Park - the park is large, it's kept mowed, the playground is large and inviting, the playground is fun for children, and the grounds are genuinely nice to be in.
Centenary park in Croydon has great multi-age equipment. Also, Ashfield Park has great equipment - except that it's a bit far from where we are.
Ashfield park and Pratten park. Accessible toilets, bbq areas, dogs and big trees and places to hang out and picnic
Pratten, Wagener, Peace Cecil Herman, Allman, Lion street, Ashfield. All inviting & friendly with good facilities including off leash.
Wangal range of equipment, bike and scooter tracks. Timbrell ..same pluses as wangal but also fenced. Both have toilets too.

Any other comments?

We are really lucky to have this space close by - it would be so beneficial to improve it for everyone to share.
Rose garden is poorly maintained and a waste of space. Remove it. Install picnic tables, bins, off leash dog areas. Play equipment more suitable to many ages.
Needs communal space.. maybe half basketball court would be great for Local older kids
Something needs to be done about more plant life which would make the space lovely to look at and to use
While it may have as many stop, No, don't signs as other parks there seems to be clusters of those signs at Albert. This makes it uninviting 'don't come here, you can't do anything'. I used to visit it more often but now with my dog I choose other parks that are more suitable. I mainly used to eat lunch in Albert (while doing a driving job) because it was quiet during the day, with easy parking.
More exercise equipment would be appreciated, but not essential. Picnic tables would also be a nice place to gather and eat lunch.
Big ask but some toilet facilities would be amazing!

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 3rd day of December, 2024 were confirmed as a correct record on this 18th day of February 2025.