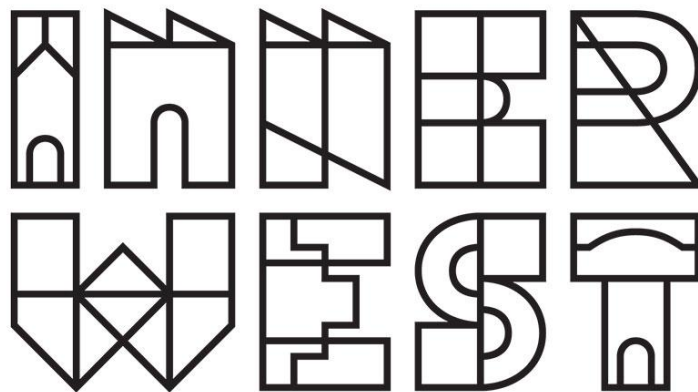


AGENDA



COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026

7:30 PM

Live Streaming of Council Meeting

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

Council meetings are streamed live on [Council's website](#). This allows our community greater access to Council proceedings, decisions and debate.

Pre-Registration to Speak at Public Forum

Members of the public must register by 2pm of the day of the Meeting to speak at the Public Forum. If you wish to register to speak please fill in a [Register to Speak Form](#), available from the Inner West Council website, including:

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

Are there any rules for speaking at a Public Forum ?

The following rules apply when addressing a Public Forum:

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

What happens after I submit the form?

You will be contacted by Governance Staff to confirm your registration. If you indicated that you will speak online, you will be provided with a link to the online Public Forum. Your request will then be added to a list that is shown to the Chairperson on the night of the Public Forum.

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

Accessibility

Inner West Council is committed to ensuring people with a disability have equal opportunity to take part in Council and Committee Meetings. At the Council Chambers at Ashfield, there is a hearing loop service available to assist persons with a hearing impairment. If you have any other access or disability related participation needs and wish to know more, call 9392 5536.

Persons in the public gallery are advised that under the Local Government Act 1993, a person may NOT record a Council meeting without the permission of Council.

Any persons found recording without authority will be expelled from the meeting.

“Record” includes the use of any form of audio, video and still camera equipment or mobile phone capable of recording speech.

An audio recording of this meeting will be taken for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes.

Statement of Ethical Obligations

The Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath/ Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the Inner West Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act or any other Act, to the best of their skill and judgement.

It is also a requirement that the Mayor and Councillors disclose conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda or which are considered at this meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.

AGENDA

Volume 1 of 2

- 1 Acknowledgement of Country**
- 2 Apologies and Request for Remote Attendance**
- 3 Notice of Webcasting**
- 4 Statement of Ethical Obligations**
- 5 Disclosures of Interest (Part 4 (Pecuniary Interests) and Part 5 (non-pecuniary conflicts of interest) of Council’s Code of Conduct)**
- 6 Moment of Quiet Contemplation**

7	Confirmation of Minutes	Page
	Minutes of 9 December 2025 Council	7

8 Condolence Motions

Nil at the time of printing.

9 Mayoral Minutes

Nil at the time of printing.

10 Reports for Council Decision

ITEM		Page
C0226(1) Item 1	Public Exhibition - Tempe Lands Masterplan	42
C0226(1) Item 2	Public Exhibition - Camperdown Park Draft Plan of Management	78
C0226(1) Item 3	Post Exhibition - Pocket and Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management	135
C0226(1) Item 4	Major Capital Projects Committee - Revised Terms of Reference	141
C0226(1) Item 5	Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course Upgrade	148
C0226(1) Item 6	Airspace land adjacent to St Peters Town Hall	208
C0226(1) Item 7	RFT 21-25 – Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Tender – Stage 2	212
C0226(1) Item 8	Post Exhibition - Sydenham Road Strategy	214
C0226(1) Item 9	Review of Car Share Parking Fees and Charges	222
C0226(1) Item 10	Local Transport Forum Meeting - 8 December 2025	227
C0226(1) Item 11	Flood Management Advisory Committee Meeting - 26 November 2025	252
C0226(1) Item 12	Supporting Visual Artists and Writers to Find Affordable Spaces to Work in the Inner West	259
C0226(1) Item 13	National General Assembly of Local Government 2026	262
C0226(1) Item 14	Public Exhibition - Complaints Handling Policy Review	291
C0226(1) Item 15	Abolishing Subminimum Wages for People with Disability	315

11 Reports with Confidential Information

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

The confidential information has been circulated separately.

ITEM	Page
C0226(1) Item 16 67-75 Lords Road, Leichhardt - Dedication of Open Space - VPA	331
C0226(1) Item 17 Quarterly Strategic Investment Property Report	333
Volume 2 of 2	

12 Reports for Noting

ITEM	Page
C0226(1) Item 18 Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade - Monthly Project Update	337
C0226(1) Item 19 Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment - Monthly Project Update	343
C0226(1) Item 20 Leichhardt Oval Live Music Update	346
C0226(1) Item 21 Building Our Community Update	349
C0226(1) Item 22 Bi-Monthly Omnibus Planning Update	353
C0226(1) Item 23 Update - Crystal Street Petersham Roundtable	367
C0226(1) Item 24 Mandatory Reporting to Council of Reports Received from Fire & Rescue NSW for 7 Properties	371
C0226(1) Item 25 Park Fire Risk Management	376
C0226(1) Item 26 Investment Report for the periods ending 30 November 2025 and 31 December 2025	379
C0226(1) Item 27 Quarter 2 Report on Operational Plan 2025/26 including Quarterly Budget Review Statement	486
C0226(1) Item 28 Updated Pecuniary Interest Returns	610
C0226(1) Item 29 Financially Sustainable Service Delivery Program	646

13 Notices of Motion

ITEM	Page
C0226(1) Item 30 Notice of Motion: Junior Parkrun	650
C0226(1) Item 31 Notice of Motion: Whites Creek Valley Park Care and Maintenance	652
C0226(1) Item 32 Notice of Motion: Redundant Optus Cable	654
C0226(1) Item 33 Notice of Motion: Supporting Place-Based Youth Services	655
C0226(1) Item 34 Notice of Motion: Robson Park Off Leash Dog Area Feasibility	656
C0226(1) Item 35 Notice of Motion: Funding & Improvements to Christmas Decorations Across the Inner West LGA for Christmas 2026 and Beyond.	657
C0226(1) Item 36 Notice of Motion: Community Recycling Centres Review	660

C0226(1) Item 37	Notice of Motion: Pedestrian safety at Unwins Bridge Road and Hillcrest Street, Tempe	663
C0226(1) Item 38	Notice of Motion: Vegetation Management and Rehabilitation – Cooks River Foreshore, Thornley Street Marrickville	665
C0226(1) Item 39	Notice of Motion: Geo-blocking Ovals for Shared E-bikes	666
C0226(1) Item 40	Notice of Motion: Council Run Events on the GreenWay	667
C0226(1) Item 41	Notice of Motion: Christmas in the Inner West	669
C0226(1) Item 42	Notice of Motion: Cul de sac maintenance - Athol St, Leichhardt	671
C0226(1) Item 43	Notice of Motion: Public Tree Planting Awareness and Engagement Program	672
C0226(1) Item 44	Notice of Motion: Dive-In Cinema	674
C0226(1) Item 45	Notice of Motion: Seniors Morning Teas to Celebrate the GreenWay	676
C0226(1) Item 46	Notice of Motion: Maintaining Integrity of Annual Grant Program Process	677
C0226(1) Item 47	Notice of Motion: 2026 National General Assembly Proposed Motion: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	679

14 Questions From Councillors

ITEM		Page
C0226(1) Item 48	Question on Notice: White’s Creek Valley Park and Wetlands	708

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 December 2025 at Ashfield Service Centre

Meeting commenced at 6.32pm

Present:

Darcy Byrne	Mayor
Chloe Smith	Deputy Mayor
Izabella Antoniou	Councillor
Liz Atkins	Councillor
Olivia Barlow	Councillor
Jo Carlisle	Councillor
Vicki Clay	Councillor
Jessica D'Arienzo	Councillor
Kerrie Fergusson	Councillor
Mat Howard	Councillor
Victor Macri	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor
Philippa Scott	Councillor
Ismet Tastan	Councillor
Peter Gainsford	General Manager
Simone Plummer	Director Planning
Ruth Callaghan	Director Community
Sharon Bowman	Director Corporate
Peter Shields	Director Engineering
Ryann Midei	Director Property and Major Projects
Matthew Pearce	General Counsel
Manod Wickramasinghe	Traffic & Transport Planning Manager
Scott Mullen	Strategic Investments & Property Manager
George Georgakis	Administration Manager
Katherine Paixao	Business Paper Coordinator
Tia Camelin	Business Paper Officer

APOLOGIES AND REQUEST FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That apologies from Councillor Blake be accepted.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:

Councillor Scott declared a significant, pecuniary interest in Item 58 - *67-75 Lords Road, Leichhardt - Dedication of Open Space* as her primary residence is adjacent to the development site. She will leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Councillor Antoniou declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 45 - *Notice of Motion: Blueprint for Equity* as she is currently an employee of Community Legal Centre Australia (CLCs) the national peak and negotiating party to the NAJP. As she does not receive any benefit from this motion and the organisation identified in the motion Inner City

Legal Centre and is not a direct member at CLCs Australia, she will remain in the meeting during discussion and voting.

Councillor Raciti declared a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 58 - *67-75 Lords Road, Leichhardt - Dedication of Open Space* as her husband is the President of Apia Leichhardt Tigers. She will leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Councillor Raciti declared a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 63 - *Mayoral Minute: Support for Rally to Save Wests Tigers* as Wests Tigers give money to Apia Leichhardt Tigers where her husband is the President. She will leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Clr Howard declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 - *Bringing Mardi Gras to the Inner West* as his husband is the co-chair of the voluntary board of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. To avoid any perception of conflict he will leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Councillor Barlow declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 - *Local Transport Forum Terms of Reference and 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument* as she works in the Office of Kobi Shetty MP, who in her capacity as the Member for Balmain, has a representative on the Transport Forum. She will remain in the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter as the vote is exercised through a representative.

Councillor Barlow declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 - *Local Transport Forum Meeting - 17 November 2025* as she works in the Office of Kobi Shetty MP, who in her capacity as the Member for Balmain, has a representative on the Transport Forum. She will remain in the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter as the vote is exercised through a representative.

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Atkins)

That Council note the disclosures of interest.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion: (Atkins/Scott)

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday, 18 November 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott, Smith 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.

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Carlisle)

That Council allow the public speaker Melissa Ashton-Garad to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 55.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne left the Meeting at 7:23 pm and vacated the chair. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Smith assumed the chair.

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne returned to the Meeting at 7:27 pm. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Smith vacated the chair and the Mayor assumed the chair.

Councillor Raciti left the Meeting at 7:29 pm as she declared a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 63 as Wests Tigers give money to Apia Leichhardt Tigers where her husband is the President.

C1225(1) Item 63 Mayoral Minute: Support for Rally to Save Wests Tigers

Motion: (Byrne)

That Council support the Rally to Save Wests Tigers to be held at Pratten Park Bowling Club on Saturday December 13 at 10:30am and work with the Bowling Club to provide logistical support for the event. This should include assistance with audio equipment, seating and promotion of the rally through Council's social media channels.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

Councillor Raciti returned to the Meeting at 7:32 pm

C1225(1) Item 64 Mayoral Minute: Leichhardt Lynx Bowling Club

Motion: (Byrne)

- 1. That Council writes to Leichhardt Lynx Bowling Club to extend our congratulations on their 100th Anniversary.**
- 2. That Council acknowledges the resilience, community spirit, inclusivity, and passion that has enabled the Lynx to thrive for 100 years.**
- 3. That Council congratulates the Lynx President Natasha Fairfax, Leichhardt Bowling Club Chair Alistair Scott, and Club General Manager Baz Compton on their leadership in the community and commits to supporting the sport of lawn bowls and the club into the future.**

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott, Smith 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 1 - Local Transport Forum Terms of Reference and 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument
2. Item 3 - FOGO For Inner West Early Learning Centres
3. Item 5 - Update Report - Engagement Program for the Inner West Sustainability Hub
4. Item 6 - Sustainable Procurement Working Group Update
5. Item 10 - Remembering Carla Stacey AO
6. Item 16 - General Revenue, Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy
7. Item 18 - Customer Experience Update
8. Item 20 - 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule and Major Capital Projects Committee Schedule
9. Item 21 - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2026 Annual Review
10. Item 22 - Financially Sustainable Service Delivery Program Update
11. Item 23 - Major Residential Development Panel and Housing Delivery – Quarterly Update
12. Item 25 - Tourism Action Plan Bi-Monthly Report
13. Item 29 - Cooks River fishing signage and disposal bins
14. Item 30 - Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade - Monthly Project Update
15. Item 31 - Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment - Monthly Project Update
16. Item 32 - GreenWay - Bushcare and maintenance, signage and public art
17. Item 33 - Loyalty Square Improvement Works - Memorial Walls
18. Item 35 - Disability employment in Council update
19. Item 36 - Statistical Report on Code of Conduct Complaints 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025
20. Item 37 - Council At Your Door Update
21. Item 38 - Notice of Motion: Marrickville Library Multi-function tables
22. Item 43 - Notice of Motion: Plans of Management
23. Item 44 - Notice of Motion: Supporting Residents with Information on Rate Postponement Options
24. Item 45 - Notice of Motion: Blueprint for Equity
25. Item 46 - Notice of Motion: Cooks River Sheet Metal Piling
26. Item 49 - Notice of Motion: Pickleball Courts in Balmain Ward
27. Item 50 - Notice of Motion: TfNSW Tree Mortality Land Bridge Rozelle Parklands
28. Item 51 - Notice of Motion: Coordination of the King Street SEP with City of Sydney
29. Item 56 - Notice of Motion: Christmas at the Women’s Community Shelter Inner West Project
30. Item 59 - Sale of Bignell Lane, Annandale
31. Item 60 - Marrickville Town Hall - Basement Use EOI
32. Item 62 - Domestic Waste Collection Service Harmonisation

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott, Smith 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 1 - Local Transport Forum Terms of Reference and 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument
2. Item 3 - FOGO For Inner West Early Learning Centres
3. Item 5 - Update Report - Engagement Program for the Inner West Sustainability Hub
4. Item 6 - Sustainable Procurement Working Group Update
5. Item 10 - Remembering Carla Stacey AO

6. Item 16 - General Revenue, Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy
7. Item 18 - Customer Experience Update
8. Item 20 - 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule and Major Capital Projects Committee Schedule
9. Item 21 - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2026 Annual Review
10. Item 22 - Financially Sustainable Service Delivery Program Update
11. Item 23 - Major Residential Development Panel and Housing Delivery – Quarterly Update
12. Item 25 - Tourism Action Plan Bi-Monthly Report
13. Item 29 - Cooks River fishing signage and disposal bins
14. Item 30 - Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade - Monthly Project Update
15. Item 31 - Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment - Monthly Project Update
16. Item 32 - GreenWay - Bushcare and maintenance, signage and public art
17. Item 33 - Loyalty Square Improvement Works - Memorial Walls
18. Item 35 - Disability employment in Council update
19. Item 36 - Statistical Report on Code of Conduct Complaints 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025
20. Item 37 - Council At Your Door Update
21. Item 38 - Notice of Motion: Marrickville Library Multi-function tables
22. Item 43 - Notice of Motion: Plans of Management
23. Item 44 - Notice of Motion: Supporting Residents with Information on Rate Postponement Options
24. Item 45 - Notice of Motion: Blueprint for Equity
25. Item 46 - Notice of Motion: Cooks River Sheet Metal Piling
26. Item 49 - Notice of Motion: Pickleball Courts in Balmain Ward
27. Item 50 - Notice of Motion: TfNSW Tree Mortality Land Bridge Rozelle Parklands
28. Item 51 - Notice of Motion: Coordination of the King Street SEP with City of Sydney
29. Item 56 - Notice of Motion: Christmas at the Women’s Community Shelter Inner West Project
30. Item 59 - Sale of Bignell Lane, Annandale
31. Item 60 - Marrickville Town Hall - Basement Use EOI
32. Item 62 - Domestic Waste Collection Service Harmonisation

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 1 Local Transport Forum Terms of Reference and 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council adopt the revised Terms of reference for the Local Transport Forum.
2. That Council sub-delegate to the General Manager the functions delegated by Transport for NSW to Council in the “Authorisation and Delegation – Prescribed Traffic Control Devices and Regulation of Traffic”, as outlined in this report, and incorporate these sub-delegations in the Instrument of Delegation to the General Manager.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 3 FOGO For Inner West Early Learning Centres

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council write to all the not for profit early learning centres inviting them to participate in the FOGO program.
2. That the costs of running this program be used to inform a charge that Council consider in providing a service to the for profit child care centres.
3. That Council endorse FOGO in Early Learning Centres as a pilot program, to accurately inform the direction on fee-for-service FOGO to childcare centres in 2026.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 5 Update Report - Engagement Program for the Inner West Sustainability Hub

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council endorse the schedule, status and budgeting update for activations at the Inner West Sustainability Hub.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 6 Sustainable Procurement Working Group Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council endorse the Sustainable Working Group's recommended priority areas for the use of recycled materials, particularly the continued participation in SSROC's regional *Paving the Way* program, which will now focus on incorporating recycled soft plastics in civil works.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 10 Remembering Carla Stacey AO

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council establish the Carla Stacey Leadership in Sport Volunteer Awards Program with the inaugural award and held in conjunction with the Amy Large Community Awards in May 2026.
2. That Council proceed with naming the pathway between Amy Street and Centennial Street, Marrickville in Carla Stacey's honour.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 16 General Revenue, Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council adopts the draft General Revenue, Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy, as attached to this report.
2. That the adopted General Revenue, Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy is placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, with a report back to Council required only if Council receives feedback that necessitates an amendment to the adopted Policy.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 18 Customer Experience Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council endorse the proposed changes to the correspondence templates, and delegate to the General Manager the ability to revise the templates as required to respond to customer satisfaction results and feedback.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 20 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule and Major Capital Projects Committee Schedule

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council endorse the following Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule in 2026:

January – Recess
Tuesday 17 February
Tuesday 17 March
Tuesday 21 April
Tuesday 19 May
Tuesday 16 June
July – Recess
Tuesday 25 August
Tuesday 22 September (including Mayor/Deputy Mayor Election)
Tuesday 20 October
Tuesday 10 November
Tuesday 8 December

2. That Council approve the publication of the Council Meeting Schedule and the associated public forum schedule (as determined in Item 19) on Council’s website and at Service Centres; and
3. That Council endorse the following Major Capital Projects Committee Meeting Schedule in 2026:

Monday 23 February 2026
Monday 23 March 2026
Monday 27 April 2026
Monday 25 May 2026
Monday 22 June 2026
Monday 24 August 2026
Monday 28 September 2026
Monday 26 October 2026
Monday 23 November 2026

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 21 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2026 Annual Review

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council approve the draft submission (*Attachment 1*) to be sent to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal in relation to the 2026 Annual Review.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 22 Financially Sustainable Service Delivery Program Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 23 Major Residential Development Panel and Housing Delivery - Quarterly Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 25 Tourism Action Plan Bi-Monthly Report

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 29 Cooks River fishing signage and disposal bins

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 30 Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade - Monthly Project Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council receive and note the report.

2. That Council note the following Stage 1 progress since the last report:

- a) Stage 1 works have progressed significantly and are nearing completion, with major structural and mechanical installations finalised;
- b) Completion of concrete pavement around the Mushroom Pool and splash pad, waterproofing of pool gutters, and substantial tiling works;
- c) Installation of plant and equipment for new pool structures, successful mechanical changeover, and near completion of service connections; and
- d) Stage 1 is scheduled for completion in early Summer 2026, subject to weather conditions, with Council and the contractor continuing to collaborate to identify opportunities to accelerate delivery.

3. That Council note the following Stage 2 progress since the last report:

- a) The select tender process closed 7 November, and assessment of submissions is in progress.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 31 Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment - Monthly Project Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council note the following progress since the last report:
 - a) The schematic design and associated design reports have been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, as the Consent Authority, for the Test of Adequacy assessment; and
 - b) The design is advancing into detailed development for the lower bowl seating, western grandstand, and northern grandstand, with support from specialised consultants.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 32 GreenWay - Bushcare and maintenance, signage and public art

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 33 Loyalty Square Improvement Works - Memorial Walls

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 35 Disability employment in Council update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 36 Statistical Report on Code of Conduct Complaints 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

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 2024 to 31 August 2025.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 37 Council At Your Door Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 38 Notice of Motion: Marrickville Library Multi-function Tables

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council investigate the installation of a number of tables around the open space at the Marrickville Library they could be used by the community for a number of board games.
2. That Council investigate the potential for the Library to lend the games to users.
3. That the games could be any board game the community would seek to play Backgammon, Chess, Draughts to name a few.
4. That staff could also look at running events based on the games with competitions in the games as community building exercise for all ages and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse in the community.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 43 Notice of Motion: Plans of Management

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council thanks Council staff for their ongoing work to deliver updated plans of management on behalf of the Inner West community and appreciates that these are time intensive and complex processes.
2. That Council notes the importance of Plans of Management in guiding the use, maintenance and future development of local parks, as required under the *Local Government Act 1993* and Council's Open Space and Recreation policy.
3. That Council notes community members who take part in consultation on Plans of Management reasonably expect to receive prompt consideration of their feedback, and that timely reporting helps maintain community confidence in Council's engagement processes.

4. That Council requests that staff establish a target of six months between public consultation on a Plan of Management and its return to Council for endorsement, whether for further exhibition or for final approval, meaning that Council’s internal processes for assessing plans of management take no longer than one year.
5. That Council requests staff, via briefing note no later than March 2026, provide a register of parks in the Inner West local government area, along with the status of their plans of management and the expected timeline for updating them.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 44 Notice of Motion: Supporting Residents with Information on Rate Postponement Options

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council upon gazettal of The Our Fairer Future Plan, proactively write to all ratepayers whose properties are included in areas proposed for upzoning to advise them of their option to apply for a postponement of the portion of rates that are calculated on unrealised uplift value (or “attributable land value”) under the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. That Council make applying for postponement as simple and straightforward as possible by providing residents with either a hard-copy application form and a paid self-addressed return envelope, or a link to the online application form, along with simple instructions on how to apply.
3. That Council provide this information in multiple community languages.
4. That Council undertake to include in the next annual rates notice a reminder to all potentially affected residents of the availability of postponement, especially before the next revaluation cycle or rates increase.
5. That Council ensure that information about rate postponement is also available on Council’s website, in clear and accessible language, and that council officers consider other ways to simplify and promote this process for residents.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 45 Notice of Motion: Blueprint for Equity

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council note that:
 - a) From 1 July 2025, LGBTQIA+ people are formally recognized as a national priority client group for legal assistance under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP) 2025-2030;
 - b) There are significant unmet legal needs within LGBTQIA+ communities driven by systemic barriers, service limitations and heightened exposure to legal risk,

- and that each year 6 in 10 LGBTQIA+ people will experience at least 1 legal problem, nearly double the national average;
- c) Community legal centres provide critical legal services, including strategic litigation to address systemic legal issues and advance rights and that where specialist CLC services for LGBTQIA+ people exist, such as the Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC) in Kings Cross, they are often significantly under-resourced;
 - d) We have recently achieved vital reforms in NSW through the Equality Bill, including a ban on LGBTQ+ conversion practices, the right for transgender people to update their birth certificates without surgical intervention and protections against “outing” people for their LGBTQIA+ or HIV status, however, improved rights without access to justice will mean that many people will be unable to have these rights realized; and
 - e) That, while the ICLC receives a small community services grant to allow a solicitor to work from the Pride Centre 1 day per fortnight, it receives no funding from the State or Commonwealth to deliver their LGBTQIA+ Legal Service to residents in the Inner West.
2. That Council write to the Commonwealth Attorney-General calling for the provision and funding of specialist LGBTQIA+ legal services, including appropriate funding to increase the capacity in existing LGBTQIA+ CLCs, and to enable the implementation of socio-legal service models, investment in capacity building, and resourcing of contributions to policy and law reform.
 3. That Council write to the Premier and NSW Attorney General calling for investment in the NSW LGBTQIA+ legal service.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 46 Notice of Motion: Cooks River Sheet Metal Piling

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council notes Inner West Council’s ongoing commitment to restoring the health, habitat and water quality of the Cooks River.
2. That Council notes that sheet metal piling was installed along long stretches of the Cooks River from the mid twentieth century as part of earlier engineering works intended to control erosion and manage the river’s alignment.
3. That Council notes that the steel sheet piling is now severely deteriorated and that its hard, vertical structure reduces habitat, limits the return of natural riverbanks and negatively affects ecological health, as well as posing a risk to public health and safety.
4. That Council notes the long standing advocacy of councils along the river, local MPs, the Cooks River Alliance, the Cooks River Valley Association, volunteer groups such as the Mudcrabs and many community members who have worked to naturalise the riverbanks and improve water quality.
5. That Council writes to the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, NSW Minister for Energy and Environment, requesting that the NSW Government commit to replacing the sheet metal piling and implement legislative or regulatory measures to improve water quality in the Cooks River.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 49 Notice of Motion: Pickleball Courts in Balmain Ward

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council notes the inclusion of pickleball line markings as part of the recent Mort Bay Multi-Court upgrade.
2. That Council provide a report to the February 2026 Council meeting outlining:
 - a) A list of existing Council owned pickleball facilities within the Balmain Ward;
 - b) Potential Council courts within the Balmain Ward that could accommodate additional line markings to facilitate pickleball use; and
 - c) Potential locations where constructing a dedicated pickleball court may be possible.
3. That Council investigate and include in the report the feasibility and estimated costs of adding pickleball line markings to the Punch Park Tennis Courts.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 50 Notice of Motion: TfNSW Tree Mortality Land Bridge Rozelle Parklands

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council note the significant mortality of Banksia trees along the Land Bridge in the Rozelle Parklands.
2. That Council acknowledge the Inner West Council's prompt action in raising this issue with TfNSW and request that it be resolved as a matter of urgency.
3. That Council continue to press TfNSW to take immediate action to prevent further tree deaths, including:
 - a) Removing dead trees and replacing them with new plantings; and
 - b) Assigning a dedicated TfNSW officer to oversee the maintenance and care of trees on the Rozelle Parklands Land Bridge and any other areas of the park for which TfNSW remains responsible.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 51 Notice of Motion: Coordination of the King Street SEP with City of Sydney

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council note Inner West Council's endorsement of Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs) on main streets across the Inner West to support live music and

performance, streamlined approvals, and a stronger nighttime economy.

2. That Council note that the endorsed SEP on King Street, Newtown spans both the Inner West and City of Sydney LGAs.
3. That Council note that residents, businesses, and visitors experience King Street as one continuous precinct and do not distinguish between local government areas.
4. That Council note that Inner West Council's standard SEP model differs from the City of Sydney's and a consistent approach by both councils along King Street would benefit local businesses, residents, and visitors.
5. That Council note advocacy by local businesses on King Street for the implementation of the SEP to enhance the success and benefits of the Enmore Road SEP.
6. That Council endorses the following principles to guide collaboration between Inner West Council and City of Sydney Council in developing the King Street SEP:
 - a) A consistent policy approach between both councils to provide clarity and certainty for local residents and businesses;
 - b) Alignment between both councils will strengthen the delivery of the precinct, improve outcomes for live performance, and support shared objectives of a safe, inclusive, and sustainable nighttime economy;
 - c) Work collaboratively with responsible officers at the City of Sydney to ensure a consistent approach to planning, regulation, engagement and consultation for the King Street SEP.
7. That Council request the Director, Planning and responsible officers to undertake the following actions:
 - a) Establish regular meetings with responsible officers at the City of Sydney to coordinate development, delivery, and communication of precinct settings and initiatives;
 - b) Coordinate joint community and stakeholder engagement processes with the City of Sydney to ensure consistent messaging and a shared understanding of precinct objectives;
 - c) Ensure that community consultation on the SEP is conducted concurrently with City of Sydney processes where practicable; and
 - d) Report back to Council on progress bi-monthly until the post-exhibition report is brought to Council.
8. That Council note that Cr Olly Arkins at the City of Sydney has submitted a similar motion expressing support for this coordinated approach to implementation of the King Street SEP.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 56 Notice of Motion: Christmas at the Women's Community Shelter Inner West Project

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council note that tomorrow, 10 December 2025, is Human Rights Day and marks the end of the 16 Days of Activism which commenced on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

2. That Council acknowledge that many women and children are homeless during the Christmas holiday period because of domestic and family violence and that a Christmas / end of year event can ensure a sense of normalcy for women and children in crisis accommodation during a particularly high risk time of year.
3. That Council provide a sum of \$1000 towards a Christmas/end of year event at the Women's Community Shelter Inner West Project.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 59 Sale of Bignell Lane, Annandale

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council, as the local roads authority, after considering the recommendation of the Local Transport Forum and submissions received as a separate report to the December Council meeting, resolves to close Bignell Lane, Annandale.
2. That Council authorises the sale of the closed Bignell Lane to Landcom for the agreed sum of \$3.7 million plus GST
3. That Council authorises the General Manager or their nominee to undertake the necessary steps to close Bignell Lane, Annandale including a Notice pursuant to section 38D of the *Roads Act 1993* being placed in the NSW Government Gazette.
4. That Council authorises the General Manager or their delegate to approach Land Registry Services to issue a certificate of title for the closed road, to negotiate the terms of the sale and sign all documents to facilitate the sale.
5. That pursuant to section 43 of the *Roads Act 1993* the monies received from the proceeds of sale of the land be set aside for either acquiring land for public roads or for carrying out road work on public roads.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 60 Marrickville Town Hall - Basement Use EOI

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council accepts the recommendation from the Evaluation Committee to proceed with Brand X to manage and operate the Marrickville Town Hall Basement as a live music, entertainment and multicultural venue.
2. That Council delegates authority to the General Manager or their delegate to finalise the negotiations to enter into a lease with Brand X to manage and operate the Marrickville Town Hall Basement as a live music, entertainment and multicultural venue.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo,

Against Motion: Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott, Smith and Tastan
Nil

C1225(1) Item 62 Domestic Waste Collection Service Harmonisation

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. That Council endorses the planned harmonisation of all domestic waste collection services, with in-house staff collecting all red and green lid bins on weekday mornings, and an external service provider collecting yellow lid bins. All other collection services will remain unchanged.
2. That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to directly negotiate a contract variation to Council's recycling collection contract with Sydney Waste Pty Ltd, to collect yellow lid bins for the whole local government area as of 16 December 2026. This variation is to be bought back to Council for approval.
3. That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to directly negotiate and execute an agreement to acquire up to six waste collection vehicles from Cleanaway Pty Ltd to facilitate continuance of waste collection in west service area.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Antoniou/Howard)

That Council allow Cllr Barlow to speak for an 30 additional seconds on Item 2.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 2 Membership of Catchment Groups

Motion: (Fergusson/Howard)

That Council writes to the Sydney Coastal Councils Group to formally resign Council's membership of the group.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow and Tastan

C1225(1) Item 4 Carbon Neutral Update

Motion: (Smith/Byrne)

1. That Council endorse the identified steps toward becoming Carbon Neutral, including:
 - a) actions from the Climate and Renewables Strategy, including streetlight upgrades, gas transition for Council building projects and electric fleet transition;
 - b) additional, immediate measures which could provide emissions reduction such

- as the recently adopted actions for recycled materials in civil works projects;
- c) Purchase carbon offsets, and selecting the best value-for-money option this year; and
 - d) Seek certification under the Australian Climate Active scheme.

2. That a briefing is brought to Council by June 2026 with options and recommendations, including a timeframe and a budget, to achieve Carbon Zero, as an alternative to purchasing carbon offsets.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Councillor D'Arienzo left the Meeting at 7:51 pm.

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Smith)

That Council allow Cllr Howard to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 7.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Raciti, Scott, Smith and Tastan

Against Motion: Nil

Absent Cr D'Arienzo

Councillor D'Arienzo returned to the Meeting at 7:54 pm.

C1225(1) Item 7 Local Transport Forum Meeting - 17 November 2025

Motion: (Howard/Macri)

That Council receive and adopt the recommendations of the Local Transport Forum meeting held on 17 November 2025, with the following amendments:

- a) An additional point 4 be added to the recommendations for Item 3: St Peters Triangle- Proposed reversal of traffic flows at Applebee Street and Lackey Street, St Peters that reads, "The General Manager seek an urgent meeting with the NSW Secretary for Transport expressing significant concern at the removal of the right hand turn from Princes Highway to May Street, outlining the adverse impacts for residents in St Peters, and demanding an urgent review that balances road safety improvements with resident access to their neighbourhood."
- b) An additional point 5 be added to the recommendations for Item 4: Schwebel Street - Proposed one-way eastbound treatment at Schwebel Street between Station Street/Leofrene Avenue and Junction Road, that reads, "That Council investigate and consult with residents and businesses about installing angle parking on the north side of Schwebel Street between Station Street and Leofrene Avenue and report back to a future Local Transport Forum."

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 8 Community survey on preferences for future street design

Motion: (Fergusson/Antoniou)

1. That Council proceeds with a comprehensive Inner West wide survey of residents to provide community feedback on:
 - a) priorities and preferences for the future design of streets and neighbourhoods; and
 - b) identify infrastructure needed to create safer streets, more liveable communities, and reduce reliance on cars for short trips.
2. That Council allocate funding of \$55,000 for external specialist costs at the next quarterly budget review.
3. That Council conduct the survey following the completion of the Development Control Plan consultation, and include the survey in the 2026/2027 annual budget.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Howard)

That Council allow Cllr Smith to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 9.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 9 Cleaning Up Our laneways - Optimised Service Levels

Motion: (Smith/Howard)

1. That Council adopt the reviewed public domain cleansing service levels, being Premium, Very High, Enhanced and Standard, to meet current and evolving needs of the community.
2. That the adopted cleansing service levels are implemented within 4 weeks, including the ongoing publication of a map on Council's website identifying the service level set for all public domain locations.
3. That Council monitor and review the new cleansing arrangements over the next three months, and report to Council on the status of the new cleansing service levels including work undertaken; reports of maintenance, weeds and waste management; complaints and response times; and other relevant data.
4. That in the same report, Council report on the same measures for the enhanced cleansing for laneways around Special Entertainment Precincts.
5. That pending the data and findings in the report, consideration be given to increasing the budget and resourcing for laneway cleansing in the 2026/2027 Budget.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 11 Public Exhibition - Wicks Park - Draft Plan of Management

Motion: (Howard/Barlow)

1. That Council publicly exhibit the draft Plan of Management and Masterplan for Wicks Park for a period of 42 days and seek community feedback.
2. That following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the draft Plan of Management and Masterplan for Wicks Park be brought back to Council for consideration for adoption.
3. That the exhibition period commence no later than early February 2026 and a report be brought back to Council as soon as possible and no later than August 2026.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 12 Lackey Street Summer Hill Improvements - Project Update

Motion: (Carlisle/Antoniou)

1. That Council consult with the community for a period of 28 days on a Permit / Plug / Play approach to support temporary road closures of Lackey Street south, Summer Hill.
2. That Council consult with AshBiz as part of the community consultation.
3. That Council receive a report on the outcomes of the community engagement by April 2026 to enable implementation of the strategy by July 2026.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 13 Inner West Pride Walk Update

Motion: (Howard/D'Arienzo)

1. That Council endorse the list of proposed sites for the Inner West Pride Walk, as outlined in the report, with the addition of a site in the Gulgadya-Leichhardt Ward, to be determined by the Director Community in consultation with Councillors Howard and Atkins.
2. That Council work with the LGBTQIA+ Working Group to establish a list of second stage locations for consideration as part of the 2026-2027 Budget process.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Councillor Howard left the Meeting at 8:14 pm as he declared a significant, pecuniary interest in Item 14 as his husband is the co-chair of the voluntary board of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Carlisle)

That Council allow Cllr D'Arienzo to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 14.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Howard

C1225(1) Item 14 Bringing Mardi Gras to the Inner West

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Atkins)

1. That Council approve the use of Marrickville Town Hall or Marrickville Library Pavilion and outdoor forecourt or another suitable location as agreed with organisers for Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras' Sissy Ball in February 2026.
2. That Council approve financial support of up to \$60,000 to the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras to deliver the Sissy Ball in 2026 to form part of the 2026/2027 second quarterly budget review.
3. That Council approve the provision of temporary workshop space to Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras at the Sustainability Hub for the period January to March 2026 for float construction.
4. That Council delegate authority to the General Manager to continue negotiations with Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras on developing a longer-term partnership for 2027 and the 50 year anniversary in 2028.
5. That Council notes that Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras has committed to the following partnership benefits as part of this collaboration:
 - a) Festival partner recognition within the sponsor grid and logo placements;
 - b) Inner West Council activation space at Fair Day;
 - c) Inner West Council Parade entry including vehicle and up to 80 participants;
 - d) 10-metre CCB signage at Fair Day and on the Parade route;
 - e) Inclusion of up to five Inner West Council LGBTQIA+ events in the official 2026 Mardi Gras program, promoted via the Mardi Gras app, website, and social media channels;
 - f) Advertising banner placement on the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras website and Mardi Gras app;
 - g) Two EDM newsletter mentions and two social media mentions; and
 - h) Working collaboratively with Council on a three-year partnership framework covering the 2026, 2027, and 2028 festival periods.
6. That Council works with Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras to explore potential options for incorporating queer youth participation within the 2026 Sissy Ball event.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Howard

Councillor Howard returned to the Meeting at 8:17 pm.

C1225(1) Item 15 Town Hall Festivals Update

Motion: (Smith/Byrne)

1. That Council approve the allocation of \$21,000 for a communications strategy for the Town Hall Festivals.
2. That funding of \$9,000 form part of the 2025/26 second quarter budget review.
3. That funding of \$12,000 form part of the 2026/27 budget consideration.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow and Tastan

Procedural Motion (D'Arienzo/Carlisle)

That the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

The meeting was adjourned at 8.26pm.

The meeting recommenced at 8.37pm.

C1225(1) Item 17 Current and proposed support for Inner West Tech + Start Up

Motion: (Fergusson/Antoniou)

1. That Council endorse the initiatives proposed to support IWTS:
 - a) A hackathon-style technology challenge offering a \$15,000 prize and a bonus \$5,000 prize for the best solution from a woman or non-binary person;
 - b) Linking local talent with community organisations for impactful projects;
 - c) Support for a pop-up tech hub via free access to Clontarf Cottage;
 - d) Visible support for women and non-binary individuals in STEM via the creation of an emerging technology cadetship for women and non-binary individuals;
 - e) Creation of a tech advisory panel with Council ICT representatives to provide advice and guidance to startups; and
 - f) Pursuing open data principles to promote innovation.
2. That Council report back to March 2026 Council meeting with a timeline for delivery for above initiatives.
3. That Council acknowledge that Inner West Tech Hub members will work with a range of technological disciplines, and that references to AI be removed from council's scope and materials.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Smith)

That Council allow Cllr Howard to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 19.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

C1225(1) Item 19 Post Exhibition - Code of Meeting Practice

Procedural Motion (Smith/Howard)

That Council allow the Mayor, Cllr Byrne to speak for 1 additional minute on the Atkins/Barlow amendment in Item 19.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

During this item Councillor Raciti left the Meeting at 8:55 pm. Councillor Raciti returned to the Meeting at 8:56 pm (and was present for the vote on the amendment *which was voted on prior to the motion*).

Motion: (Howard/Scott)

1. That Council adopt the Code of Meeting Practice from 1 January 2026.
2. That Council update the Policy Register and publish, as applicable, internally and externally, the adopted Code of Meeting Practice.
3. That Council endorse a 5-month trial agenda management cycle as follows:
 - a) Public forum remains immediately prior to the ordinary meeting, in line with current practice, and the agenda published 11 days prior to the meeting.
4. That Council resolves the general Order of Business for Ordinary Council Meetings will be as follows:
 - a) Opening Meeting
 - b) Acknowledgment of Country
 - c) Apologies and requests for leave of absence or attendance by audio-visual link by Councillors
 - d) Notice of Webcasting
 - e) Statement of Ethical Obligations
 - f) Disclosures of Interests
 - g) Moment of Quiet Contemplation
 - h) Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - i) Condolence Motions
 - j) Mayoral Minute(s)
 - k) Reports for Decision
 - l) Confidential Matters
 - m) Reports for Noting
 - n) Notice of Motions/Questions with Notice
 - o) Urgency Motions (If required)
 - p) Conclusion of the meeting

5. That when publishing a notice of motion from a councillor, the General Manager will appoint and publish in the agenda the name of a staff member of the Executive to lead on questions in relation to that notice of motion and to be accountable for its execution if it is successfully adopted.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

Amendment (Atkins/Barlow) *which was voted on prior to the above motion and was lost*

That point 3 of the motion be amended to:

That Council endorse a 5-month trial agenda management cycle being the Public Forum held 1 week prior to the Ordinary Council meeting, with agenda published 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Motion Lost

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Macri, Raciti and Tastan

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

Councillor Raciti retired from the Meeting at 8:58 pm.

C1225(1) Item 24 Customer Service in Development Assessments - Outcomes of post DA survey

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Antoniou)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council writes to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure NSW to invite the Department to work collaboratively with Inner West Council to review Council's Development Application processes, with a focus on benchmarking against best practice, identifying efficiency improvements, ensuring regulatory compliance, and recommending contemporary assessment frameworks and digital solutions.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 26 Inner West Precinct - State-Led Rezoning Proposal for Parramatta Road Corridor

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Byrne)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council provide bi-monthly omnibus planning updates on the implementation of the Our Fairer Future Plan and related planning reforms, including our Affordable Housing Policy, Stage 2 planning, Parramatta Road Corridor rezoning, Bays West masterplanning, and DCP development, demonstrating how these

initiatives collectively support housing delivery and liveable communities across the LGA.

3. That Council during this process advocate to the DPHI for their analysis to include:
 - a) An investigation of feasibility for 20% affordable housing contribution for any additional proposed floor space beyond the baseline provision in upzoned area.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

Amendment (Antoniou/Barlow)

That Council communicate to the DPHI, NSW Transport and relevant state ministers support for a light rail service to operate on Parramatta road.

Motion Lost

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow and Tastan

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

Absent: Cr Raciti

Amendment (Antoniou)

1. That Council during this process advocate to the DPHI for their analysis to include:
 - b) The provision of state funded open and public greenspace appropriate to the potential increase in dwellings be a clear priority of the proposal
 - c) That required infrastructure including social infrastructure, to service the potential increase in dwellings be clearly identified.

The Mayor ruled points 1 b and c redundant as the original resolution of the Council in regards to Parramatta Road investigations cover all the issues.

C1225(1) Item 27 Resource Recovery and Social Housing update for last six months

Motion: (Howard/Macri)

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council add 35-41 Addison Road, Marrickville, to the list of key sites for engagement and ongoing focus to improve waste management and immediately engage with the building managers.
3. That Council write to Homes NSW advocating for:
 - a) a government-led awareness program for residents in public and community housing regarding the rights and responsibilities around waste collection, and local services to assist with rubbish removal; and
 - b) the establishment of a waste hotline for councils, providing an escalation point for Council staff when illegal dumping and other matters require urgent action.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo,

Against Motion: Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Scott, Smith and Tastan
Absent: Nil
 Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 28 Mandatory Reporting to Council of Reports Received from Fire & Rescue NSW for 4 Properties

Motion: (Fergusson/Antoniou)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo, Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Scott, Smith and Tastan
Against Motion: Nil
Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 34 Tempe Reserve - Future Use of the Former Jets Club Area

Motion: (Howard/Macri)

That Council receive and note the report.

Motion Carried

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

C1225(1) Item 39 Notice of Motion: Summer Heat Survey

Motion: (Atkins/Barlow)

1. That Council note that Sweltering Cities, a not for profit national advocacy organisation working specifically on issues related to extreme heat, conducts a national Summer Heat Survey every year.
2. That Council agree to include the link for Sweltering Cities' Summer Heat Survey in the December 2025 issue of the Inner West News and on Council's social media pages, encouraging as many Inner West residents as possible to complete the survey.
3. That Council note that Sweltering Cities has offered to provide briefings on the results specific to the findings in the Inner West.

Motion Lost

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

Foreshadowed Motion (Scott/Clay)

1. That Council note the Inner West Council's Climate Risk Assessment Outcomes

Report, developed by Inner West Council staff and published in May 2024.

2. That Council note that the next steps, as included Council's Community Strategic Plan, *Our Inner West 2036*, and a major initiative in the 2025 / 2026 Operational Plan is to develop and implement a climate adaptation plan.
3. That staff bring forward that report by May 2026.
4. That Council note that the development of the Climate Risk Assessment Outcomes Report included consultation and data gathering from Council staff; community representatives from the Environment, Social Strategy and Access Advisory Committees; Sydney Water, Ausgrid, Sydney Local Health District, State Emergency Services; community groups most vulnerable to climate impacts; and community partners in climate adaptation action.
5. That Council note the Notice of Motion proposed by Crs Scott and Stephens and unanimously adopted by Council in December 2023 to designate certain Council facilities as Cooling Centres, including contingencies for late night opening during severe or extreme heatwave warnings, and a summer social media strategy to publicise them.
6. That Council note that this social media strategy has been running for three summers, and endorse that it continue each summer.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow and Tastan

Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 40 Notice of Motion: Marrickville Squadron 90 Year Anniversary

Motion: (Macri/Howard)

That Council acknowledge the tremendous 90 year milestone the Marrickville Air League Squadron has achieved by a story in the next Council newsletter and on the Council website.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 41 Notice of Motion: Heatwave Response Plan

The Mayor ruled the following motion redundant as Item 39 *Notice of Motion: Summer Heat Survey* has been carried.

Motion: (Barlow/Atkins)

1. That Council note the increase in extreme heat days and heatwaves across Sydney that will occur because of climate change.
2. That Council prepare a Heatwave Response Plan which includes:
 - a) A risk analysis to identify the parts of the Inner West with the most vulnerable populations and locations to heatwaves, including those that may not have air conditioning or other effective cooling;

- b) Identification of stakeholders and possible partnerships and collaborative arrangements to better respond to extreme heat days and heatwaves;
- c) Initial stakeholder engagement to identify potential cool centres and associated services;
- d) A heat refuge emergency management plan that includes preparedness actions for cool centres, a heat refuge network and actions to activate it, monitoring and evaluation; and
- e) Investigation of ways to better prepare the community for extreme heat and heatwaves, including workshops provided by organisations such as the Red Cross.

C1225(1) Item 42 Notice of Motion: Rising Tide

Motion: (Barlow/Antoniou)

1. That Council note the attendance at Rising Tide: The People’s Blockade of the World’s Largest Coal Port (27 November – 2 December) by many Inner West individuals and local chapters of organisations like the Knitting Nannas and the Climate Justice Coalition.
2. That Council write to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Murray Watt, and ask that the government:
 - a) Immediately cancel all new fossil fuel projects;
 - b) Tax fossil fuel export profits at 78% to fund community and industrial transition, and pay for climate loss and damage; and
 - c) End all coal exports from Newcastle – the world’s largest coal port – by 2030.

Motion Lost

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow and Tastan

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

Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 47 Notice of Motion: Terry Street, Belmore Street and Belmore Lane, Tempe

Motion: (Howard/Barlow)

1. That Council investigate and consult with residents on calming measures on Terry Street between Henry Street and the Princes Highway, including narrowing the street by adding inroad plantings, extended verges or street gardens, or extending the angle parking.
2. That Council work with NSW Police to intensify enforcement of vehicles illegally entering Terry Street from the Princes Highway, and investigate and consult with residents on any other measures to stop through traffic and mitigate dangerous speeding.
3. That Council investigate and consult with residents around measures to support resident parking on Belmore Street, Tempe.
4. That Council refer these parking and traffic matters to the Local Transport Forum for consideration and recommendation to Council.
5. That Council undertake a high-intensity clean of Belmore Lane, Tempe, including removing rubbish, pruning vegetation and street sweeping, and add Belmore Lane to the list of hot spots for illegal dumping and increased maintenance.

6. That Council explore the opportunity to use green methods to achieve traffic calming to increase biodiversity and green corridors, and reduce the urban heat island effect in the area.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

Procedural Motion (Byrne/Howard)

That Council allow Cllr Carlisle to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 48.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 48 Notice of Motion: Ashfield Aquatic Centre - Summer Spruce

Motion: (Carlisle/Scott)

1. That Council notes the fifth anniversary of the upgrade to the Ashfield Aquatic Centre in October 2025.
2. That Council recognises the ongoing importance of the Ashfield Aquatic Centre to the local Ashfield and Croydon communities and the broader Inner West, and thanks staff for extending opening hours during the warmer months.
3. That Council acknowledges that maintaining high-quality facilities at Inner West aquatic facilities is essential to ensuring the Centre's ongoing sustainability, presentation, and community value.
4. That Council approves a 'Summer Spruce' maintenance program for inner west aquatic facilities to include:
 - a) Pressure washing of the entrance, grandstands, and high-use areas;
 - b) Replacement of damaged or faded signage;
 - c) Repainting of pedestrian and parking line markings in the car parks;
 - d) Enhanced rubbish collection services;
 - e) Vegetation trimming and grounds maintenance;
 - f) Inspection of shower heads to ensure best quality water flows, and
 - g) To be funded from the ongoing maintenance budget.
5. That Council commits to ongoing preventative maintenance of the Ashfield Aquatic Centre to preserve its quality and fitness for purpose.
6. That if shower head inspections identify issues requiring additional remediation that cannot be funded through the current maintenance budget, Council explores these through the 2025/26 budget planning process.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 52 Notice of Motion: Supporting Local Community Groups Through Return and Earn Recycling at Inner West Major Events & Venues

Motion: (Antoniou/Howard)

1. That Council note the increasing pressure for community groups, P&Cs and local for-purpose organisations to take on additional fundraising activities to support their work and communities due to the rising cost of living crisis and gaps in funding streams. Note that TOMRA Cleanaway have established a process that allows individuals who are making use of the Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) and other Return & Earn collection points to donate their earnings to a nominated group or charity.
2. That Council note resolution C1025(1) from the October 2025 Council meeting that called, in part, for an audit of existing Return and Earn collection points and the development of a protocol to assist residents who collect eligible containers at council events as a form of income supplement.
3. That Council include in the report required by resolution C1025(1) options for how eligible containers could be collected and recycled at this outlet with the purpose of Council processing and donating the proceeds to local organisations and community groups, scoping but not limited to the following collection points:
 - a) Inner West Council events and festivals that host external food/drink vendors;
 - b) Inner West Council offices and venues on an ongoing basis; and,
 - c) Incorporating Return and Earn into the new Leichhardt oval stadium development to lead the way in making it a low waste/zero waste venue and minimising waste.
4. That the report consider how these options would interact with the protocol that supports residents who collect eligible containers at council events as a form of income supplement.
5. That Council develop a draft EOI process to determine which local groups and organisations Council will support with donations associated with each event or venue. The EOI process should clearly outline:
 - a) Eligibility of groups;
 - b) How factors including location and connection to an event or venue may be prioritised and weighted in the process; and
 - c) A rotation timeframe.
6. That Council draft and provide any policy updates required in order to support the trial in relation to fundraising to be examined simultaneously to the report.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

Councillor D'Arienzo left the Meeting at 9:58 pm.

Procedural Motion (Atkins/Byrne)

That Council allow Cllr Barlow to speak for 30 additional seconds on Item 53.

Motion Carried

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

Councillor D'Arienzo returned to the Meeting at 10:00 pm.

C1225(1) Item 53 Notice of Motion: H5 Bird Flu

Motion: (Barlow/Atkins)

1. That Council notes the unique and devastating impact that H5N1 Avian influenza (H5 bird flu) has had on global bird populations, particularly in North America.
2. That Council notes that waterfowl and shorebirds are considered the main natural reservoirs for avian influenza, many of which are migratory birds that visit Australia.
3. That Council notes that H5 has been found in the external Australian territory of Heard Island.
4. That Council prepares a report which examines the feasibility of responding to potential future Avian Influenza outbreaks or other biosecurity threats including by:
 - a) Training staff on the current situation, what to look for and how to report, and baseline biosecurity procedures including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and hygiene practices for any council officers working with or around wildlife;
 - b) Identifying and mapping sites within the Inner West that are known habitats for marine mammals, seabirds, waterbirds, shorebirds or birds of prey;
 - c) Considering what level of public interaction with animals is possible at these sites and conducting risk assessments to determine if public access restrictions should be planned for, and what suitable material resources such as NSW government biosecurity public signage and mobile barrier fencing should be prepared;
 - d) Sharing advisory materials (including through public signage and on social media) with residents, contractors and stakeholders, providing information about symptoms in wildlife and reporting processes for H5 bird flu; and
 - e) Working with key stakeholders, including the Cooks River Alliance and the Parramatta River Catchment Group, and the NSW Environment Protection Authority, to develop a biosecurity strategy H5 bird flu action plan for the Inner West.

Motion Lost

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

Foreshadowed Motion (Smith/Howard)

That Council notes the importance of biosecurity to our local community's health and wellbeing and receives a briefing note on our organisational biosecurity readiness and any additional measures or resourcing to be considered.

Motion Carried

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Byrne, Carlisle, Clay, D'Arienzo,

Against Motion: Fergusson, Howard, Macri, Scott, Smith and Tastan
Absent: Nil
 Cr Raciti

Procedural Motion (Barlow/Byrne)

That Council allow Cr Tastan to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 54.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil
Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 54 Notice of Motion: Updated Recreation Needs Study

Motion: (Tastan/Atkins)

1. That Council update the Recreation Needs Study: *A Healthier Inner West* (originally commissioned in 2018 and revised in 2021) to reflect the increased population density anticipated under the Fairer Future Plan, the Bays West Precinct development, and the Parramatta Road Revitalisation programs.
2. That Council maintain the existing study framework and ensures the updated study retains, at a minimum, the format and scope of the previous study, incorporating new population and dwelling forecasts from current and planned developments and accessibility requirements.
3. That Council staff provide Council with a preliminary report by June 2026 outlining:
 - a) current and projected open space provisions and benchmarks,
 - b) proximity benchmarks for parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities, and
 - c) sporting and recreational needs across the LGA, broken down by Catchment Area/Ward, including a strategic plan to address identified gaps.
4. That Council ensures the study incorporates relevant community feedback, including input gathered through the *Building Our Community* engagement process and considerations related to the \$500M community infrastructure allocation.

Motion Lost

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

Councillor Howard left the Meeting at 10:13 pm.

Councillor Howard returned to the Meeting at 10:15 pm.

Procedural Motion (Smith/Scott)

That Council allow the Mayor, Cr Byrne to speak for 1 additional minute on Item 55.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil
Absent: Cr Raciti

C1225(1) Item 55 Notice of Motion: Callan Park Tidal Pool

Motion: (Tastan/Atkins)

1. That Council notes the great deal of public interest in the proposed Callan Park Tidal Pool.
2. That Council supports the provision of more safe and accessible swim sites in the harbour.
3. That Council notes ongoing concerns raised by Rowing NSW and 13 rowing clubs and schools who use the Iron Cove Bay rowing course about potential conflict between the proposed swim site and the rowing course and marshalling areas.
4. That should the DA proceed, Council commits to working with the rowing clubs and First Nations stakeholders to ensure that the impact of the pool is minimised.

Motion Lost

For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow and Tastan

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

Absent: Cr Raciti

Procedural Motion: (Smith/Clay)

That Council enter into Confidential session.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

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:

C1225(1) Item 58 67-75 Lords Road, Leichhardt - Dedication of Open Space (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.

C1225(1) Item 61 RFT 35-25 Callan Park Tidal Baths Design & Construct Contract (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 AND (Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the *Local Government Act* 1993) that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Councillor Scott left the Meeting at 10:30 pm as she declared a significant, pecuniary interest in Item 58 as her primary residence is adjacent to the development site.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED DURING CLOSED SESSION

C1225(1) Item 58 67-75 Lords Road, Leichhardt - Dedication of Open Space

Motion: (Byrne/Smith)

1. That Council note that following our correspondence to the NSW Government on this issue that no response had been received at the time the report was tabled.
2. That Council defer consideration of this matter so that a report can be prepared for the February 2026 Ordinary Council meeting on options for Council to propose alternative public benefits to be derived from the VPA.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Crs Raciti and Scott

Councillor Scott returned to the Meeting at 10:36 pm.

C1225(1) Item 61 RFT 35-25 Callan Park Tidal Baths Design & Construct Contract

Motion: (Byrne/Fergusson)

1. That Council accepts the tender submitted by SMC Marine Pty Ltd, for the Callan Park Tidal Baths Design & Construct Contract and approves to proceed with separable portion 1 - Detailed Design for the lump sum price of \$301,066.00 (ex GST) on contract execution.
2. That Council accepts the tender submitted by SMC Marine Pty Ltd, for the Callan Park Tidal Baths Design & Construct Contract and approves to proceed with separable portion 2 – Construction Stage, if the Callan Park Tidal Baths DA is approved, for the lump sum price of \$2,804,660.00 (Ex GST).
3. That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to execute an agreement with SMC Marine Pty Ltd for RFT 35-25 Callan Park Tidal Baths Design & Construct Contract and authorise variations which may arise.

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Cr Barlow

Absent: Cr Raciti

Procedural Motion (Howard/Clay)

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

Motion Carried

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

Against Motion: Nil

Absent: Cr Raciti

Meeting closed at 10.38pm.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Item #	Speaker	Suburb
Item 11:	Cato Strachan-Brown	Lewisham
Item 14:	Mark Driscoll	Darling Point
Item 40:	Michael Poonan	Earlwood
	Caitlin Roche	Concord West
	Francesco Dickman	Earlwood
Item 42:	Campbell Knox	Ashfield
	Liem Grimes	Newtown
Item 45:	Katie Green	Potts Point
Item 46:	Brian Keogh	Earlwood
Item 55:	Melissa Ashton-Garard	Balmain East
	Frank A McHugh	Leichhardt
	Andrew Mainsbridge	Roseville
	Ballanda Sack	Haberfield
	Carina Hall	Rozelle

Unconfirmed Minutes from the Ordinary Council meeting held on 9 December 2025.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 1
Subject: PUBLIC EXHIBITION - TEMPE LANDS MASTERPLAN
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council endorse the exhibition of the draft Tempe Lands Masterplan (former Sydney Gateway Site) for a period of 28 days.**
 - 2. That Council receive a report on the outcomes of the community engagement by the May 2026 Council meeting.**
-

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West
- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 3: Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has handed back parkland at Tempe Reserve that it had previously used to support the completion of the Sydney Gateway project. As part of the handover, Council is expected to receive \$4.25 million from TfNSW for future parkland embellishment.

The draft Tempe Lands Masterplan has now been completed and includes a vision for the area which includes community-based recreation and environmental embellishments as follows:

- A new separated and enclosed off-leash area for larger and smaller dogs.
- Sports Courts (intended for 5-a-side soccer) for community recreation use to be managed by Council
- Amenities building to support future recreational use of the site
- Council Indigenous nursery to replace the Addision Road Nursery

A detailed cost assessment for the draft masterplan estimates total delivery costs at approximately \$15 million. Given expected funding, initial priority would be given to constructing the sports courts and dog off-leash areas with further items considered as a part of the annual budget planning process.

Council is requested to endorse the public exhibition of the draft Masterplan for a period of 28 days. By May 2026, the draft Masterplan will be presented back to Council for consideration for adoption.

BACKGROUND

On 6 November 2019, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) formally notified Council of its intention to acquire parkland at Tempe Reserve for the purposes of the Sydney Gateway project.

The specific areas occupied for the Sydney Gateway project are outlined as follows:

- Council's former investment land (a container yard) at Swamp Road, Tempe;
- Council's depot at Swamp Road Tempe;
- Part of Tempe Reserve, including the former golf driving range and dog off-leash area.

The project was concluded in February 2025 and Council was handed back a land area of approximately 3.57 hectares of open space for future parkland and recreational embellishment.

As a part of the gateway agreement, \$4.25 million is expected from TfNSW for parkland embellishment.

The below image shows the site Area for Masterplanning & Future Open Space Embellishment.



DISCUSSION

Council's appointed consultant, Group GSA has worked in partnership with Council officers to deliver the Tempe Lands Masterplan (*refer to Attachment 1*).

The masterplan proposes a vision for the area including:

1. Existing conservation area retained and protected
2. Lori Short Reserve retained
3. Existing vegetated embankments retained
4. Existing access road and car parking retained
5. Existing leachate plant retained
6. Arrival plaza
7. Amenities building, serving both the nursery and adjacent sports courts, which includes associated storage and office space.
8. 4 New Sports Courts (intended for 5-a-side soccer) managed by Council, with a dugout shelter per court. Each court will have a Keypad access and lights.
9. Fenced off-leash dog area for large dogs

10. Fenced off-leash dog area for small dogs
11. Future car park extension as required
12. Existing shared path link retained
13. New shared path link
14. Container kiosk area
15. A Council nursery and environmental education centre positioned near the centre of the site.
16. Secure Wires wildlife rehabilitation facility
17. Rain garden to capture and treat surface water before entering conservation area
18. Existing pedestrian pathways upgraded to improve accessibility
19. Potential area for microforest / biodiversity area expansion or future nursery expansion
20. Potential micro-forest / wind break

This masterplan option offers the community a substantial, centrally connected open space that is designed to meet identified community recreation requirements while enhancing ecological outcomes.

It is envisaged that the sports courts and dog off leash areas would form part of the initial high priority items for construction.

Fenced Dog Park

The masterplan features a fully fenced and distinct off-leash area designed to accommodate both small and large companion animals. The proposed space is notably larger than the existing off-leash area located in the lower section of Tempe Reserve which it will replace.

Future Indigenous Nursery proposal.

The masterplan acknowledges the key priority biodiversity zone which currently exists on the western side of the site. In response to Council's adopted biodiversity strategy, the master plan proposes a new community-based indigenous plant nursery, replacing the leased Addison Road nursery. Furthermore, the masterplan strengthens Council's partnership with WIRES and creates opportunities for collaboration with educational providers such as Indigogo. It also allows for the potential inclusion of a small nursery retail area and a container kiosk operated by a third party, as well as the possible development of a small educational learning room for school students in the future.

Any approved nursery development in the future should also provide for the storage of essential park operational materials, including dedicated mulch and soil storage bays, modelled after those currently in use at the Environmental Hub in Summer Hill.

Next Steps

Council is requested to endorse the public exhibition of the draft Masterplan for a period of 28 days and request feedback from the community on its contents. By May 2026, the draft Masterplan will be presented back to Council for consideration for adoption.

Stakeholder engagement will be facilitated through Council's YourSay Engagement Platform. On-site signage will be installed to promote the community engagement process, and flyers will be distributed via a letterbox drop to neighbouring households.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A comprehensive cost analysis of the draft masterplan has been completed considering the key design improvements and delivery options for the parkland over the lifespan of the Plan. The cost estimates for the delivery of the masterplan have been estimated in the order of \$15M.

The expected funds through the TfNSW agreement are capped at \$4.25 million. Half of this funding has been received by Council, with the remaining \$2.125 million to be paid by TfNSW on Council providing evidence that the construction has physically commenced by January 2030.

The consideration of the listed projects would form part of the annual budget planning process.

Grant funding opportunities will also be explored, once conceptual plans are completed and further detailed costing works are completed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Tempe Lands Master Plan



TEMPE LANDS MASTER PLAN

Prepared for Inner West Council
Date: July 2025

GROUP SA



GroupGSA acknowledges First Nations peoples and their continuing connection to land, waters and culture, because we strongly believe in reconciliation and collaborative engagement for a better future.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, whose knowledge, traditions and stories guide custodianship on what will always be their ancestral lands.

Rev.	Purpose of Issue	Date	Prepared By	Checked By
A	Council review and internal consultation	07/07/2025	YR / AH	AH
B	Internal Engagement	09/09/2025	YR / AH	AH
C	Final report	17/09/2025	YR / AH	AH
D	Final report update	14/10/2025	YR / AH	AH

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
01 CONTEXT	3
1.1 Country	4
1.2 Regional context	5
1.3 Local context	6
1.4 Historical context	7
1.5 Policy framework	8
02 ANALYSIS	11
2.1 Existing character	12
2.2 Landform & access	13
2.3 Ecology	14
2.4 Site analysis	15
03 RETURN BRIEF	17
3.1 Briefed inclusions	18
3.2 Futsal court requirements	20
3.3 Futsal facility scale studies	21
3.4 Nursery scale studies	23
3.5 WIREs facility	24
3.6 Container cafe	25
04 SITE LAYOUT TESTING	26
4.1 Proposed Master Plan	27



Item No: C0226(1) Item 2
Subject: PUBLIC EXHIBITION - CAMPERDOWN PARK DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management and Masterplan for Camperdown Park for a period of 42 days.
2. That Council receive a report on the outcomes of the community engagement by the June 2026 Council meeting.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 3: Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities
- 5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents for public exhibition the draft Plan of Management and Masterplan for Camperdown Park, guiding development of the park over the next ten years.

In 2016/17, Camperdown Park underwent \$3.6 million in upgrades including new sports lighting, field improvements, new amenities, enhanced playgrounds, pathway upgrades, landscaping, and memorial restoration.

Looking ahead, the draft Plan of Management proposes further improvements, with a focus on delivering a new inclusive playground and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub.

As the appointed Crown land manager, Council has received approval to publicly exhibit the Plan of Management. Community engagement will be supported through Council’s YourSay platform, on-site signage, and letterbox flyers delivered to neighbouring households to ensure extensive input into the park’s future direction.

A detailed cost analysis estimates that the master plan will require approximately \$3.13 million over the lifespan of the Plan. Funding for the new inclusive playground and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub is already set aside in the 2025/26 capital works budget, while unfunded projects totalling around \$577,800 would be considered as part of future annual budget planning.

BACKGROUND

A Park Plan of Management (POM) is a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park. It will be used to inform the development of the park over the next ten years. The associated Masterplan is a design report outlining the actions required for improvement, intended to guide the physical upgrade of the parkland over the next ten years. It does this by suggesting how the strategies set out in the Plan of

Management can be translated into site specific improvement opportunities for use and enjoyment of the park.

Camperdown Park is located in the suburb of Camperdown and is zoned RE1 Public Recreation in the Inner West Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2022. The Park is located on majority Crown Land with Inner West Council appointed as the Crown land manager.

Camperdown Park is bound by Pidcock St to the north; Mallet St to the east; Fowler St to the south; and Australia St to the west.

Key features of the land area include a rugby and cricket field, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground, amenities building with changing rooms, restaurant premises and urban farm, a museum, and a gallery space.

Previous Master Planning

In 2014, a master plan was created to improve Camperdown Park. Following this, adopted master plan upgrades were delivered in 2016–17, with \$3.6 million invested in improvements to the parkland. These works included:

- Installation of new sports lighting to meet training and match play standards, and control 'light spill' to adjoining residences
- Refurbishment of the sporting ground with new turf surface, irrigation, drainage, improving the standard and performance of the field for local sport, in particular cricket and rugby union.
- Demolition of the former grandstand and replacement by a new amenities building with two accessible public toilets, sports change rooms, kiosk, storage and community function room.
- Development of a new playground for younger and older children, and a 'youth zone' with removable art walls, outdoor table tennis tables and upgraded basketball courts.
- Creation of a new loop pathway- installed around the sporting ground and upgrade of all pathways and lighting.
- Installation of a new sports ground picket fence around the sporting ground.
- New tree and garden plantings were actioned throughout the parklands.
- WWI memorial Restoration.
- Upgraded Park Seating and picnic areas.

Since 2017, the parkland has been working well as a combined community and recreation precinct, supporting a mix of informal community recreation as well as organised sport, including rugby union and cricket.

DISCUSSION

The draft Plan of Management acknowledges the successful implementation of the 2016-17 master plan works and seeks to build upon these achievements by prioritising the creation of a new inclusive playground within the parkland. Importantly, it also highlights the development of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub as a key recommendation of the master planning process.

The draft Plan of Management also includes a number of additional parkland improvements which have been identified by Council officers for further consultation with the community. These initiatives have been included on the master plan (Page 52 of the attached Plan of Management).

Overall, the new current master plan initiatives include the following parkland opportunities :

- The provision of a cultural hub for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, through revitalising and restoring community facility buildings and forecourt areas.
- Providing an inclusive playground
- Relocating the existing table tennis tables to the active side of parkland
- Improving access into the parkland from Australia Street
- Restoring the war memorial and improving garden access
- Exploring revitalisation of art walls and further youth activation
- Future live music events
- Improvements to bleacher seating including shade provision
- Replacement of the carpark fencing with bollards in keeping with the parkland style
- Improving signage strategy at all park entrances including park identifiers and wayfinding
- Installation of a drinking fountain at the Fowler Street Edge of the parkland
- Exploring the full renovation of the museum building as a community facility.

Crown Lands Approval

Council is the appointed Crown land manager of Camperdown Park and is required to manage Camperdown Park in accordance with the legislation and conditions imposed by the Minister administering the CLMA (Crown Lands Management Act).

The proposed Plan of Management for Camperdown Park was approved by the Crown for Community exhibition on 4 December 2025.

Next Steps

Council is requested to endorse the public exhibition of the Plan of Management for a period of 42 days and request feedback from the community on the contents of the draft plan of management and its associated master plan. By June 2026, the draft Plan of Management will be presented back to Council for consideration for adoption.

Stakeholder engagement will be facilitated through Council's YourSay Engagement Platform. On-site signage will be installed to promote the community engagement process, and flyers will be distributed via a letterbox drop to neighbouring households.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A comprehensive cost analysis of the Plan of Management masterplan has been completed considering the key design improvements and delivery options for the parkland over the lifespan of the Plan. The cost estimates for the delivery of the masterplan over a ten-year period have been estimated in the order of \$3.13M.

Funding for the new inclusive playground and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub is already set aside in the 2025/26 capital works budget, while unfunded projects totalling around \$577,800 would be considered as part of future annual budget planning.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Draft Plan of Management Camperdown Park

Item No: C0226(1) Item 3
Subject: POST EXHIBITION - POCKET AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

Item 3

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the Pocket and Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management for community land vested in its care and control.
 2. That Council endorse the referral of the Pocket and Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management to the Minister for adoption in respect of the 19 Pocket and Neighbourhod Parks that are vested as crown land.
-

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West
- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities
- 5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the outcomes of community engagement in relation to the exhibition of a draft Plan of Management for Council's Neighborhood and Pocket Parks. The final draft plan of management provides an integrated framework for the management of pocket and neighborhood parks across the Inner West Local Government area.

Community feedback on the Plan of Management is provided in the report with the majority of feedback being supportive of the plan. A total of 144 people made direct submissions to the draft Plan of Management.

At the request of Council, a site-specific engagement meeting was also held at Albert Parade Reserve. The insights gained from this session are now being used to inform and shape planned improvements to the parkland, which are scheduled for implementation in 2026.

The Plan of Management provides specific site recommendations in selected parks for the development of sensory gardens in each of Council's ward areas.

Funding for projects in the draft Plan of Management will be considered as a part of the annual budget planning process each year. It is worth noting that the listed upgrades for smaller pocket parks typically range from \$160,000 to \$180,000 per park, and typically up to \$330,000 for larger neighborhood parks.

BACKGROUND

The Inner West Council area has a total of 214 Neighborhood and Pocket Parks. These small pockets of open space are integral to the vibrancy and character of the Inner West Local Government Area and highly valued by local residents. They are cherished gathering spaces within our community, playing a vital role in fostering social connections and contributing significantly to a sense of community and place.

As the population of the Inner West grows into the future, the significance of Neighborhood and Pocket Parks within our community will become even more pronounced. These parks are vital to the health and well-being of residents, offering essential spaces for recreation, fostering community connections, and being thoughtfully managed and designed to meet the specific needs of local users.

These parks feature landscaped areas with well-maintained turf, dedicated children’s play zones, built structures such as pergolas, pedestrian pathways, and park furniture. Where appropriate, they may also include community gardens and designated biodiversity zones.

Pocket Parks are generally smaller than 0.2ha and provided within a 200m walkable catchment of residential dwellings.

Neighbourhood parks are generally 0.5 – 2 ha and provided within a 400m walkable catchment of residential dwellings.

There are a number of relevant Council resolutions which have been considered as part of the development of Council’s Neighborhood and Pocket Parks Plan of Management. These resolutions are summarised as follows:

At the Council meeting held on 8 August 2023, Council resolved the following in part:

1. *That Council publicly exhibit the Draft Plan of Management for Neighbourhood and Pocket Parks for a period of 42 days and seek public feedback on the proposed plan of management and master plan for the parks.*
3. *That prior to placing on public exhibition, staff incorporate the establishment of sensory gardens in suitable pocket parks as part of table 6.1:3 An Inclusive and Collective Design, in accordance with the councillor priority listed in the Community Strategic Plan adopted in June 2022 (4.3.2)*

At the Council meeting held on 22 October 2024, Council resolved the following in part:

1. *That in each ward, Council incorporates a sensory garden in a pocket park for local children and residents with neurodiversity.”*

At the Council meeting held on 3 December 2024, Council resolved the following in part:

2. *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”.*

As part of an integrated planning process, plazas and squares located off main streets in each of Council’s main village centers have also been included in the draft plan of management. This inclusion allows for informed decision-making on future public domain improvements to these areas and assists with a management framework for these public spaces.

DISCUSSION

Council officers have developed an overarching Draft Plan of Management for the future governance, management and development of Neighborhood and Pocket Parks as attached.

The key objectives of the Plan of Management are to:

- Identify the Inner West’s Neighborhood and Pocket Parks

- Provide an integrated approach specific to the management of Neighborhood and Pocket parks across the Inner West LGA
- Outline the current and future use, development and maintenance requirements
- Include measurable and defined deliverables linked to Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) as well as alignment with relevant Council adopted strategies and policies
- Accommodate Council's responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and Crown Land Management Act 2016.

Community Engagement

Tailored community engagement has been undertaken as part of the exhibition of a draft plan of management. Community views on the draft plan have been sought on current park management issues and importantly development opportunities as they relate to Neighborhood and Pocket Park improvements.

Between 9 October to 20 November 2023, the community was invited to provide feedback on the draft Neighborhood and Pocket Park Plan of Management. Flyers, posters and social media were utilised to promote the engagement events. During the engagement period 1,192 people visited the Your Say project page. The draft documents were downloaded a total of 1,070 times. A total of 13 participants completed the online survey, 144 responses were received on the online interactive map, 63 people attended one of the in-person sessions and 40 provided feedback via email.

The community engagement report is included as *Attachment 2* to this report.

In addition to online community engagement, a total of five on-site community engagement events were held across the ward areas for residents to provide face-to-face feedback to Council officers. These events were advised via park notices and Council's Your Say Inner West web page. Each engagement event received positive feedback and were well attended to by local residents and park users. Engagement was held at the following park locations:

Date	Park and suburb	Total attendees
Saturday 14 October 2023	Morton Park, Lewisham	8
	Allman Park, Ashfield	13
Saturday 21 October 2023	Orange Grove Plaza, Lilyfield	11
	Evan Jones Playground, Leichhardt	22
Saturday 28 October 2023	McNeilly Park, Marrickville	9

A total of 43 email submissions were received providing feedback on a total of 21 parks. In this regard, the following suggestions were received:

Park	Pertaining to	Total emails
Albert Parade Reserve 14 emails	Park upgrade including improvements to accessibility, play spaces and a request for a dog off-leash area.	12
	Lighting improvements within the parkland	1
	Retain rose garden for heritage character. Improve poor maintenance.	1
Balmain Cove & Elliott Park	Concerns for privacy and safety for properties which are adjacent to the park. Request consultation with private residences adjacent to the parks prior to any future development or management changes.	10
Hawthorne Parade Reserve	Non support for dog off-leash area	4

Evan Jones Playground	Non support for the the proposed dog off-leash area	2
	Support for the Dog off-leash area	1
Rotary Park	Comments on the Dog off-leash area	2
	Comments on Lighting needs	1
Thomas Street Reserve	Comments on the Fenced dog off-leash area	2
Bede Spillane Reserve	Comments on Lighting needs	1
Morton Park	Comments on the provision of Public toilets	1
Matt Hogan Reserve	Comments on the provision of Dog off-leash area	1
Hannan Reserve	Rationalise parking space, interest to lease small lawn area at the back of childcare centre	1
Bell Reserve & Explorers Park	Design tailored for individual site prioritising the site history. Request for Less play equipment and provision of a dog off leash area	1
Explorers Park	Comments in relation to park maintenance -Seating, bubbler, bin, toilets , White metal seats discoloured, patch up paths, different located seats, new planting	1
Crammond Park	Disagree on the provision of picnic facilities. Requests that Council address illegal dumping and graffiti issues, dog and kids' conflict	1
Montague Gardens	Request that Council consider upgrades to tennis court, preserving the heritage gates and pruning trees	1
Eve Sharpe Park	Comments on the Poor maintenance and condition of the park. Park is used as an off-leash park and its dark and uncared for. Pruning of the trees within the park was also requested.	1
McNeilly Park	Stormwater drainage issue needs to be addressed within the dog off leash area	1
Maundrell Park	Request for the provision of two BBQ facilities.	1
Enmore Dog Park	Commentary around the park layout-Trees should be outside of fence line; accessibility for wheelchairs in needed; The need for a double gate into the parkland; very few cyclists use; flippable dog bowl bubbler; lighting upgrade; simpler signs	1
Styles Street Reserve	Fencing along Styles St for safety; details of proposal of end of Styles Street; support planting but want to be sure no shade overcasting to 2 Styles St	1
Mayes Street Reserve	Commentary around the pedestrian crossing affecting car parking on Whites Lane	1

Additional Engagement - Albert Parade Reserve

Following the Council resolution in December 2024, community members were invited to share their feedback on the proposed improvements to Albert Parade Reserve. Additional, online engagement was held from 24 February to 20 March 2025 with a total of 351 people visiting the Your Say Inner West project page. A total of 14 participants completed the online survey in relation to park improvements. An onsite park engagement session was held with Council officers on the evening 4 March 2025 with a total of 23 people attending and providing feedback on proposed parkland improvements.

A full summary of this feedback along with a key recommendation for the development of a park master plan are outlined on Section C2 of the Plan of Management for the Neighbourhood and Pocket Parks (Attachment 1) and a Community engagement report for Albert Parade included as Attachment 3 to this report.

Following community feedback, a master plan is underway to upgrade the park, focusing on improving the playground and landscaping. The upgrades at Albert Parade Reserve are expected to be finished by June 2026.

Inclusion of Sensory Gardens

A sensory garden is a space which invites people to explore, touch, pick, smell and listen, to pay close attention and to interact with the world around them. A well-designed sensory garden connects people with a space. Sensory gardens are used in educational programs to aid learning or within care settings as a restorative or therapeutic tool.

Such spaces are often provided in a hospital, school, family home or care setting where they are designed with a specific group of people in mind. Such spaces can also be planned to be shared by the public in a park or community garden. Sensory gardens can be quiet places which are restful and calming or spaces which are designed to stimulate the senses, to spark adventure and interaction as well as recreational enjoyment.

Appendix E of the Neighborhood and Pocket Park Plan of Management includes a list of recommended sites for sensory gardens in pocket and neighborhood parks.

The recommended sites are as follows:

- *Birrung Park- Balmain*
- *Albert Parade Reserve-Ashfield*
- *Mallam Reserve-Dulwich Hill*
- *Crammond Park-Stanmore*
- *Simpson Park-St Peters*

Sensory gardens are also being planned for each new inclusive playground the Council is working on.

Crown Land

A total of 19 parks contained with the Neighborhood and Pocket Parks Plan of Management are vested as Crown Land, for which Council is the appointed Crown land manager under the Crown lands Management Act 2016. The Plan of Management must be referred to the Minister for Lands and Property for formal adoption. The Crown Land Management Act also requires that as part of the park Plan of Management planning process that Council seek and provide a copy of Native Title Managers Advice. This will also be sought prior to submitting to the Crown for adoption.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects recommended in the draft Plan of Management will be considered as part of the annual budget planning process. It is important to recognise that each Pocket and Neighborhood Park possesses distinct features which require varying degrees of funding. In this regard, Council should note that upgrades to smaller pocket parks typically range from \$160,000 to \$180,000 per park. Recent examples include Kensington Road Reserve (Ashfield), Wangal Nura Reserve (Leichhardt), and Norton Russell Reserve (Newtown). In contrast, refurbishing larger neighborhood parks can cost up to \$330,000, with Albert Parade Reserve in Ashfield serving as a representative benchmark.

Funding for projects in the draft Plan of Management will be considered as a part of the annual budget planning process each year.

Attachments 1-3 have been published separately in the Attachments Document on Council's Website

<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/council-meetings/current-council-meetings>

ATTACHMENTS

1. [⇒](#) Pocket and Neighborhood Parks Plan of Management – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
2. [⇒](#) Community Engagement Report Pocket and Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
3. [⇒](#) Community Engagement Report Albert Parade Reserve – **Published Separately on Council's Website**

Item No: C0226(1) Item 4
Subject: MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE - REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Major Capital Projects Committee which includes the appointment of the Director Property and Major Projects as a non-voting member, consistent with the practices of similar committees.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its February 2025 meeting, Council endorsed a revised organisational structure which created the Director Property and Major Projects role. This role oversees all major capital projects in Council.

In response, a review recommends updating the Major Capital Projects Committee's Terms of Reference to appoint this Director as a non-voting member, providing expert guidance and aligning practices with similar committees. The Director will also handle secretariat and administrative duties, while the Secretary ensures accurate recordkeeping. These changes aim to strengthen the Committee's oversight and governance of major projects.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 18 February 2025, Council considered a review of the Organisational Structure and subsequently endorsed a new organisational structure of five Directors and General Counsel reporting to the General Manager. This new organisational structure included the creation of the position of Director Property and Major Projects.

The Director Property and Major Projects is responsible for all major capital projects for the Council and is responsible for most projects reported to the Major Capital Projects Committee. This responsibility includes projects such as the Leichhardt Oval upgrades, LPAC upgrades and the Henson Park upgrade.

Given this change in structure, the Committee's Terms of Reference is recommended to be updated to further strengthen the Committee's ability to discharge its function of monitoring and progressing the compliance of Major capital projects.

DISCUSSION

A review of the Committee's Terms of Reference has indicated that there would be benefits to the appointment of the Director Property and Major Projects as a non-voting member of the Committee to provide guidance, advice and opinion to the Committee and inform its discussions and recommendations to Council.

This change will better enable the Committee to carry out its responsibilities to review, discuss, and make recommendations to Council on all major capital projects, as well as to monitor the progress and compliance of these initiatives. Additionally, it aligns the Committee's practices with those of similar committees.

The Terms of Reference have also been updated to clarify that:

- The Director of Property and Major Projects is responsible for the provision of secretariat and administrative support to the Committee; and
- The Secretary is responsible for ensuring all Committee agendas, minutes and reports are recorded in Council's corporate record keeping system in accordance with Council's records management policies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Download](#) Draft Revised - Terms of Reference Major Capital Projects Committee

Item No: C0226(1) Item 5
Subject: MARRICKVILLE PARKLANDS AND GOLF COURSE UPGRADE
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council agree to act as Project Sponsor for the Marrickville Golf Club community infrastructure project for the purposes of the Australian Government’s Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program (MLCIP).
2. That Council authorise the General Manager (or delegate) to submit the MLCIP funding application, and, if successful, enter into a Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth and undertake all compliance, reporting, audit and milestone payment obligations.
3. That Council support the establishment of a back-to-back agreement between Council and Marrickville Golf Club, to be finalised prior to execution of any Commonwealth funding agreement, setting out governance, project scope, program and milestones, budget and contingencies, procurement and probity, reporting, risk allocation, and insurance and indemnity arrangements.
4. That Council note that the back-to-back agreement will provide for milestone payments to the Club only after milestones are achieved, evidence is provided, and corresponding Commonwealth payments are received by Council.
5. That Council endorse the provision of in-kind Council officer support as necessary to facilitate the successful delivery of the project.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

- 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Government announced a \$6.05 million funding commitment for the upgrade of Marrickville Golf Club on 27 April 2024. On 2 October 2025, the Club was formally invited by the Department of Infrastructure to apply for this funding under the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

This report assesses the potential impacts of the proposed Marrickville Golf Club (MGC) scope of works. This includes Club Precinct Refurbishment, Stormwater Harvesting, and Botanical Garden / Biodiversity. This is consistent with the Marrickville Parklands and Plan of Management (PoM).

The proposals enhance accessibility, increase community life opportunities, promote water security, and significantly improve biodiversity and educational resources, all while maintaining the site’s primary function as an 18-hole publicly accessible golf course.

As a non-government entity, MGC is required to identify a project sponsor, and has formally requested that Council act in this capacity. In agreeing to this request, Council, as the project sponsor will be responsible for signing and submitting the MLCIP application to the Department for assessment, entering into a funding agreement if the application is successful, and managing financial and reporting obligations and payment milestones in accordance with the agreement.

As project sponsor, Council will be responsible for meeting all project costs as they fall due, including making payments to contractors and consultants. Council will fund these costs upfront and will be reimbursed in full in accordance with agreed milestones set out in the funding agreement.

Council's role as project sponsor does not involve a financial contribution to the project beyond the temporary cash flow impact associated with upfront payments, together with officer time and administrative oversight. All eligible project expenditure will be recovered through reimbursement.

BACKGROUND

The Marrickville Golf Club (MGC) operates on land comprising both Council-owned areas and Crown land managed by Council for the golf links, with the clubhouse located on Crown land. The Club holds a lease with Council for the golf links and a separate lease with Crown Lands for the clubhouse.

The Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course PoM (endorsed March 2021) is the principal guiding document directing the future planning, management, and use of the area over the next 10 years. The PoM aims to deliver balanced outcomes that facilitate multipurpose infrastructure and use for the golf course, all park users, and the environment. The land is classified as 'community land' and must be kept for the use of the general community.

Council previously resolved that the Marrickville golf course should remain 18 holes and publicly accessible, and that Council should enter into a 21-year lease agreement with the golf club, which was executed in April 2022 and expires in April 2043.

On 27 April 2025 the federal government announced that it would provide \$6,050,000 to the upgrade of the Marrickville Golf Club.

At the Council meeting held on 20 May 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council welcome the commitment of the re-elected Federal Labor Government in securing the future of the Marrickville Golf club and sporting precinct with \$6.05 million investment towards community facility upgrades, within the parklands.*
2. *That Council engage an architect to develop the plans required to deliver the grant funding and partner with Marrickville Golf Club in facilitating detailed design, approvals, project management and grant funding administration.*
3. *That Council staff bring a report back to the next possible Council meeting of the potential impacts of these proposed works on the endorsed Plan of Management for the Marrickville Golf Club and surrounding area.*
4. *That Council engage in additional community consultation about how this grant money can be best spent to benefit the entire Inner West community that uses the Marrickville Golf Club and surrounding area.*

Following on from the funding announcement, on 2 October 2025, MGC received an application and submission guidelines (Attachment 1) from the Australian Government's

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts formally inviting the Club to apply for funding under the new Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program (MLCIP). This invitation requires MGC to submit a detailed application, including the proposed project scope, project plan, business case, concept designs, and cost estimate, for assessment by Infrastructure.

As a non-government entity, MGC is required to identify and partner with a project sponsor and has formally requested that Council act in this capacity. In agreeing to this request, Council, as the project sponsor, will be responsible for signing and submitting the MLCIP application to the Department for assessment and entering into a funding agreement with Infrastructure if the application is successful. Council will also be responsible for managing all financial and reporting obligations, including payment milestones, in accordance with the funding agreement.

Due to the short timeframe between receipt of the invitation and the original submission deadline of 1 December 2025, the Department has granted an extension of up to three months, moving the deadline to 1 March 2026. It is proposed to submit the application once Council has considered this report.

DISCUSSION

Marrickville Golf Club (MGC) have prepared a scope of works that includes three major components. These being:
 Project 1: Refurbishment of the Club precinct
 Project 2: Stormwater Harvesting
 Project 3: Botanical Garden and Biodiversity Area creation

The refurbishment of the Club precinct focuses on upgrading facilities including internal and external renovations to the Clubhouse and constructing new supporting club activities and new public amenities. MGC has engaged an architect to prepare a feasibility study including concept plans (Attachment 2) and a quantity surveyor to develop a detailed cost estimate which will form part of the funding application. In this regard, the scope is defined and analysed below with respect to the Endorsed Plan of Management.

The MGC Scope presents a comprehensive set of works that are consistent with the Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course Plan of Management.

The proposal is consistent with the Plan of Management (PoM) in that it supports the continued operation of the golf course and clubhouse. All built works occur within the existing club precinct and do not introduce new or incompatible activities. The proposed upgrades support the long-term viability and appropriate modernisation of community sporting infrastructure while maintaining the land’s primary public function.

The proposal satisfies PoM objectives to improve community life, social cohesion, and equity of access by expanding opportunities for community use and improving inclusive access to facilities. The adaptive reuse of existing buildings for community purposes, expansion of family-friendly areas, and provision of new accessible entry points enhance public benefit and ensure facilities can be used by a broader cross-section of the community, consistent with Council’s inclusion and accessibility principles.

The proposal also satisfies PoM objectives relating to the provision and maintenance of public infrastructure and balanced shared use of the parklands. Upgraded public amenities improve usability for park users, while the inclusion of facilities supporting existing recreational activities, such as on-leash dog walking, recognises current patterns of use and promotes harmonious multi-user outcomes without impacting core golf operations.

Environmental objectives of the PoM are addressed through the stormwater harvesting initiative and the establishment of a biodiversity area and native botanical garden. The stormwater works provide for water security that reduces reliance on environmentally sensitive water sources, while the biodiversity and botanical garden components enhance ecological values, strengthen habitat connectivity, and provide opportunities for environmental education and passive enjoyment. Collectively, the proposal advances the PoM's environmental stewardship, sustainability, and public benefit objectives.

Overall, the proposal demonstrates a high degree of consistency with the PoM and relevant strategic objectives. Subject to detailed design, environmental, and operational controls, the works are assessed as delivering positive social, environmental, and operational outcomes for the site.

It's worth noting that the proposed scope assists a number of other council resolutions regarding the Marrickville Golf Course.

It is recommended that Council supports the MGC Scope as it delivers upon the core objectives established in the Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course Plan of Management. These investments are projected to increase accessibility, improve community cohesion, and strengthen the ecological sustainability and financial viability of the Marrickville Golf Club and surrounding parklands over the next decade.

The MGC Scope addresses the creation of a Botanical Garden and Biodiversity Area, though the PoM includes comprehensive, ongoing ecological objectives related to tree assessment, strategy development, and site-wide weed removal that extend beyond the initial MGC scope infrastructure delivery.

The elements of the PoM that are outside the current scope are considered reasonable exclusions from the funding agreement. These will be the consideration of a future budget planning process.

Council's role as Project Sponsor

This section is extracted from the MCLIP guidelines and outlines the role and responsibilities of Inner West Council as a *Project Sponsor* under the Australian Government's Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program, where Council acts on behalf of a non-government applicant organisation.

Under the program guidelines, non-government organisations are required to be sponsored by an eligible government entity in order to apply for and deliver funded projects. As an Australian local government authority, Inner West Council is eligible to act as a Project Sponsor and, in doing so, assumes significant legal, financial, governance, and reporting responsibilities for the duration of the funding agreement.

Application and Assessment Responsibilities

As Project Sponsor, Council is responsible for managing the grant application process. This includes submitting the application and ensuring that all information provided is complete, accurate. A suitably authorised officer of Council, such as the General Manager or Chief Financial Officer, must formally endorse the application, confirming Council's support for the project and its capacity to meet all relevant costs.

Council also acts as the principal point of contact with the administering Department during the assessment process, including responding to requests for clarification or the provision of additional information.

Legal and Financial Accountability

If the project is approved, Inner West Council assumes full legal and financial accountability under the funding agreement. Council must be authorised to enter into a legally binding agreement on behalf of the sponsored organisation and is responsible for ensuring compliance with all contractual obligations.

Funding is generally provided in arrears and triggered by the achievement of agreed milestones. Accordingly, Council must have sufficient financial capacity to cash-flow project delivery and meet any costs not eligible for grant funding. Council will seek reimbursement for reasonable project management costs associated with the sponsorship role as part of the funding application.

Project Oversight, Management, Reporting and Compliance

Throughout the delivery phase, Inner West Council is responsible for overseeing project implementation and ensuring full compliance with funding conditions. This includes the timely submission of all required progress reports, milestone reports, and a final project completion report. Council must also provide financial declarations confirming that grant funds have been expended strictly in accordance with the funding agreement and participate in independent audited financial acquittals if required by the Department.

Council is required to facilitate any compliance audits, inspections, or site visits initiated by the Department and must promptly notify the Department of any significant changes to the project scope, delivery schedule, budget, or organisational circumstances that may affect successful project delivery.

An appropriately qualified and experienced Project Manager will need to be obtained to the project and will be responsible for the day-to-day management, coordination, and delivery of the project. Key responsibilities of the Project Manager include:

- Overseeing project planning, delivery, and scheduling to ensure milestones and timeframes are met
- Coordinating internal Council stakeholders, contractors, consultants, and external partners
- Monitoring project risks, issues, and dependencies and implementing mitigation strategies
- Ensuring compliance with funding agreement conditions, Council policies, and legislative requirements
- Managing project documentation, reporting, and records in line with governance standards
- Overseeing budget tracking and expenditure monitoring in collaboration with Council's finance team
- Acting as the primary point of contact between Council and the Department for all project-related matters
- Escalating material risks, variations, or delays through appropriate governance and approval pathways.

The Project Manager will work under Council's established project governance framework to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective delivery outcomes consistent with Inner West Council's strategic objectives and community expectations.

Communications and Acknowledgement of Funding

As Project Sponsor, Inner West Council is responsible for managing all public communications associated with the project in accordance with Australian Government requirements. This includes ensuring that appropriate acknowledgement of Commonwealth funding appears on all signage, promotional material, and public statements using approved branding guidelines. Council must also notify the Department of planned project milestones or public events and

provide reasonable opportunities for the relevant Minister or an authorised representative to attend.

Eligibility, Governance and Probity Requirements

Inner West Council must continue to meet all eligibility and probity requirements set out in the program guidelines for the duration of the funding agreement. This includes declaring any actual or perceived conflicts of interest at the time of application. Any conflicts that arise during project delivery must be disclosed as soon as practicable.

A governance framework will be put in place, including the creation of a Project Control Group chaired by a Council Manager or Director as Project Sponsor.

A Quantity Surveyor (QS) will be appointed to prepare cost estimates. The QS will also have an on-going role through the construction stages in assessing progress claims and variation costs, and monitoring cash flows.

A Risk Management Plan will be developed and monitored for the project.

Cost Management and Budget Variations

Council is responsible for delivering the project within the approved funding envelope. In the event of potential cost escalation or budget pressures:

- Forecast variances will be identified and reported as early as practicable
- Mitigation strategies will be explored, including scope prioritisation, resequencing of works, or operational efficiencies
- Any material variation to scope, budget, or delivery timeframes will be escalated through Council’s governance processes and, where required, formally notified to the Commonwealth for consideration and approval

Council does not anticipate a net financial contribution beyond the temporary cash-flow impact associated with upfront payments and the provision of in-kind officer support. All eligible project costs will be recovered in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement for the Marrickville Golf Club community infrastructure project will be undertaken as part of the statutory Development Application (DA) process, in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Inner West Council’s planning notification requirements.

Public engagement will occur during the formal exhibition of the DA, providing the community and relevant stakeholders with the opportunity to review the proposal and make submissions. This process will ensure transparency and enable consideration of matters such as design, scale, amenity, traffic, environmental impacts, and community benefit.

Stakeholders who may participate in the DA process include:

- Local residents and surrounding neighbourhood,
- Marrickville Golf Club members and users,
- Nearby community, recreational and sporting groups, and
- Relevant government agencies and authorities.

Ongoing communication with the community will also be provided through standard planning notifications and, if approval is granted, construction notices and updates in accordance with Council’s development consent conditions.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Council staff have advised the Club that an appropriate agreement must be established between Council and the Club before Council enters into any funding agreement with the Australian Government. This agreement will set out governance, risk management and indemnity arrangements.

If Council agrees to act as project sponsor for the Marrickville Golf Club (MGC) community infrastructure project, Council will be responsible for submitting the MLCIP application, entering into the funding agreement with the Commonwealth, and managing all compliance, reporting, audit and milestone payment obligations.

To ensure clear accountability, Council will enter into a back-to-back agreement with MGC that aligns with the Commonwealth funding requirements. This agreement will address project scope, program and milestones, budget parameters and contingencies, procurement and probity, governance and reporting, risk allocation, and insurance and indemnity arrangements, so the Club's obligations align with Council's obligations under the Commonwealth deed.

The agreement will provide that:

- Milestone payments are made only after milestones are achieved, evidence is provided, and corresponding Commonwealth payments are received by Council;
- Forecast cost overruns are promptly notified, with scope or budget changes requiring prior Council approval; and
- A Project Control Group, chaired by Council as Project Sponsor, oversees scope, cost, program, risk and quality, with Council approval required for decisions affecting the Commonwealth funding agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As Project Sponsor, Inner West Council will meet all approved project costs upfront, including payments to consultants, contractors, and funded project management resources. Eligible expenditure will be recovered from the Commonwealth in arrears upon the achievement and verification of agreed project milestones, in accordance with the Funding Agreement. Council will retain responsibility for supplier engagement, contract management, and invoice payment, with reimbursement occurring on a milestone basis.

Council will also provide the project management services required to deliver the project and to meet the governance, reporting, and compliance obligations of the Commonwealth funding agreement. These services will be delivered through the assignment of a suitably qualified Council Project Manager.

The cost of the Council Project Manager is an eligible project expense under the MLCIP and has been accounted for in the project budget. These costs have been agreed to by MGC as part of the funding application and assessment process and will be claimed through milestone-based reimbursement in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

Additional Council officer time required to support the project, including executive oversight, specialist technical input, corporate services support, and administrative assistance, will be provided as in-kind contributions. These resources will not be claimed as part of the grant funding and do not form part of the reimbursable project costs.]

A quantity surveyor has developed a cost estimate for the project as follows:

- Project 1: Refurbishment of the Club precinct — \$4.55 million
- Project 2: Stormwater harvesting — \$1.00 million
- Project 3: Botanical garden and biodiversity area creation — \$0.50 million

Total - \$6.05 million

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Program Guidelines - Major and Local Community Infrastructure v1.1
2. [↓](#) MGC Feasibility Study and Concept Plans

Item No: C0226(1) Item 6
Subject: AIRSPACE LAND ADJACENT TO ST PETERS TOWN HALL
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally write to Airservices Australia requesting the transfer of the land to Inner West Council, if the land has been deemed surplus to Airservices Australia’s operational requirements.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 17 June 2025, Council resolved to investigate opportunities for community use of the land adjacent to St Peters Town Hall. The property is currently owned by Airservices Australia, a Commonwealth Government agency responsible for air traffic management.

Airservices Australia have confirmed the land is being used for noise monitoring, however this is likely to be transferred to another location. If the noise monitoring equipment is moved then Airservices Australia are unlikely to require the land.

Our Fairer Future Plan 2025 and the Inner West Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2023 both highlight the need to upgrade St Peters Town Hall into a bigger community and cultural centre. Council’s Social Infrastructure Needs Study 2025 suggests the neighbouring land could help create larger library and cultural spaces.

Under NSW planning laws, Council cannot formally set aside or “reserve” land for future acquisition in its planning documents. This means Council can identify the need for land and propose uses in strategies but cannot legally protect or guarantee that land for compulsory purchase under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

It is recommended that Council write to ASA to request transfer of the land should it become surplus to operational needs.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 17 June 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council note there is a considerably sized block of land immediately adjacent to St Peters Town Hall owned by Air Services Australia (Commonwealth Government) that has remained vacant since the opening of the third runway at Sydney Airport.*
2. *That Council prepare a report to the August 2025 Council meeting:*
 - a) *Outlining possible uses for the land to maximise community benefit in the event that the Commonwealth Government agreed to transfer ownership of the land to Inner West Council; and*

- b) *Detailing the process by which Inner West Council might request a transfer of ownership of the land.*

The land adjacent to St Peters Town Hall, identified as 114 George Street, St Peters (the Property), is owned by Airservices Australia (ASA), a government-owned organisation responsible for safely and efficiently managing air traffic in the Commonwealth Government. The site forms part of the Sydney Noise and Flight Path Monitoring System and was established to monitor aircraft noise following the activation of the third runway at Sydney Airport. The site is 892 sqm.



Figure 1. Location of the Property and an aerial image showing the property adjacent to St Peters Town Hall



Figure 2. View across to the site, with St Peters Town Hall to the left

In response to the Council resolution, staff contacted Airservices Australia (ASA) in July 2025 to seek clarity on the future use of the property at 114 George Street, St Peters. On 11 July 2025 ASA advised that the site remains operational, with active equipment in use as part of aircraft noise monitoring. ASA confirmed that they are in the early stages of planning a relocation of this equipment. Once the relocation is complete and the new site is operational,

ASA will consider disposing of the property. However, the timing for this process remains unknown. Council officers continue to contact ASA on a regular basis to follow up on the status of the land.

DISCUSSION

Strategic Planning Context – Upgrade St Peters Town Hall

The Inner West Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan (2023) highlighted the need to upgrade St Peters Town Hall into a district-level community and cultural hub. This was supported by the Community Asset Needs Strategy (2021), endorsed by Council in December 2022. The project was initially costed at \$3.4 million (October 2021), with developers expected to contribute about \$1.1 million through future Section 7.11 contributions.

Since then, the State Government introduced planning reforms to boost housing near transport and town centres. In response, Council developed the Our Fairer Future Plan (OFFP), an alternative housing strategy for 31,000 new homes, endorsed in September 2025. To plan for this, Council commissioned a Social Infrastructure Needs Study (2025) linked to the OFFP.

The study recommends redeveloping St Peters Town Hall and confirms the need for a district-level facility. It also found that an extra 200 sqm of library space and 50 sqm of cultural space will be needed to meet future demand. However, the current site is too small to accommodate this, so using the adjacent Commonwealth land should be explored.

State Library NSW standards measure library size by internal floor area, covering collections, reading, study, technology, and program spaces. Outdoor areas like courtyards or gardens do not count toward the minimum size. The adjacent site has an area of approximately 892 sqm, which would satisfy the requirement for the expansion of the town hall by 250 sqm and provide for additional community space and outdoor landscaped areas that could be used by the local community.

However, any decisions about a project on this site should wait until the results of the Building our Community engagement are known.

Possible Acquisition Pathways

Under NSW planning laws, Council cannot formally set aside or “reserve” land for future acquisition in its planning documents. This means Council can identify the need for land and propose uses in strategies but cannot legally protect or guarantee that land for compulsory purchase under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

If Council intends to utilise the land, it should negotiate with ASA to secure either a transfer of the land to Council or a purchase or lease on terms acceptable to Council.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council formally write to ASA requesting the transfer of the land to Council, should the land be declared surplus to Airservices Australia’s operational requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Valuer General has provided a publicly advertised value of \$576,000 as of 1 July 2025. This is based on the current zoning of SP2.

The Inner West Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan (2023) identified the need to upgrade St Peters Town Hall into a district-level community and cultural hub. This need was also supported by the Community Asset Needs Strategy (2021), which was endorsed by Council in December 2022.

The upgrade project was initially costed at \$3.4 million in October 2021. Adjusted for inflation using the Australian Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index, this equates to an estimated cost of approximately \$4.1 million in current dollars, noting that actual construction costs may be higher due to elevated construction-sector inflation.

Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 developer contribution revenue could be applied in part to the delivery of the proposed capital works, at an apportioned rate of approximately 33 per cent of total project costs, with developers expected to contribute approximately \$1.1 million through future Section 7.11 contributions, and the balance to be funded by Council.

It should be noted that there are no funds currently allocated in the long term financial plan for these activities.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 7
Subject: RFT 21-25 – LEICHHARDT PARK AQUATIC CENTRE TENDER – STAGE 2
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the recommendations to be provided in the confidential report presented at the February Council meeting.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

- 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West
- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Inner West Council issued Request for Tender (RFT) 21-25 for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Stage 2 Upgrade on 12 September 2025 via VendorPanel, with the tender period closing on 7 November 2025. The submissions received have been under evaluation since closure, and the assessment process is nearing completion. A final tender evaluation report, including recommendations, will be submitted to Council as a late report for consideration at the February Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

With the existing 50m and dive pools reaching the end of their lifespan having been constructed in the early 1960s, Council is undertaking a comprehensive upgrade to revitalise the facility. This transformation will ensure the Aquatic Centre remains a vibrant and sustainable hub for the community for the next 50 years.

Stage 1 works, including the refurbishment of the Mushroom Pool, a new splash play area, and mechanical and HVAC upgrades commenced in April 2025 and are scheduled to be fully completed by mid-February 2026.

Stage 2 includes the construction of new heated 8-lane 50m pool (1.1 to 1.8m deep) and a heated 25m pool (from zero to 2.1m depth with movable floor and accessible device), spectator seating and shade structures, new first aid, lifeguard, and storage rooms, new fully electrified pool heating system and filtration plants for 50m and 25m pools, accessibility lift and upgraded stairs to access the rear turfed area along with re-turfing, accessible pathway link and new picnic shelter.

The design provides for greater circulation around the pools, and a greater user experience with seating and shade adjacent to the pools. The design also provides an additional lane to make the new pools an 8-lane pool in line with best practice.

From 30 March 2025 to 28 April 2025, Council sought expressions of interest from potential contractors for the LPAC 2 Project in order to identify selected tenderers for the RFT process.

The Expressions of Interest (EOI 02-25) for the Design and Construct (D&C) contract for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Stage 2 upgrade via VendorPanel was presented at the June 2025 Council meeting.

At the Council meeting held on 17 June 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council invites the following shortlisted Respondents to participate in the Request for Tender (RFT) process for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) Stage 2 Design & Construct (D&C) contract:*
 - a) *FDC Constructions (NSW) Pty Ltd*
 - b) *ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd*
 - c) *Lipman Pty Ltd*

2. *That Council advises the remaining Respondents that their EOI submissions have not been successful and will therefore not participate in the Stage 2 D&C RFT process.*

Following, the RFT process to select and appoint the principal design and construct contractor for the LPAC 2 Project was issued by Council on 12 September 2025 and tenders closed on 7 November 2025.

DISCUSSION

On Friday 12 September 2025, Inner West Council invited tenderers for RFT 21-25 for Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade (Stage 2) via VendorPanel. The advertisement period closed 7 November 2025.

The submissions have been in evaluation since this time and the conclusion of the process is imminent. As such, the evaluation report and associated recommendations will be provided as a late report for the February Council meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be provided as part of the late report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 8
Subject: POST EXHIBITION - SYDENHAM ROAD STRATEGY
Prepared By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve the Sydenham Road Strategy Short Term Grant Funded Works plan and Short Term Council Funded Works plan, subject to the following:
 - a) The parking plan, to be submitted to TfNSW for approval, be amended so that:
 - i. Two parking spaces along the frontage of 73 Sydenham Road (northern side of road) be retained as unrestricted parking
 - ii. Three spaces along the frontage of 46-50 Sydenham Road (southern side of the road) be retained as unrestricted parking
 - b) The Barclay Street carpark parklet is installed and may remain in place until works proceed for the future cycleway
 - c) Fairy lights are provisioned at select locations along the route and will remain operable until key elements of the Long Term Vision are complete.

2. That Council approve the Long Term Vision Plan as the basis for advocacy to TfNSW subject to the following amendments:
 - a) A separated cycleway is proposed for the entire length of the Sydenham Road Strategy
 - b) A new signalised intersection where Sydenham Road intersects with both Buckley Street and Fitzroy Street, incorporating pedestrian, cycling and vehicle safety improvements
 - c) Pedestrian, cycling and vehicle safe access improvements to the existing signalised intersection of Victoria and Sydenham Road.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sydenham Road Strategy proposes public domain improvements along Sydenham Road between Victoria Street and Sydenham Railway Station. In October 2025 Council approved for the public exhibition to proceed for the draft Sydenham Road Strategy. This report summarises the outcome of the community engagement and details future steps required to deliver the Strategy.

There are three distinct stages set for the delivery of the Sydenham Road Strategy, each with differing funding and timing arrangements. The first two stages are fully funded and are expected to commence construction in 2026, subject to State Government approvals. The final stage requires further design investigations, funding and all necessary approvals.

The Public Exhibition included all three stages and showed that there was strong support for the street beautification and pedestrian safety works, with mixed support for parking changes

and the cycleway proposal. The online survey showed that 77% of responses supported the draft Sydenham Road Strategy.

This report recommends that Council approve for the first two short term stages of Sydenham Road Strategy, as amended based on feedback from the public exhibition. These amendments include changes to short term parking and the provision of trial parklet. The report also recommended that Council approve the long term vision plan, with further investigations and approvals required for the extension of the cycleway and safety improvements at key intersections.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 24 October 2024, Council resolved the following in part:

1. *That Council commence work on a Sydenham Road Strategy, with the objective of improving walkability, traffic and safety on Sydenham Road between Victoria Road and Sydenham Station.*
2. *That the Sydenham Road Strategy provide detailed designs, plans and projects to resolve the following issues:*
 - a) *Resolving parking issues;*
 - b) *Improving lighting;*
 - c) *Upgrading footpaths;*
 - d) *Investigating new active transport links;*
 - e) *Improving safety at key intersections, including Sydenham Road at Victoria Road, Fitzroy Street and Buckley Street;*
 - f) *Improving wayfinding to support local businesses;*
 - g) *Poorly managed street trees*

At the Council meeting held on 23 September 2025, Council resolved the following in part:

7. *That Council, given the funding commitment from the State Government, and following a further assessment of costs for the Cooks River Lighting project, reallocate any surplus funding initially dedicated to the project in the Inner West Council’s operational budget to fund the upgrade of lighting, footpaths, safety upgrades and other infrastructure as part of the Sydenham Road Strategy.*

At the Council meeting held on 28 October 2025, Council resolved:

1. *That Council publicly exhibit the draft Sydenham Road Strategy (Attachments 1 and 2 of the report) for a period of 28 days and seek community feedback on the proposed Strategy.*
2. *That following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the draft Sydenham Road Strategy be brought back to Council for consideration and adoption.*
3. *That Council investigate additional funding sources for long term works, including developer contributions and State and Federal grants, and include this information when the Draft Strategy returns to Council.*
4. *That as part of the consultation, businesses along Sydenham Road are directly engaged and notified by letter.*
5. *That Council seek an urgent meeting with Transport for NSW and the Member for Summer Hill to provide an update on the Strategy and to progress those elements that require State Government agency concurrence and funding, particularly an*

additional crossing at Buckley Street, traffic lights at Fitzroy Street and a potential cycleway.

6. *That Council staff investigate ways to proactively encourage existing and future businesses to incorporate outdoor dining and/or parklets on Sydenham Road and to include this information when the Draft Strategy returns to Council.*
7. *That Council earmark a mural in the next round of the Perfect Match program for a property in the study area for the Sydenham Road Strategy.*
8. *That Council officers investigate the feasibility of installing fairy lights in the mature trees in the precinct area included in the Strategy and include this information when the Draft Strategy returns to Council.*
9. *That in addition to the community engagement strategies stipulated in the report, Council advertise the exhibition period via social media.*

Study area

The Sydenham Road Strategy study area shown in the figure below is focused on the 600 metre Sydenham Road corridor between Victoria Road and Railway Parade and considers connecting side streets.



Sydenham Road is high-traffic state road, providing a critical east-west link connecting Dulwich Hill, through the north end of Marrickville, to Sydenham, St Peters and beyond.

Previous Community Engagement

In March and April 2025 Council undertook early community engagement that included a letterbox drop to residents and businesses within 800m of the study area, door knocking of businesses, a business workshop, a community pop-up event as well as a community walkshop and co-design workshop in accordance with TfNSW grant requirements.

Key findings showed there was community support for pedestrian safety improvements, addressing issues with parking management and creating an attractive streetscape environment through artwork, furniture and planting installations.

Available Funding

In early 2025 Council was successful in gaining \$1million in Transport for NSW (TfNSW) funding under the reVITALise program for short term streetscape improvements in the Sydenham Road Strategy study area.

The reVITALise grant funding created an opportunity to deliver certain short term works that addressed a number of the objectives within the Sydenham Road Strategy.

In September 2025 Council resolved to reallocate surplus funding from the Cooks River Lighting project. These funds are considered sufficient to deliver all remaining short term works within the Sydenham Road Strategy.

Project Staging

The Sydenham Road Strategy has been staged for the purposes of implementation. The staging accommodates for the various funding, timing and approvals required for the proposed works. Below is a summary of the three stages:

- *Short term grant funded works.* Includes improvements to footways, furnishings, planting, pavement art and key activation zones on the north side of Sydenham Road between Fitzroy Street and Shirlow Street.
- *Short term Council funded works.* Includes further improvements to paving, furnishings, pavement art, planting, pedestrian crossings, timed parking and activation zones beyond the Short term grant funded works area. This includes works from Victoria Road to Sydenham Station on the north side of Sydenham Road, and improvements from Sydney Street to Railway Parade on the south side of Sydenham Road.
- *Long term works.* Includes additional improvements to footways, furnishings and landscaping of the remaining parts of the study area. It also encompasses further TfNSW works including pedestrian crossings at Buckley St, a dedicated cycleway and signalised traffic lights at the Fitzroy Street and Sydney Road intersections. As these works are on a State Road they require support and funding from TfNSW.

DISCUSSION

Community engagement

Council exhibited the Sydenham Road Strategy from 24 November to 22 December 2025. The community was notified via letterbox drop and social media posts and 102 people attended in person pop-up events held on 10 and 13 December 2025. Businesses along Sydenham Road were door knocked on 10 December 2025.

More than 1509 properties were letterboxed, including owners living outside the area. There were 57,200 people reached via social media with 879 likes and 116 shares. During the engagement period 1,770 people visited the Your Say project page, and 82 participants completed the online survey and a further 22 provided feedback via email.

The community engagement revealed that there is strong support for the street beautification and pedestrian safety works, with mixed support for parking changes and the cycleway proposal. For those that completed the online survey 77% supported the draft Sydenham Road Strategy and 23% were not in support.

Some members of the community chose to provide feedback via email, and sentiment analysis of emails finds that 12 were in support of the Strategy and 8 emails had a mixed response with support for some features and objections to others. The themes and issues raised in the email submissions mirror those received in the online survey via Your Say Inner West. Two emails were stakeholder submissions.

Key issues raised and suggestions for amendment include:

- Strong support for proposed footpath renewals and street beautification works.
- Strong support for improvements to pedestrian safety. This included new pedestrian crossings on various side streets along Sydenham Road and intersection upgrades at the Fitzroy Street and Sydney Road intersections; a pedestrian crossing at the intersection with Barclay Street. There was also a request for a review of the signal phasing of the Victoria and Sydenham Roads intersection to improve pedestrian access and vehicle turning movements.
- Objections from local businesses particularly regarding changes to reduce the amount of long stay parking.
- Support from businesses and residents for increased “kiss and ride” and short stay parking opportunities.
- Support from residents and commuters for changes that prioritise active transport improvements and pedestrian safety and reduced vehicle speeds.
- Concerns about conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians along the proposed 2.0m wide shared path identified in the short term works.
- Requests that the separated cycleway proposal in the long term vision is prioritised and brought forward and expanded to cover the full length of the corridor from Victoria Road to Sydenham Station
- Support for lighting upgrades as a part of the pedestrian safety improvements
- Requests for more bins and bubblers to be installed
- Requests for better graffiti management

Parklets Along the Sydenham Road Corridor

As Sydenham Road is a State Road, TfNSW are required to approve any proposal for a parklet placed in the parking lane of Sydenham Road. Existing clearway parking controls prevent the installation of parklets on the southern side of Sydenham Road. It is possible to replace on street parking with a parklet on the northern side, however it is expected that TfNSW would not support such a proposal due to the potential impact on the adjacent travel lane.

Considering the need, and the viability of parklets, it is proposed that Council encourage business along the Sydenham Road corridor to utilise their building setback areas in lieu of parklets. The strategy also encourages this by proposing a more attractive paving and furniture treatments near businesses including café’s, art galleries, gyms and breweries where warranted.

In addition, the Strategy as exhibited has an identified site for a temporary parklet to be installed in the Barclay Street carpark, occupying 5 parking spaces. Given the high level of concern raised about availability of parking, it is recommended that the parklet proposed in the Barclay Street carpark is a temporary initiative, and this parking is then re-provisioned to minimise the impact of the cycleway proposed in the long term works. There is also some potential for parklets to be established on side streets that intersect Sydenham Road, however the same concern applies about loss of parking for the future cycleway and therefore they are not recommended at this time.

It is recommended that Council retain the proposed parklet in the Barclay Street carpark as an interim activation measure until works on the future cycleway proceeds, and that this is delivered under the Short Term Council funded work scope.

Fairy lights

Fairy lights can serve as an intervention to lift the appeal of the public domain. They can be strongly favoured by the community given the immediate impact they have when installed.

As Sydenham Road continues to transform and evolve, the installation of fairy lights to provide an immediate lift to street appeal and encourage further activation is considered a viable option whilst and until the majority of elements of the long term works are completed.

These lights are best placed in the large mature trees near planned activation zones found on the northern side of Sydenham Road between Fitzroy and Shirlow Streets. The fairy lights can be delivered within the Short Term Grant funded works.

The design brief for these short term works has been amended to include this lighting in the delivery scope. Adequate project funds will be set aside to fund an allowance to support the ongoing provision of the fairy lights whilst they remain in place as an interim measure.

Amendments to the exhibited plans

Short term grant funded works

There are no traffic or parking related works proposed in the short term grant funded works. Council will investigate opportunities to install bins and bubblers as a part of these works. The final street furniture selection will be consistent with those installed in recent main street projects.

No changes have been made to the Sydenham Road Strategy Short Term Grant Funded Works area from the public exhibition feedback. It is recommended that Council adopt this plan, and the project proceed immediately to final approvals and for construction to commence as a priority in 2025/26 in keeping with grant conditions.

Short term Council funded works

The public exhibition revealed that business and the community are concerned about the availability of parking. Although the proposed works will not reduce the number of parking spots, the length of stay was to be reduced to increase parking turnover.

Given some concerns raised by businesses regarding the need for all day parking for their business to operate, further consideration is necessary to strike a better balance between long term and short term parking noting the businesses have differing needs. It is recommended that some of the proposed 2 hour parking be retained as unrestricted parking. The following amendments have been made to the proposed parking arrangements in the Sydenham Road Strategy:

- two parking spaces along the frontage of 73 Sydenham Road (northern side of road) be retained as unrestricted parking
- three spaces along the frontage of 46-50 Sydenham Road (southern side of the road) be retained as unrestricted parking

All changes to parking on Sydenham Road require TfNSW approval as it is a State Road.

It is recommended that Council adopt the Sydenham Road Strategy Short Term Council Funded Works, and the project works proceed immediately following the Short Term Grant Funded Works.

Long Term Vision Plan

The proposed traffic signal installation where Sydenham Road intersects with both Fitzroy Street and Sydney Street will require further detailed assessment. This proposal will require detailed modelling, consideration of property driveways within the intersection, targeted consultation and TfNSW approvals. The proposal is unusually complex and will require a considerable timeline to resolve all issues identified.

The draft Sydenham Road Strategy featured a dedicated cycleway from Victoria Road to Sydenham Station. For some sections of this route the cycleway was in the current parking

lane, and at other sections it was a shared path on the footway. Feedback from the public exhibition sought for a separated cycleway for the entire length of Sydenham Road Strategy. This would require further consideration and removal of the drop off and pick up zone near the station and also modifications to the intersection of Buckley Street/Sydenham Road.

The public exhibition feedback sought for consideration of additional improvements to the signalised intersection of Sydenham Road and Victoria Road. Further assessment will be required to determine any viable pedestrian and vehicle access improvements at the intersection.

The Long Term Vision Plan as publicly exhibited, coupled with the 3 additional considerations identified above, will form the basis of advocacy with TfNSW to resolve final scope, timing and funding for the proposed works. Council has written to TfNSW to expedite concurrence and funding for items on the state road corridor.

Parking Impacts

Short Term Grant funded works

There is no loss of on street parking and no changes to parking restrictions.

Short Term Council funded works

The works will require the removal of 9 parking spaces, and the conversion 53 unrestricted parking spaces to become 2 hour restricted parking to increase parking access. This is made up of the following:

- A loss of 2 parking spaces for the implementation of pedestrian (zebra) crossings.
- A loss of 2 unrestricted parking spaces near the station (northern side) to increase the capacity of the 'No Parking' zone to allow for adequate "kiss and ride" function.
- A loss of 5 parking spaces in the Barclay Street Carpark (30 existing spaces) associated with the introduction of a parklet and the remaining car park spaces will be converted from 4-hour parking to 2-hour parking to increase turnover of spaces. It should also be noted that an additional 4 spaces in the Barclay Street Carpark are proposed to be converted to EV charging as part of Council's EV car parking strategy and will be consulted separately.
- On Sydenham Road, 40 unrestricted spaces are proposed to be converted to 2 hour parking spaces and 32 spaces will remain as unrestricted parking.
- In the side streets to the north of Sydenham Road, a total of 13 spaces will be converted to 2 hour parking from unrestricted parking whilst in the side streets to the south unrestricted parking will be retained.

Long Term Vision Plan

In order to cater for a separated cycleway for the full length of Sydenham Road between the Sydenham Station and Victoria Road and implement additional pedestrian infrastructure it is estimated that there would be a loss of 45 on street parking spaces in comparison to the existing parking configuration. The removal of the Barclay Street Carpark parklet at this time would return 5 parking spaces.

Next Steps

With the approval of all recommendations within this report, the following arrangements will proceed:

1. Council will seek final approval from TfNSW for both the Short Term Grant Funded works and Short Term Council Funded Works.
2. Council will resolve terms of the grant funding which originally required the funding to be expended by May 2026. Council has sought for an extension of time to January 2027 which will afford adequate time to resolve details from public exhibition feedback, minimise costs and mitigate impacts of the works to the community where possible.

3. The Short Term Council funded works will proceed immediately following the grant works and be completed in 2027.

Council will continue to advocate with TfNSW to resolve long term strategy arrangements and funding, with a goal that these works proceed following the short term works.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Public Exhibition process has not required any changes to the Sydenham Road Strategy that impact short term funding needs.

Council has committed approximately \$150,000 of the reVITALise grant funding on community engagement, site investigations and the concept design. The Short Term Grant Funded construction works have been estimated by a quantity surveyor at \$850,000 and can be funded from the remaining reVITALise grant funding that Council has received from TfNSW.

The Short Term Council Funded works have been estimated by a quantity surveyor as \$1.6m. Council has previously resolved to allocate funds to enable this work to proceed and no further funding provision is sought.

There currently is no funding allocated by Council or TfNSW to deliver the long term works. The portion of these works that are typically within Council's remit to deliver are estimated to cost \$1.1 million. Funding for these works may be provisioned through future grant funding or a Council budget allocation of capital works funds.

Works on the State Road would require additional funding be provided from TfNSW.

Attachments 1-5 have been published separately in the Attachments Document on Council's Website <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/council-meetings/current-council-meetings>

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↔](#) Short Term Grant Funded Works – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
2. [↔](#) Short Term Council Funded Works – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
3. [↔](#) Long Term Vision Plan – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
4. [↔](#) Parking Management Plan – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
5. [↔](#) Engagement Outcome Report – **Published Separately on Council's Website**

Item No: C0226(1) Item 9
Subject: REVIEW OF CAR SHARE PARKING FEES AND CHARGES
Prepared By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the public exhibition of the proposed Car Share parking fees as detailed in the report, and that they be exhibited within the 2026/27 Fees and Charges.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2025, Council resolved to receive a report on the use and annual fee for car share spaces, including a comparison of other councils.

Car share is a valuable part of Inner West’s transport network in reducing private car ownership and therefore reducing congestion, on-street parking demand and greenhouse gas emissions. Further, it reduces transport costs to combat rising cost of living and encourages an active lifestyles by reducing dependency on private car trips.

Fees relating to the provision of Car Share spaces are applied within Councils annual fees and charges. The value of this fee has been reviewed, taking account of costs and market rates.

This report recommends that a revised fee structure for Car Share fees be placed on public exhibition to coincide with the exhibition of all other 2026/27 Fees and Charges.

BACKGROUND

Car sharing allows people to use a car for any period of time and only pay for the time and distance used. It is a membership-based service available to all qualified drivers in the community and it can be a convenient alternative for the occasional car use that does not necessitate the costs and constraints of private car ownership.

The use of shared cars reduces the need for car ownership subsequently reducing vehicle emissions and the demand for street parking. Members of car sharing services also report increased walking activity and reduced transport costs.

Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy and subsequently Car Share Policy has supported car sharing as a part of its drive to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- reduce on-street parking demand;
- reduce congestion and the competition for parking spaces;
- reduce transport costs to support rising cost of living;
- increase choice of transport options; and
- encourage active lifestyles by reducing dependency on private cars.

Additionally, Inner West Local Government Area is an inner-city area adjacent to Sydney CBD. The area has high levels of public transport and is serviced by trains, metro, light rail, buses and ferries.

Car sharing services in the Inner West are currently operated by three authorised car share operators, being Flexicar, GoGet and Popcar. There are currently 136 signposted car share parking spaces in the Inner West.

At the Council meeting held on 23 September 2025, Council resolved:

That a report on the use and annual fee for car share spaces to include a comparison of other councils to come back to Council for consideration at the February 2026 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Fee Comparison

Adjacent Councils charge a range of fees to car share operators for their services. A comparison with Inner West fees and charges has been provided in the following table. A full list and description of the fees is provided in *Attachment 1*.

Council	Application Fee	Installation	Annual Fee	Line Marking
City of Sydney	\$2,790.00	Not specified	\$194	Not specified
Waverly	\$634.00	Not specified	\$525 (\$167 if EV charger)	Not specified
Randwick	\$777.00	Not specified	\$375	Not specified
Burwood	\$1,410.00	Not specified	\$0 (\$1,100 if parking meter)	Not specified
Canada Bay	\$605.00	\$1,390.00	\$306 (\$1,060 if parking meter)	Not specified
Canterbury Bankstown	\$318.00	\$804.00	\$0	Price on Application
Inner West	\$194.40	\$456.60	\$208.20	Price on Application

The comparison indicates that Inner West Council fees for Car Share Parking spaces are currently very competitive, offering a low annual fee and a very low application fee.

Engagement

Initial engagement has been undertaken with Councils three existing authorised car share operators, to seek input on Council's existing car share fees and the possible impact of any changes to the fees arrangements.

There was no feedback suggesting the structure of fees Council applies needs to change. Car Share operators indicated that lower costs assists with achieving Council's objectives for car share and noted that increased costs can impact the viability of car share operators, and may result in costs being passed onto residents or the removal of dedicated car share parking spaces.

Car Share operators also raised concern with car share fees exceeding resident parking permit fees, when council's objectives include reducing private vehicle ownership.

Fee Review

Council fees and charges are generally determined on the basis of recovering cost for the provision of a service. The existing fee structure ensures that Council can separately account for costs and associated income for each activity associated with car share. There is therefore no intention to change the fee structure or the types of fees that currently exist.

The cost of Council officers administering Car Share has been reviewed and compared to the fees that apply. The Application Fee reasonably aligns with cost and is therefore only proposed to increase in keeping with inflation. The fee to install signposting is proposed to increase by approximately \$130 to better align with costs incurred for the service plus account for inflation. The Annual Fee is also proposed to increase by \$80 plus inflation to also more closely reflect the service cost. A comparison of existing and proposed fees associated with Car Share parking are outlined in the following table.

Fee Type	Existing Fee (FY2025/26)	Proposed Fee (FY2026/27)
Car Share space application – per application	\$194.40	\$200
Install/replace car share signposting supply and install signs (includes first years fee) – per sign	\$456.60	\$600
Car share Annual Fee – per year or part there of	\$208.20	\$300
Install/refresh car share line marking per application	Price on Application	Price on Application

The proposed fees (as an overall cost to a Car Share operator) would overall be lower than other nearby Councils. The proposed fees will ensure Council is reasonably recovering costs for the service.

It is recommended that Council endorse the public exhibition of the proposed Car Share parking fees, and that these are exhibited at the same time as all other 2026/27 fees and charges.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed changes to fees for car share parking will result in a modest increase in revenue of approximately \$14,000 per year. If the proposed fees are adopted, and the number of car share parking spaces remains unchanged, the total income from car share parking spaces for 2026/27 is likely to be approximately \$44,000, which is in keeping with the expenditure required to provide the service.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. [Comparison of Car Share Parking Fees](#)

Item No: C0226(1) Item 10
Subject: LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING - 8 DECEMBER 2025
Prepared By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and adopt the recommendations of the Local Transport Forum meeting held on 08 December 2025.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Transport Forum meeting was held at the Ashfield Service Centre and has made recommendations for Council’s consideration and adoption.

DISCUSSION

The December 2025 meeting of the Local Transport Forum was held at the Ashfield Service Centre. The minutes of the meeting are shown in *Attachment 1*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report. Projects proposed for implementation are funded within existing budget allocations.

ITEMS BY WARD – DECEMBER 2025

Ward	Item
Baludarri (Balmain)	Annandale LATM Study Final Report
	Leichhardt Oval Special Event Parking Scheme 2026
	Iron Cove Traffic Review Final Report
	Percy Street, Rozelle - Proposed One Way Restriction
	Curtis Road and McDonald Street, Balmain - Proposed Pedestrian Crossing, Continuous Footpath and One-Way Treatment
Gulgadya (Leichhardt)	Annandale LATM Study Final Report
	Flood Street, Leichhardt - Proposed Motor Bike Only Parking
Midjuburi (Marrickville)	Amendment to Sydenham Station Parking Study Recommendation
	Charlotte Avenue, Marrickville - Request for a residential parking scheme
	Depot Lane, Marrickville - Proposed installation of 'No Parking' restrictions

	Livingstone Road, Marrickville – Pedestrian Crossing Review
Djarrawunang (Ashfield)	Holden Street, south of Trevenar Street, Ashbury-New raised pedestrian (zebra) crossing
	Murrell Street, Ashfield- Optional treatments for improved road safety
Damun (Stanmore)	Palace Street at Brighton Street, Petersham - Proposed Raised Pedestrian Crossings - Design Plan 10356-1
	Palace Street at Andreas Street, Petersham - Proposed Raised Pedestrian Crossings - Design Plan 10356-2
	Holmwood Lane, Newtown - Proposed installation of a short section of 'No Parking' restrictions
All Wards	Proposed EV Kerbside Charging Locations

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Local Transport Forum minutes - 8 December 2025](#)

Item No: C0226(1) Item 11
Subject: FLOOD MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 26 NOVEMBER 2025
Prepared By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and adopt the recommendations of the Flood Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 26 November 2025.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Flood Management Advisory Committee assists Council in the preparation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans for the Inner West local government area.

The Committee meets at least four times each year and it is comprised of Councillors, community representatives, State Government Agency Representatives and Council officers. As the Committee has no delegation, all recommendations made by the Committee need to be considered for approval by Council.

On 26 November 2025, the Committee considered and made recommendations for Council’s consideration and adoption.

This report recommends that Council adopt all recommendations from the Flood Management Advisory Committee meeting of 26 November 2026.

BACKGROUND

The November meeting of the Flood Management Advisory Committee was held on 26 November 2025. The minutes of the meeting are provided in Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

The following items were considered and recommendations made by the Committee:

1. The Committee was advised that all tasks in the actions register have been completed.
2. The Flood Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference have been amended to include a clause providing for and governing the procedure of a Public Forum prior to the consideration of reports being presented to the Committee.
3. A consultant has been appointed and is now working with Council on the South Marrickville Flood Study.
4. Investigations into flooding on Illawarra Road, Marrickville have been completed.
5. Investigations into flooding on Osgood Avenue, St Peters have been completed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications associated with items considered by the Flood Management Advisory Committee. Two thirds of the funding required for the South Marrickville Flood Study had been provided through grant funding from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Flood Advisory Committee Meeting minutes - 26 November 2025

Item No: C0226(1) Item 12
Subject: SUPPORTING VISUAL ARTISTS AND WRITERS TO FIND AFFORDABLE SPACES TO WORK IN THE INNER WEST
Prepared By: Ruth Callaghan - Director Community

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the initiatives outlined in the report to support affordable creative spaces.
2. That an update be provided to Council on the EOI process once it is complete.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 3: Creative communities and a strong economy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is working to support visual artists and writers in the Inner West by increasing access to affordable and secure places to work. Two Council-owned sites, Thirning Villa in Ashfield and Whites Creek Cottage in Lilyfield, have been identified as suitable for creative use, alongside existing town halls and gallery spaces. Whites Creek Cottage will be made available for short-term creative use through an Expression of Interest process planned for March 2026, while Thirning Villa will reopen to artists after planned capital works are completed.

Thirning Villa is scheduled for upgrades from May 2026 and is expected to be available again by the end of 2026 through an open Expression of Interest process. In addition to physical spaces, Council continues to support artists and writers through grants, professional development, planning and compliance advice, free or low-cost access to town halls, and significant rent subsidies covering up to 90% of market rent. Staff will report back once the EOI process is complete.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 3 September 2024, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council investigate and report back on Council-owned properties and spaces across the Inner West that are suitable for ongoing use by visual artists and writers.*
2. *That Council meet with Brand X, who collaborated with Council on the Tempe Jets live music hub, from 2014-2024, to discuss opportunities to re-purpose vacant Council properties and spaces into affordable cultural places where visual artists and writers have security of tenure.*
3. *That Council seek grants and opportunities from Federal and State arts agencies, including Creative Australia, to support artists to locate and establish affordable creative spaces in the Local Government Area.*
4. *That Council investigate ways that Council can support artists and writers in the establishment of new creative spaces, such as education on permissible use and in*

sourcing specialist service providers including Building and Fire Safety Certifiers and Town Planners.

5. *That Council suggest ways that Council can incentivise property owners to rent their premises to creatives.*
6. *That Council note the success of the Inner West Writer in Residence program for emerging writers, conducted recently at the NSW Writer's Centre.*
7. *That Council support local writers by identifying Council-owned spaces across the Inner West that are suitable for a Writer in Residence program for established writers over the age of 18.*
8. *That Council investigate opportunities for further collaboration with Writing NSW to support emerging and established writers across the Inner West.*
9. *That Council bring a report back to the November 2024 Council meeting on all the above.*

DISCUSSION

Council is committed to the provision of creative spaces to support artists within the Inner West creative sector. Creative spaces are identified as a strategic priority in Council's *Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2025* and *Arts and Music Recovery Plan 2023*, with recent initiatives including Council's successful Creative Uses of Town Halls program. A lack of affordable creative workspaces, such as studios for visual artists and writers, is an important issue affecting cities globally. For example, the City of Sydney has reported a creative floor space loss of over 170,000 square metres in the last five years.

The following proposed initiatives will renew Council's creative spaces in alignment with priority areas, delivering on initiatives for ongoing affordable creative workspaces and studios for the community. These initiatives work in alignment with the Council's Creative Uses of Town Halls initiatives.

Update on Resolutions

Spaces in two Council owned properties have been identified as suitable for ongoing creative use, Thirning Villa (Pratten Park, Ashfield) and Whites Creek Cottage (Whites Creek Valley Park, Lilyfield). This is in addition to the use of town halls and other venues such as Chrissie Cotter Gallery.

- Thirning Villa is scheduled for capital works, including remediation and upgrades that will make its studio spaces more suitable for a range of creative uses.
- To accommodate the capital works in Thirning Villa, which are planned to commence in May 2026, the current residency, Refugee Arts Project (RAP), have been asked to vacate. RAP had been on a rolling extended lease in anticipation of the capital works program, and these plans were communicated to RAP from February 2025 by Council staff, including recent updates on capital works timelines. Following the capital works, a new Expression of Interest will be open to all Inner West creatives to populate the venue, with the capital works allowing for greater creative use of the space. The property is anticipated to be ready for use by Inner West creatives in by the end of 2026.
- Two studios at Whites Creek Cottage are also suitable for short-term occupancy for creative use including writers. An EOI program call out will commence for Whites Creek Cottage following in March 2026.
- Brand X have been successful in securing the venue management of the Marrickville Town Hall venue and discussions with Brand X have commenced on next steps for this

project. Once complete, the basement will provide additional affordable space for rehearsal and performance.

- Specifically, regarding Inner West writers, Council worked with the NSW Writers Centre, on a one-off pilot project in 2024, which saw two writers-in-residence engaged as part of the project. The \$10,000 provided for this project was a result of residual funding at the end of the 2023/24 financial year.
- Inner West writers have been and continue to be supported through the Council's arts grant program with nine individual writer-based projects funded since 2022 at an investment in the order of \$50,000.
- Additionally, work is undertaken by Council's Library services in providing support and programs for writers. Work is also being undertaken to identify spaces in the Creative Town Halls program for writers to use. This could include St Peters Library.
- Council staff monitor available grants from State and Federal bodies, including those suitable for establishing creative spaces, and apply where applicable. Council also publishes relevant opportunities for artists on its Creative Communities e-newsletter, which is distributed to local creatives and audiences monthly. These opportunities are shared with creatives, as they are often specifically for arts practitioners and Council is not eligible to apply.
- In June 2025, Council's Creative Toolbox Symposium delivered a 3-day professional development forum; including sessions focused on creative spaces, and a Council-staff led information session on local planning regulations relevant to creatives. Council will continue to explore ways to continue to address these topics in future programs.
- Council's Creative Uses of Town Halls program provides free access to a range of spaces across Town Halls for creatives working in many forms. The related Creative Town Halls Concierge service fields enquiries related to a range of creative space issues, referring enquirers on, or consulting with relevant Council staff in Planning, Properties and Venues teams for specialist advice. There is a dedicated webpage on Council's website for online bookings of free and affordable creative spaces.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the Land and Property Policy, Council will provide an Accommodation Grant to successful applicants. The financial implication of the grant is a rental subsidy equivalent to 90% of the Market Rent. The subsidy does not apply to property outgoings, which remain the responsibility of the tenant.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 13
Subject: NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2026
Prepared By: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council determine the Councillors attending the National General Assembly of Local Government 2026.
2. That Council determine the one (1) Councillor that will be the voting delegate.
3. That Council consider any proposed motions and endorse as appropriate to be submitted to the National General Assembly of Local Government 2026.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

- 5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) convened by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the peak annual event for local government in Australia. In 2026 it will be held in Canberra from 23 – 25 June 2026. The theme of the 2026 NGA is “*Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.*”

This report seeks resolutions from Council to identify the Councillors who will attend the NGA and determine Council’s single voting delegate.

The report also includes the criteria and template to be followed for any proposed motions, and recommends any proposed motions be considered and endorsed as appropriate for submission to the NGA.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the NGA is to bring together councils from around Australia to discuss, debate, and adopt motions of national significance with a focus on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and local governments, can address immediate challenges facing communities.

The theme of the 2026 NGA, to be held in Canberra from 23-25 June 2026, is “*Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.*” This theme encourages debate on how councils across Australia can become more resilient, contribute to the nation’s productivity agenda, and present a united voice to the federal government on key issues in the national sphere.

Attendance and Voting

- Each council is entitled to one (1) voting delegate
- In 2025, Council determined that six (6) Councillors would attend
- In 2024, Council determined that seven (7) Councillors would attend
- In 2023, Council determined that eight (8) Councillors would attend
- In 2021 and 2022 Council determined that five (5) Councillors would attend

Submitting Motions

The National General Assembly calls for councils to consider submitting motions for debate. This is an important opportunity for councils to influence the national policy agenda and promote new ways of strengthening the local government sector and communities we serve.

When submitting motions, Council should focus on how local governments can work in partnership with the Australian Government to address the challenges our communities face or seize the opportunities that are national priorities.

If Council chooses to submit a motion/s there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion, if required.

The deadline to submit motions to the NGA is 27 February 2026. Accordingly, any motions to be submitted to the NGA will need to be endorsed for submission at this meeting.

To enable Councillors to consider proposed motions prior to the meeting, Officers issued a Briefing Note to Councillors requesting any motions for the NGA be submitted via Notice of Motion for this Meeting.

Criteria for Motions

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. The motion must not have been debated at an NGA in the preceding two years as found in previous business papers on the ALGA website (see [2025 NGA Resolutions – ALGA](#) and [2024 NGA Resolutions – ALGA](#))
2. The motion must be relevant to the work of local government across the nation, and not focused on a specific location or region, unless the project has national implications.
3. The motion must align with the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association.
4. The motion must propose a clear action and outcome on a single issue, calling on the Australian Government to take action. Motions covering more than one issue will not be accepted.
5. The motion must not seek to advantage one or a few councils at the expense of others.
6. The motion should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Motions must commence with the following wording:

“This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to”.

To further assist Councillors with the development of potential motions, the Briefing Note included the ALGA discussion paper, the previous 5 years of Inner West motions (noting that no motions were submitted by Inner West Council at the 2025 NGA) and the format and information required for each motion, also attached to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost for registration, travel and accommodation for the NGA will be approximately \$2,200 per Councillor. Funds will be sourced from the Councillors Conference and Training Budget, in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [National General Assembly Discussion Paper 2026](#)
2. [Previous Inner West National General Assembly Motions](#)
3. [National General Assembly Proposed Motions - Template](#)

Item No: C0226(1) Item 14
Subject: PUBLIC EXHIBITION - COMPLAINTS HANDLING POLICY REVIEW
Prepared By: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council place the draft Complaints Handling Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to seek community feedback on the proposed Policy.
2. That following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the draft Complaints Handling Policy be brought back to Council for consideration for adoption.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council regularly reviews policies to ensure they are up to date and reflect current legislation, strategy, structure, practice, and guidance.

The current Complaints Handling Policy was adopted on 13 February 2024 and is now due for its bi-annual review.

The proposed changes within the updated draft policy include minor administrative updates to ensure it remains consistent with Council operations and continues to align with better practice in complaints handling, community expectations and the NSW Ombudsman guidelines. To improve clarity and accessibility, the policy has been written in plain English, following the *Australian Style Guide*.

The draft policy is proposed for public exhibition, with a further report to be presented to Council to consider the policy for adoption.

BACKGROUND

The Complaints Handling Policy provides a consistent, proactive and measurable approach to handling complaints. It applies to all staff, elected Councillors, the community and service partners.

Council's first Complaints Handling Policy was adopted on 27 November 2018. Subsequent revisions were adopted in 2021 and 2024. The current version (version 3) adopted on 13 February 2024, contained significant revisions to bring the policy into line with the NSW Ombudsman's standards and Council expectations.

The policy demonstrates how effective complaint management supports continuous improvement in service delivery and provides a better experience for staff and the community by:

- Following the NSW Ombudsman's guidelines on effective complaints handling.
- Including relevant parts of the *NSW Ombudsman's July 2022 model policy: Managing Unreasonable Conduct by Complainants*.

- Aligning with Council’s Customer Experience Strategy and commitment to service excellence.
- Clearly defining accessibility, acceptable behaviours, staff accountability, and complaint review options.

DISCUSSION

As significant changes to the Complaints Handling Policy were adopted in 2024, this review required only minor changes to the substantive content. However, in conducting this review, officers:

- Confirmed the policy remains consistent with the NSW Ombudsman guidelines 4th Edition, released in November 2024.
- Incorporated feedback from Council’s Governance Team and the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service.
- Rewrote the policy in plain English in line with *The Australian Style Guide*, based on the latest evidence on clear communication.
- Included changes in terminology to better reflect Council values.
- Improved visual illustrations.

The table outlines the changes proposed within the attached Draft Complaints Handling Policy:

Clause	Change	Reason
Entire Policy	Re-written in Plain English	Information presented in plain English in line with <i>The Australian Style Guide</i> , based on the latest evidence on clear communication.
5. Organisational Commitment	Reference to Policy	A reference to <i>Council’s Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy</i> has been added to clarify the referral of complaints directly raised with Councillors.
6. Guiding Principles	Illustration update	Continuous improvement in clarifying information about the NSW Ombudsman’s Guiding Principles and model approach.
	Terminology Update	To align with Council values, the reference to complainant conduct and references identifying specific behaviours as “Unreasonable” have been removed from this policy.
7. Three levels of Complaint Handling	Illustration update	Continuous improvement in clarifying information.
9. The Complaint Management System	Illustration update	Continuous improvement in clarifying information.
Version History	Review period	Review period amended from every 2 years to every 3 years.

As the proposed Plain English changes within the draft document are widespread, markups are not shown within the draft document. A copy of the current Complaints Handling Policy 2024 v3 can be found on Council’s website: [Complaints Handling Policy v3](#).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Draft Review of Complaints Handling Policy v4

Item No: C0226(1) Item 15
Subject: ABOLISHING SUBMINIMUM WAGES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY
Prepared By: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the progress outlined in this report, and endorses the ongoing pursuit of fair wage principles across procurement, grants, and sponsorships.
2. That Council accepts the request from the Access LDG to amend the terms of their engagement to review and endorse staff amendments to policies, as opposed to reviewing each policy in detail.
3. That, in response to the resolution to review the Sponsorship Policy to ensure exclusion of sponsorship for any individual or organisation that fails to provide appropriate remuneration to people with disability, Council:
 - a) Place the attached draft Sponsorship Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to seek community feedback.
 - b) That following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the draft Sponsorship Policy be brought back to Council for consideration for adoption.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on Council's ongoing efforts to promote fair wage principles, with a particular focus on abolishing subminimum wages for people with disability.

Council has made significant progress in implementing these principles across procurement, grants, and sponsorships. Specifically in response to the resolution:

- The Access Local Democracy Group (LDG) has been engaged to provide the requested input. They have proposed reviewing policy and endorsing actions/amendments proposed by staff, rather than reviewing each policy in detail
- Officers advise:
 - All council trainees are paid at Award rates
 - They are satisfied that no grant recipients in the current term of Council are engaging in segregated services or subminimum wage practices
 - Current grant guidelines and funding agreements provide adequate protections to ensure recipients comply with employment and anti-discrimination laws
 - Supplier onboarding processes in respect of ethical standards including modern slavery are robust
 - Council's two primary office suppliers demonstrate strong commitments to ethical sourcing within their operations and supply chains
 - The new Council website to be launched within the next month will have been comprehensively reviewed to ensure there are no references to Australian Disability Enterprises

- An update to the Sponsorship Policy is proposed, with a draft provided to proceed to public exhibition
- The Procurement Policy is also being revised, with a draft for public exhibition to be tabled at a future meeting

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 28 October 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council acknowledge that at present Inner West Council does not procure from, fund or participate in, or award new grants to, Disability Enterprises that participate in segregated services or employment of people with disability on sub- minimum wages or engage in restrictive practices.*
2. *That the Access Local Democracy Committee be asked to:*
 - a) *review all relevant policies and provide advice to Council about potential amendments to ensure the Inner West is not supporting organisations or groups that undertake the practice of paying workers with disability a subminimum wage;*
 - b) *consider and suggest additional measures Council could implement to ensure it is not contributing to or enabling, either directly or indirectly, the payment of wages below the minimum award rate to people with disability;*
 - c) *suggest how Council might advocate for wage parity for people with disability; and*
 - d) *considerer and suggest potential mitigations of any unintended consequences of current or future actions.*
3. *That in the meantime the General Manager review and provide a report to the February 2026 Council meeting on work underway to:*
 - a) *Review successful grant recipients in the current term of Council to identify any grants awarded to organisations that might be engaging in segregated services, payment of sub-minimum wages or restrictive practices;*
 - b) *review the Sponsorship Policy and Grants Guidelines/criteria to ensure exclusion of sponsorship or funding for any individual or organisation that fails to provide appropriate remuneration to people with disability;*
 - c) *maintain a thorough supplier onboarding process to ensure engagement with businesses that meet our ethical standards and compliance obligations, including requirements related to modern slavery;*
 - d) *Work with Council's primary office supplier to determine their actions toward eliminating subminimum wages throughout their supply chain;*
 - e) *strengthen provisions requiring sponsors and funding recipients to comply with all employment legislation and anti-discrimination law; and*
 - f) *ensure web pages and directories of support services for people with disability or older people do not contain any references to Australian Disability Enterprises*

DISCUSSION

This report sets out the work undertaken by Council to abolish subminimum wages for people with disability. This work aligns with Council's commitment to equity, inclusion, and ethical procurement practices, ensuring that all individuals, including people with disability, receive fair and lawful remuneration.

Access Local Democracy Group (LDG) Engagement

Council requested the Access LDG to:

- Review relevant Council policies and advise on amendments to prevent support for organisations paying sub-minimum wages.

- Suggest additional measures to ensure Council does not contribute to or enable payment of wages below the minimum award rate.
- Recommend advocacy strategies for wage parity for people with disability.
- Identify potential mitigations for unintended consequences of these actions.

Officers briefed the LDG at its November meeting on the requests in the resolution. The LDG requested that Council consider an alternate proposal relating to one request within the resolution. Rather than “*review all relevant policies and provide advice to Council about potential amendments to ensure the Inner West is not supporting organisations or groups that undertake the practice of paying workers with disability a subminimum wage*” the LDG propose they will “review and endorse staff amendments to policies, as opposed to reviewing each policy in detail”.

Officers will investigate proposed actions and research, and discuss outcomes of this work at the February 2026 meeting of the Access LDG.

Other Work Underway

Procurement policy

The Procurement Policy is currently under review, and the revised Policy will include strengthening the requirements on suppliers to ensure that those who employ people with disability offer fair pay and conditions. The revised policy will be tabled at a future meeting, once internal consultation is complete.

Engagement of Trainees

Council confirms that all trainees through the Office of Local Government Fresh Start program or Ability Advocates are paid at the Local Government State Award Trainee rates of pay.

Review of successful grant recipients to identify any organisations engaging in segregated services or sub-minimum wage practices

Officers are satisfied there are no recipients engaging in these practices.

- Council maintains comprehensive records of all grant and sponsorship recipients, and at no point in the life of Inner West Council has an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) been awarded funding from these sources. This reflects the eligibility criteria and the consistent application of Council’s policies regarding local benefit, fairness, and compliance.
- There are no ADEs engaging in segregated services, payment of sub-minimum wages or restrictive practices operating in the Inner West.
- Council’s financial support programs are available only to organisations or individuals based within the Inner West local government area. Therefore, there is no pathway for an ADE to receive funding through these programs.

Update Sponsorship Policy and Grants Guidelines to exclude funding for organisations failing to provide appropriate remuneration and strengthen provisions requiring sponsors and funding recipients to comply with employment and anti-discrimination laws.

Sponsorship Policy

Officers have reviewed Council’s Sponsorship Policy to:

- ensure exclusion of sponsorship for individuals and entities that fail to provide appropriate remuneration to people with disability

- require sponsors to comply with all employment legislation and anti-discrimination legislation.

Specifically, the Draft Sponsorship Policy (attached) includes the following provisions:

- Section 5 – Sponsorship Principles: an additional principle that Council will not seek or accept sponsorship from people or organisations that fail to provide appropriate remuneration to people with disability.
- Section 6 – Acceptable Types of Sponsorship Activities: that Council will not accept sponsorship from organisations or related parties that fail to provide appropriate remuneration to people with disability, and will not accept sponsorship from organisations or related parties that are non-compliant with employment and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Section 8 – Process for Seeking Sponsorship: includes a criterion that the sponsoring organisation must provide appropriate remuneration to people with disability, and must be compliant with employment and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Section 9 – Process for Providing Sponsorship: includes a criterion that an organisation seeking sponsorship must provide appropriate remuneration to people with disability and must be compliant with employment and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Section 11 – Reporting Requirements: Sponsorship Proposals, Agreements, and Register: an additional requirement that a sponsorship proposal must include confirmation that the sponsoring organisation or organisation seeking sponsorship provides appropriate remuneration to people with disability and is compliant with employment and anti-discrimination legislation.

The draft Sponsorship Policy is attached for Council to consider approving for public exhibition.

Grant Guidelines

Prior to proposing funding for any grant proposal, Council evaluates the eligibility of the individual or organisation for funding including requirements for them to:

- Be located in the Inner West
- Be providing benefit to local residents
- Provide an appropriate certificate of incorporation as a business or not for profit organisation.
- Provide an audited financial statement for the previous financial year
- Provide evidence of appropriate insurance coverage including a Certificate of Public Liability Insurance.

Council's standard funding agreement for grants requires recipients to act legally and within Australian and NSW law, including with all employment legislation and anti-discrimination law. As there are no Australian Disability Enterprises engaging in segregated services, payment of sub-minimum wages or restrictive practices operating in the Inner West, and Council has robust governance and contractual arrangements in place, General Counsel has confirmed that no additional strengthening of legal protections is required for Council grant agreements.

Maintain robust supplier onboarding processes to ensure compliance with ethical standards, including modern slavery obligations.

Officers advise that the supplier onboarding process includes the following steps:

- Confirming the need for a new supplier and ensuring budget alignment.
- Assessment of the supplier through reference checks, financial stability reviews, and certification verification.
- Suppliers in high-risk industries undergo additional legal and compliance checks, including modern slavery assessments.
- Banking details and compliance acknowledgments are collected to ensure all requirements are met before engagement.

Engage with Council’s primary office supplier regarding actions to eliminate sub-minimum wages in their supply chain.

- Council uses two primary office suppliers, COS and Winc
- Both suppliers demonstrate strong commitments to ethical sourcing within their operations and supply chains.
 - COS has a formal Ethical Sourcing Policy that prioritises human rights, fair working conditions, and environmental protection, requiring suppliers to meet these standards and undergo compliance checks.
 - Winc embeds its ethical sourcing approach in its Modern Slavery Statement and Social Agenda, focusing on eliminating modern slavery, ensuring minimum wage compliance, and promoting fair labour practices through supplier audits, self-assessments, and training.
- Both organisations actively monitor and engage with suppliers to uphold responsible and sustainable practices.

Ensure Council web pages and directories do not reference Australian Disability Enterprises.

- Work is underway to ensure all Council web pages and directories do not reference Australian Disability Enterprises. This review is being undertaken as part of the transition to Council’s new website, with each page systematically audited to identify and remove outdated or non-compliant content.
- Any legacy references identified during this process are being deleted or replaced with information that aligns with Council’s principles and standards. The review is on track for finalisation ahead of the new website launch on 25 February 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Draft Sponsorship Policy - Public Exhibition - February 2026](#)

Item No: C0226(1) Item 16
Subject: 67-75 LORDS ROAD, LEICHHARDT - DEDICATION OF OPEN SPACE - VPA
Prepared By: Matthew Pearce - General Counsel

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the recommendations contained in Confidential *Attachment 1*.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

DISCUSSION

Council will move into a closed session to deal with the 67-75 Lords Road, Leichhardt - Dedication to Open Space, as the information is classified as confidential under section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The matter is deemed confidential, as the matter is commercial information of a confidential nature, that would if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

Pursuant to section 10A(2), 10(2) and 10A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public will be excluded from the meeting on the basis the business to be considered is classified as confidential under section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS PAPER

The Model Code of Meeting Practice prescribed by the Office of Local Government, and Council’s Code of Meeting Practice, requires confidential business papers to be published on Council’s website as soon as practicable after the information in the business papers ceases to be confidential. Council’s General Manager must consult with affected parties before publishing the information, and provide reasons for why the information has ceased to be confidential.

Accordingly, this report recommends that this business paper be made publicly available after the determination of any development application submitted by the proponent in respect of 67-73 Lords Road and 75 Lords Road, subject to prior consultation with affected parties, including the proponent and the Department of Planning, Housing and Industry.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Confidential Report - 67-75 Lords Road, Leichhardt - Dedication of Open Space - *Confidential*
This attachment is confidential in accordance to information (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.
2. Planning Agreement Between Inner West Council, Platino Prpoerties Pty Limited and Lord Sixty Sixty Seven Pty Limited - *Confidential*
This attachment is confidential in accordance to information (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.
3. Explanatory Note - *Confidential*
This attachment is confidential in accordance to information (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.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 17
Subject: QUARTERLY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROPERTY REPORT
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receive and note the report.
2. That Council consider the publication of the confidential report attached to this business paper on Council’s website after twelve months, subject to consultation with affected parties.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with a quarterly update on the financial and operational performance of its commercial property investments in Liverpool and Warrawong – September 2025 to December 2025.

For the quarter ending 31 December 2025, the combined net income from these properties totaled \$1,145,766, with strong occupancy rates.

BACKGROUND

Council previously held investment properties at Tempe Lands, which were acquired by Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) for the Sydney Gateway Project in March 2020 through a compulsory process by agreement.

In 2021, Council engaged Ernst & Young (EY) to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing property portfolio and to assist in the development of a Real Estate Investment Strategy. The strategy adopted provides a structured framework and clear criteria for acquiring replacement investment properties, ensuring that future purchases are aligned with the previous rental revenue generated by the acquired lands.

The acquisition of investment properties located in Liverpool and Warrawong was approved at Special Council Meetings held in November 2022 and April 2023, respectively.

A summary of financial performance is provided below for each of the two properties. Further information of a confidential nature is provided in the confidential report.

DISCUSSION

203 NORTHUMBERLAND STREET LIVERPOOL

The property offers a total Net Lettable Area (NLA) of 7,278.10 square metres. The property is fully leased.

Financial Performance (1 September 2025 to 31 December 2025)

A summary of the financial performance of the property is provided below:

Account	Year to Date			Full Year		
	Actual	Budget	\$ Var	Forecast	Budget	\$Var
Revenue	2,066,823.60	2,033,644.93	33,178.67	4,118,168.04	4,084,989.37	33,178.67
Operating Expenditure	325,318.18	344,112.30	18,794.12	669,625.55	688,419.67	18,794.12
Direct Recoveries	2,400.99	-	2,400.99	2,400.99	-	2,400.99
Net Operating Profit (Loss)	1,739,104.43	1,689,532.63	49,571.80	3,446,141.50	3,396,569.70	49,571.80
Owner Expenditure	8,666.71	-	8,666.71	8,666.71	-	8,666.71
Net Profit / (Loss)	1,730,437.72	1,689,532.63	40,905.09	3,437,474.79	3,396,569.70	40,905.09

Revenue

The total revenue amounts to \$2,066,824, compared to a budgeted figure of \$2,033,645. The result is a favourable variance of \$33,179 (1.63%).

Expenses

The total building expenses, encompassing operating expenditure, direct recoveries, and owner expenditure, amounted to \$336,386 against a budget of \$344,112. This represents a favourable variance of \$7,726 (2.25%).

Financial Balance

The balance exceeded budget expectations, resulting in a favourable variance of \$40,905, or 2.42%.

Capital Works

The planned capital budget for FY 2025/26 is \$433,500.

Recent property activities included comprehensive audits of mechanical systems, building inspections, and external façade assessments, with repair works as required being planned. Planned works also cover the rear car park and entrance areas.

The overall ten-year capital budget for the property, as detailed in the EY Due Diligence Analysis at time of purchase, has been incorporated into the Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

67 KING STREET WARRAWONG

The property offers a total Net Lettable Area (NLA) of 5,224.00 square metres. The property is fully leased.

Financial Performance (1 September 2025 to 31 December 2025)

A summary of the financial performance of the property is provided below:

Account	Year to Date			Full Year		
	Actual	Budget	\$ Var	Forecast	Budget	\$Var
Revenue	938,068.71	1,004,555.21	66,486.50	1,896,703.64	1,963,190.14	66,486.50
Operating Expenditure	252,885.79	258,270.84	5,385.05	511,157.72	516,542.77	5,385.05
Direct Recoveries	1,120.00	-	1,120.00	1,120.00	-	1,120.00
Net Operating Profit (Loss)	684,062.92	746,284.37	62,221.45	1,384,425.92	1,446,647.37	62,221.45
Owner Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Profit / (Loss)	684,062.92	746,284.37	62,221.45	1,384,425.92	1,446,647.37	62,221.45

Revenue

The total revenue amounts to \$938,069, compared to a budgeted figure of \$1,004,555. The result is an unfavourable variance of \$66,487 (6.62%). This variance was due to a charging error which was corrected during the period.

Expenses

The total building expenses, including operating expenditure, direct recoveries, and owner expenditure, amounted to \$254,006 compared with a budget of \$258,271. This resulted in a favourable variance of \$4,265 (1.65%).

Financial Balance

The financial balance results in an unfavourable variance of \$62,221 (8.34%).

Capital Works

The planned capital budget for FY 2025/26 is \$491,875.

Recent works for the property included planning for carpark resurfacing, repair of a block wall, some exterior painting, and drainage improvements. Roof safety improvements continued.

The overall ten-year capital budget for the property, as detailed in the EY Due Diligence Analysis at time of purchase, has been incorporated into Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report, though financial performance of the properties has been included within the discussion of this report.

For the quarter ending 31 December 2025, the combined net income from these properties totaled \$1,145,766.

Council will move into closed session to deal with the Quarterly Strategic Investment Property Report for additional information which is classified as confidential under Section 10A(2)(d)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The matter is deemed confidential, as the matter is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business AND if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it AND if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

Pursuant to section 10A(2), 10(2) and 10A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public will be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified as confidential under section 10A(2)(d)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS PAPER

The Model Code of Meeting Practice prescribed by the Office of Local Government, and Council's Code of Meeting Practice, requires confidential business papers to be published on Council's website as soon as practicable after the information in the business papers ceases to be confidential. Council's General Manager must consult with affected parties before publishing the information, and provide reasons for why the information has ceased to be confidential.

Accordingly, this report recommends that Council consider the publication of the confidential report attached to business paper after twelve months, subject to consultation with affected parties.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Confidential Quarterly Report - *Confidential*

This attachment is confidential in accordance to information (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; AND commercial information of a confidential nature (Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993) that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 18
Subject: LEICHHARDT PARK AQUATIC CENTRE UPGRADE - MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report which details the following progress since the last report:

1. Stage 1 is scheduled for completion by mid-February 2026
2. The continued progress of Stage 2, with the select tender process now closed and a separate confidential report to be tabled at the February 2026 Council meeting.
3. Feasibility reviews were undertaken to assess the viability of modifying the Stage 2 design to meet elite Water polo competition standards which concluded such modifications would present unacceptable financial, operational and scheduling risks for Council and additional funding at a minimum of \$8M for the elite water polo pool, which is not in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West
- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a monthly update on the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) Upgrade.

Stage 1 works, including the refurbishment of the Mushroom Pool, a new splash play area, and mechanical and HVAC upgrades commenced in April 2025 and are scheduled to be fully completed by mid-February 2026.

Stage 2, which will deliver a new heated 50-metre pool, a heated 25-metre pool with movable floor, spectator seating, accessibility improvements, landscaping, shade structures and a new playground, remains in the design and procurement phase. The select tender process closed in November 2025, with evaluation progressing through December 2025 and January 2026. A confidential report detailing the tender recommendation is to be tabled at the February 2026 Council meeting.

In October 2025, Balmain Water Polo approached Council outlining concerns about increasing the size of the pool to allow for additional water polo use.

The masterplan and budget for the development of the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) Upgrade did not include provisions for more senior water polo competition. Balmain Water Polo Club currently hire the diving pool for training which is 20 metres by 14 metres and the new program pool will have increased capacity with dimensions of 25 metres by 18 metres.

Council has investigated their request and confirm that any modifications would entail substantial design, construction, and operational challenges. These included the need for larger pools, increased plant and electrical capacity, and significant infrastructure upgrades, resulting in an estimated additional cost of at least \$8 million and increased project risks.

Furthermore, any decision to expand the project scope would require the cancellation and re-tendering of the current contract, leading to major program delays and further exposure to cost escalation. This presents unacceptable financial, operational, and scheduling risks, and the design should proceed as endorsed.

Funding for the endorsed project scope is included in Council's draft Long Term Financial Plan, with a total project budget of \$55.934 million allocated for Stages 1 and 2.

BACKGROUND

With the existing 50m and dive pools reaching the end of their lifespan having been constructed in the early 1960s, Council is undertaking a comprehensive upgrade to revitalise the facility. This transformation will ensure the Aquatic Centre remains a vibrant and sustainable hub for the community for the next 50 years.

Council has appointed external consultants to provide Architectural design, Project Management and Project Assurance services with demonstratable experience and capability to successfully deliver the project.

In this regard, CO.OP Studios were appointed as the lead design consultant in mid-2023 to provide all architectural and engineering design services. CO.OP and their sub-consultant team have extensive experience around Australia though their network of state offices designing elite level sporting and aquatic centre projects.

Altus Group were appointed in late 2024 as the Project Managers and bring with them a wealth of experience in delivering aquatic centre projects.

There is a comprehensive project assurance and governance framework being applied to the project. In this regard, Council appointed Turner and Townsend (T&T) as the Project Assurance Consultant in late 2023 to have oversight of Stages 1 and 2 to ensure the highest standards of project integrity and risk management.

T&T have had an ongoing involvement through the development of the designs, project risk management, cost estimates and business case documents. This involvement will continue through to project completion and include monthly reporting to the Major Capital Projects Committee on the progress of the project.

Wilde & Woolard has been appointed as the projects Quantity Surveyor (QS) to prepare cost estimates. The QS will also have an on-going role through the construction stages in assessing progress claims and variation costs, and monitoring cash flows.

The project continues to be monitored in accordance with the Risk Management Plan and is reported to Governance forums including:

- Project Control Group – Monthly
- Major Capital Projects Committee – Monthly
- Audit Risk and Improvement Committee – Quarterly
- Inner West Council meetings – Monthly

DISCUSSION

The LPAC Upgrade will be delivered in two stages due to construction practicalities and ensuring as many facilities at LPAC are open as possible during construction. It is also proposed to commence construction works during the winter months to minimise impacts on community pool users, sport groups, swim learners and LPAC operations.

Stage 1

The scope includes refurbishment of the outdoor Mushroom Pool and delivery of a new splash play area with BBQ facilities, seating, and shade structures. HVAC upgrades to the indoor program pool hall and a fully electrified heating and filtration plant for both pools are also included. Stage 1 works commenced in April 2025 and are scheduled to be fully completed by mid-February 2026.

The Mushroom pool, splash pad and BBQ facilities were opened to the community in late December 2025. Shortly after opening, a defect was identified in the lining of the upgraded mushroom pool, requiring its temporary closure while rectification works were carried out. The construction contractor has worked closely with Council to address the issue promptly and reline the pool in January 2026. The splash pad and BBQ facilities remained open throughout this period.

Stage 2

This includes the construction of new heated 8-lane 50m pool (1.1 to 1.8m deep) and a heated 25m pool (from zero to 2.1m depth with movable floor and accessible device), spectator seating and shade structures around the 25m and 50m pools, new first aid, lifeguard, and storage rooms, new fully electrified pool heating system and filtration plants for 50m and 25m pools, accessibility lift and upgraded stairs to access the rear turfed area along with re-turfing, accessible pathway link and new picnic shelter, and a playground in the grassed area between the pools and the Bay Run.

As previously reported, Stage 2 of the project continues in the design and procurement phase. The selective tender process continues, with tenders closing in early November 2025 and evaluation commencing thereafter. A confidential report will be provided to this Council meeting presenting the tender recommendation.

Updated program information will be included in next month's project update report, following Council's consideration of the confidential report.

Request from Balmain Water Polo for Increase in the size of the Program Pool to cater for elite water polo competition

In October 2025, Balmain Water polo approached Council outlining concerns about increasing the size of the pool to allow for additional water polo use.

Balmain Water Polo club is an important local community club and is based at Dawn Fraser Pool, using the facility for 337 hours per year. They also currently use Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre for 223 hours per year and Ashfield Aquatic Centre for 411 hours per year.

The proposed program pool is suitable for junior water polo and training. Balmain Water Polo would like the pool size increased to cater for more senior water polo competition which is available at Ashfield Pool and Dawn Fraser Pool.

The masterplan and budget for the development of the LPAC Upgrade did not include provisions for more senior water polo competition. Balmain Water polo Club currently hire the

diving pool for training which is 20 metres by 14 metres and the new program pool will have increased capacity with dimensions of 25 metres by 18 metres.

In developing the LPAC Upgrade, the length and width (50m x 18m, 25m x 18m) of the proposed pools were based upon the endorsed LPAC Master Plan in 2020 and subsequent Council resolutions. The inclusion of a dedicated water polo pool was never incorporated into the endorsed Master Plan, and no budget provision has been allowed for.

Stage 2 was designed to deliver key aquatic program outcomes, including learn-to-swim classes, lap swimming, accessible activities, and general community use. These offerings are complemented by upgraded amenities, enhanced accessibility features, and modernised heating and filtration systems.

It is recognised that a water polo pool designed for competition must adhere to the following minimum requirements:

- Field of play: 25m (length) x 20m (width)
- Clearances: additional unobstructed space beyond each end for goals and player movement
- Minimum depth: 1.8m
- Consistent depth: flat floor across the playing area
- Water temperature: 25–27°C
- Lighting, circulation and markings: compliant with applicable competition standards

This means the pool would generally need to be at least 28 metres by 22 metres, increasing from 25m metres by 18 metres.

During the community consultation process, Council officers informed Balmain Water Polo via email that amending the project scope to accommodate elite water polo was not feasible due to financial and site constraints. Nevertheless, after this initial correspondence, no further in-depth discussions or follow-up meetings took place with the Club, highlighting a gap in stakeholder engagement.

The Stage 2 concept design underwent community consultation from November 2024 which demonstrated community support for the project. As a result, the design was endorsed at the April 2025 Council meeting, alongside approval to advance to detailed design development, pursue planning approvals, and proceed with subsequent delivery phases.

Stage 2 was advertised for tender in the second half of 2025, in accordance with the masterplan and the endorsed Stage 2 concept plan. As the tender process for Stage 2 was ending, Council received renewed representations from the Balmain Water Polo Club, requesting consideration to accommodate elite-level water polo competition.

In response, Council investigated the potential to modify either the 25-metre or 50-metre pool designs to comply with elite competition standards. This assessment was carried out by Council's appointed design consultants and sub-consultants, with an independent Quantity Surveyor engaged to provide order-of-cost estimates for the various options considered.

The investigation explored two options with the increase of the modification to the 50 metre pool from 18m wide to 22.5m wide and an extra 250mm deeper or increasing the program pool to 28 metres by 22.5m. This results in over 40% more water being needed compared to the endorsed concept.

This means that the capacity of the plant to treat and heat the water would need to increase, which in turn would mean the capacity of the electrical system for the site would be exceeded, and a full electrical kiosk upgrade would be likely. The size of the plant room would also need to be increased. The increased pool footprint would also result in conflicts with existing

services, additional excavation and fill, resulting in a greater volume of material needing to be removed from the site with increased disposal costs.

The inclusion of a larger movable floor introduces significant cost implications and may also impact the design details and overall constructability of the moveable floor.

It was estimated that these changes would cost at least \$8M, with no funding allocated in the long term financial plan.

Council met with representatives of the Balmain Water Polo Club in November 2025 to discuss the feasibility outcomes, project constraints and the implications of incorporating elite-level water polo requirements into the Stage 2 design and advise that the proposal was not feasible.

During the meeting, the Club proposed that Council explore a compromise option by adding an additional lane to either the 25-metre or 50-metre pool, with the aim of enhancing future water polo functionality.

Council investigated the additional lane proposal. The assessment determined that this compromise option presented similar challenges to those identified in the initial feasibility review. The option to add an extra lane was estimated to cost at least \$6M to \$7.5M and was found to entail comparable risks and impacts on project delivery as previously outlined.

It is important to note that independent probity advice confirmed that any decision by Council to expand the project scope to accommodate elite-level water polo—whether through pool extensions, additional lanes, or revised functional layouts—would represent a material and substantial change to the tender requirements. Consequently, the current tender could not simply be varied to include these changes; instead, it would need to be formally cancelled and the project re-tendered. This process would impact the program by requiring approximately four months for redesign, followed by the initiation of a new procurement process, which could take up to a further five months.

If the project is delayed, there is a real risk that costs will increase. Longer timeframes mean higher fees for design and consultants, and the project will be more exposed to rising construction costs and price increases across the industry—especially in aquatic facility builds, which have seen significant price fluctuations in recent years.

If Council were to proceed with the current tender and seek to incorporate the scope change through a contract variation, the design already completed would need to be reverted from detailed design back to conceptual design, effectively resetting the project's technical development. Under such an approach, both the contractor and Council would assume increased risk, as the redesign process would likely reveal further unknowns relating to existing infrastructure, geotechnical conditions, services requirements, and integration with Stage 1 systems.

Recent lessons from aquatic facility projects delivered by councils indicate that undertaking a major redesign within a live contract environment presents a high probability of cost overruns and significant schedule blowouts, particularly where scope is expanded after procurement has commenced. In this context, attempting to vary the contract to accommodate elite water polo would materially increase the risk profile of the project, reduce cost certainty, and compromise Council's ability to deliver the upgrade.

Therefore, changing the project scope to include more senior water polo competitions would create unacceptable financial, operational, and scheduling risks for Council. For these reasons, this option should not proceed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An extensive value engineering and cost saving exercise has been undertaken to the project with oversight by the external Project Assurance Consultant and Quantity Surveyor.

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has confirmed that funding to cover the estimated project cost is accounted for in the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the 2025/2026 financial year. In this regard, a total project budget of \$55.934 million is allocated for both stage 1 and stage 2 of this project.

Should Council consider incorporating the additional scope required to accommodate more senior water polo competitions within Stage 2, this would have significant financial implications. The feasibility assessment indicates that the changes—such as increased pool size, additional plant capacity, structural reconfiguration, services upgrades, expanded concourse and storage areas, and associated design rework—would substantially increase project costs. Furthermore, redesign and re-tendering would extend project timelines, increasing exposure to construction cost escalation, CPI uplift, and market volatility.

The cumulative effect of these factors means that additional funding would be required beyond the currently allocated project budget which is not included in the Long Term Financial Plan

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 19
Subject: LEICHHARDT OVAL REFURBISHMENT - MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report which details the following progress since the last report:

1. The State Significant Development Application was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in late December 2025 and was publicly exhibited from 16 January 2026 to 12 February 2026.
2. Schematic design has been completed, with the design now progressing into detailed development for the lower bowl seating, western grandstand, and northern grandstand, supported by specialised architectural, structural, services, and cost-planning consultants.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a monthly update on the Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment project. The project continues to progress well through both design development and the State Significant Development planning process.

Schematic design was completed and finalised in December 2025, following coordination of architectural, engineering and cost-planning inputs. The project has now advanced into detailed design for key elements including the western grandstand, northern grandstand and lower bowl seating.

The State Significant Development Application was lodged in December 2025 and publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure from 16 January to 12 February 2026.

The project continues to operate under a strong governance and assurance framework. The program remains on track, with planning approval targeted for August 2026, construction scheduled to commence in October 2026, and completion anticipated in early 2028.

BACKGROUND

In October 2023 Inner West Council adopted the Leichhardt Oval Masterplan following extensive public engagement.

In June 2024, the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments formed a funding partnership to secure the future of Leichhardt Oval. The Commonwealth committing \$20 million to the project, with the NSW Government and the Inner West Council investing \$10 million each towards the upgrade.

At the Council meeting held on 29 April 2025 meeting, Council resolved the following:

That Council endorse the Leichhardt Oval renovation final design concepts April 2025 (Attachment 1 of the Council report) and proceed with preparing detailed plans in order to seek planning approval.

This resulted in a project scope to the:

- Western Grandstand Player Amenities
- Western Grandstand – modern facilities for spectators, sponsors and media
- Lower Seating Bowl – All new ‘stadium type’ seating to ensure safety and compliance
- New Northern Grandstand

Council has engaged external consultants with demonstrated expertise in delivering complex infrastructure projects to support the Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment.

In this regard, Ernst & Young (EY) has been appointed to provide project management services. EY’s Sydney-based division has a strong track record in delivering major sports and recreational infrastructure across NSW, including Allianz Stadium, CommBank Stadium, and the new Penrith Stadium.

Cox Architecture has been appointed as Principal Design Consultant, leading a multidisciplinary team covering structural, electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, planning, heritage, accessibility, and Building Code of Australia compliance. With over 60 years of experience, Cox Architecture brings deep expertise in stadia and elite sports facility design, with a strong focus on venue functionality, digital integration, and spectator experience.

A robust governance framework is in place, including a Project Control Group chaired by the General Manager as Project Sponsor.

Rider Levitt Bucknall (RLB) has been appointed as the projects Quantity Surveyor (QS) to prepare cost estimates. The QS will also have an on-going role through the construction stages in assessing progress claims and variation costs, and monitoring cash flows.

NSW Public Works Advisory has been appointed as the independent project assurance consultant, responsible for monthly reporting and oversight of performance, cost, and schedule. Reports are tabled at key governance forums to support transparency and informed decision-making.

The project continues to be monitored in accordance with the Risk Management Plan and is reported to Governance forums including:

- Project Control Group – Monthly and chaired by the General Manager
- Major Capital Projects Committee – Monthly
- Audit Risk and Improvement Committee – Quarterly
- Inner West Council meetings – Monthly

DISCUSSION

The Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment project remains in the design phase, with its high-level scope confirmed at the April 2025 Council meeting through endorsement of the final design concepts.

Throughout December 2025, the project team continued to refine the design in response to feedback received from the State Design Review Panel (SDRP) following its October presentation. This guidance informed revisions to the planning submission and supported the schematic design stage.

The Design Team completed the schematic design phase in December 2025 turning the approved concept into a clear and buildable plan. This included refining the layout, coordinating engineering requirements, and ensuring the design worked with existing building services.

The project is continuing through the State Significant Development (SSD) process, with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) as the approval authority.

Council submitted the Test of Adequacy (ToA) in late November 2025. This is an initial check to confirm that the Environmental Impact Statement meets the required assessment criteria.

After reviewing the ToA, DPHI accepted the material and the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) was formally lodged in late December 2025.

DPHI placed the SSDA on public exhibition from 16 January to 12 February 2026. During this period, the community and other government agencies provide feedback on the proposed design through DPHI’s website. Once the exhibition closes, DPHI will compile all submissions, and the project team will review and prepare responses as part of the assessment process.

The overall program remains unchanged, with planning approval targeted for August 2026. This will enable procurement and contractor mobilisation ahead of construction commencement in October 2026, with completion anticipated in early 2028.

The high-level project program is presented below:

Activity	Target Completion	Status
Project Planning Scope Confirmation	May 2025	Completed
Consultant Engagements	August 2025	Completed
Lodgement of SSD Application	December 2025	Completed
Complete 80% design for tender	April 2026	In progress
Planning Approval	August 2026	In progress
Procurement	August 2026	Future
Contract award and execution	September 2026	Future
Construction commences on-site	October 2026	Future
Construction complete	Early 2028	Future

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Quantity Surveyor has confirmed a preliminary project budget of approximately \$50 million for the endorsed design concepts. This estimate remains subject to value engineering and a competitive procurement process to ensure value for money from the project.

Council has allocated \$40 million in the draft 2025/2026 Long Term Financial Plan and will pursue additional State and Commonwealth grant funding. Staging of works may be considered to align with available funding.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 20
Subject: LEICHHARDT OVAL LIVE MUSIC UPDATE
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report on the Leichhardt Oval Live Music highlighting the strategy and timeline for live music and entertainment at the Oval.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is progressing work to trial live music and performance events at Leichhardt Oval ahead of its planned refurbishment. An Expression of Interest (EOI) conducted in mid-2025 confirmed industry interest but did not result in a viable proposal, with feedback indicating the venue is not yet presented as “concert ready”. In response, Council has shifted to discussions with experienced live music promoters to establish the technical, safety and commercial foundations required to safely and credibly introduce live music programming.

There is no requirement to amend the Leichhardt Park Plan of Management to enable concerts, provided sport remains the primary use of the Oval. Independent fire and egress modelling is nearing completion and will establish safe operating parameters. Industry advice indicates that a short, coordinated series of events is more commercially and operationally viable than isolated concerts.

Council officers are progressing discussions with promoters with the intention of finalising an agreement by April 2026, with a pilot live music event targeted for September 2026, subject to agreed conditions. Outcomes from the pilot will be reported back to Council to inform future use of the Oval following its redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

At the November 2024 Council meeting it was resolved that:

1. *That Council open an expression of interest process inviting proposals for the use of Leichhardt Oval for live music and performance for up to 4 events in 2025. The draft of the EOI is to be tabled for endorsement at the December Ordinary Council meeting. Preference is to be given proposals that promote local community engagement and showcase Inner West artists.*
2. *That Council include in the primary specifications for the design of the renovation of Leichhardt Oval options for the equipment and other elements that would enable the ground to be used for live music and live performance.*
3. *That following receipt of expressions of interest, consultation with the community will take place about amending the Leichhardt Park Plan of Management to allow for the trial of music events take place.*

At the December 2024 Council meeting it was resolved that:

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*

These resolutions established Council's intent to test live music at the Oval while ensuring appropriate community safeguards were in place.

DISCUSSION

The Expression of Interest process was conducted from 28 May to 25 June 2025 via the SmartyGrants platform. However, this process did not yield a successful submission.

Broader engagement with the live music industry indicated that promoters require professionally prepared technical specifications, safety documentation, and commercial clarity before committing. Without this information, promoters are unable to price events accurately, secure artists, or confirm insurance and compliance requirements.

Venue Readiness, Approvals and Compliance

As a result, Council is actively preparing the venue by addressing identified requirements and information gaps, with the intent of enabling informed market engagement and well-founded proposals in the future.

An independent fire and life safety consultant has been engaged to prepare fire engineering and egress modelling for crowd capacities ranging from five-thousand to fifteen-thousand patrons. This modelling will inform safe operating parameters and be incorporated into promoter information and operational planning, and will be completed shortly.

Crown Lands have advised that a Plan of Management amendment is not required as concerts and similar community events may occur on land categorised as a sportsground, provided sport remains the primary use. This condition is considered to be met at Leichhardt Oval, given its ongoing role as a sporting venue.

Protection of community amenity is a central consideration of the proposed live music strategy with consideration to event frequency, operating hours, and noise impacts.

Residents will receive clear and timely communication regarding any proposed event, including expected impacts and mitigation measures.

Traffic, transport, and waste management plans will be implemented to minimise disruption to the surrounding area.

Safety planning will be guided by independent engineering advice and documented emergency and crowd management procedures.

Asset protection protocols will reduce damage risks and ensure the Oval remains fit for ongoing sporting use.

Engagement with the live music industry

Under Council's procurement procedures, following the unsuccessful Expression of Interest (EOI) process, Council engaged directly with major live music promoters to better understand current market expectations and operational requirements, and to gauge interest in partnering to establish live music events at the Oval. This engagement has generated positive feedback regarding the potential delivery of live music events at Leichhardt Oval, subject to certain conditions being met.

Advice received indicates that, from both a commercial and operational perspective, live music at the venue is most likely to succeed if delivered as a coordinated series of events over a defined period, rather than as a single standalone concert. This approach supports stronger commercial viability and operational efficiency. Many costs associated with live music events, such as site planning, technical design, safety and compliance documentation, production mobilisation, and regulatory approvals, are largely fixed and incurred upfront. Delivering multiple events within a short timeframe allows these costs to be shared across several shows, improving financial viability and supporting a sustainable delivery model. This approach also reflects established industry practice, particularly for venues being introduced or reactivated for live music programming.

These discussions are informing Council's preparatory work to facilitate the delivery of live music events, including the development of clear technical documentation, safety parameters, and operational frameworks. This approach is intended to give promoters confidence to proceed, provide greater certainty for the market, and ensure events are delivered in a way that appropriately manages community, asset, and compliance obligations.

Council officers are progressing discussion with promoters to deliver live music activation at Leichhardt Oval and will finalise operational and commercial arrangements with the intention to enter into an agreement with one of the promoters by the end of April.

A pilot live music event is targeted for September 2026 prior to the planned closure of the Oval for its refurbishment, subject to agreement of terms and conditions of use.

Outcomes from the pilot will be evaluated and reported back to Council to inform future decisions once the oval has been refurbished and subsequently reopened in early 2028.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development of venue readiness documentation is being funded from existing operational budgets.

Beyond this, financial implications will be dependent upon the agreement and form part of the 2026/27 budget planning process.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 21
Subject: BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY UPDATE
Prepared By: Ryann Midei - Director Property and Major Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report which provides a program for engagement and development of the Building Our Community Plan.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2025, Council resolved to begin community consultation to prioritise infrastructure projects, in response to the recently adopted Our Fairer Future Plan.

A structured, three-phase approach has been developed to identify community priorities and facilitate consultation on the draft Development Contributions Plan, to be known as the Building Our Community Plan.

Building Our Community engagement officially launched in November 2025, with the first phase running from November 2025 to March 2026. Engagement activities in this phase include an online survey, in-person pop-up events, and door knocking. Already, more than 2,000 submissions have been received.

The second phase will begin in May 2026 and will feature a combined Local Democracy Group and a Community Deliberative Forum, providing further opportunities for community feedback on community priorities.

The third phase will be undertaken in the second half of 2026 to coincide with public exhibition of the draft Building Our Community Plan. This will include community information sessions and other engagement tools as needed.

A program outlining key milestone activities for the development of the Building Our Community Plan has been established, with completion targeted for 2027.

BACKGROUND

As more people call the Inner West home, Council recognises the need to ensure we have the spaces, infrastructure and services our growing community needs.

In 2025, Council exhibited and endorsed *Our Fairer Future* as an alternative approach to the State Government Housing Reforms. This package has been forwarded to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for action.

At the Council Meeting held on 30 September 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council commence a review of the Inner West Developer Contributions Plan and develop a prioritised a plan for community infrastructure to be funded by developer contributions: the Building Our Community Plan.*
2. *That the Director Property and Major Projects take responsibility for developing the Building our Community Plan and report it to each Major Capital Projects Committee and thereafter to Council.*
3. *That the Senior Manager, Communications and Engagement, take responsibility for developing a communications and engagement plan for the Building our Community Plan and report it to each Major Capital Projects Committee and thereafter to Council.*
4. *That the initial phase of the communications and engagement plan be focussed on the prioritisation of projects and include doorknocking, community information sessions, street stalls, online surveys and advertising, weighted towards the sections of the community that are receiving the most uplift in housing young people and renters.*
5. *That Council form a Deliberative Democracy Group, following the principles of selection of random members from the Inner West Community, to discuss and provide feedback on the prioritisation of projects in the Building Our Community Plan.*
6. *That the Director Property and Major Projects and Senior Manager, Communications and Engagement each provide and initial report to the February 2026 Council meeting, including a timeline for the remainder of the engagement and development of the full Building Our Community Plan.*

DISCUSSION

To ensure the effective delivery of the Building Our Community Plan, a program has been developed that outlines key milestones for both the engagement process and the preparation of the final plan. This timeline will guide the structured rollout of communication activities, stakeholder consultations, and opportunities for community input, providing clarity and accountability throughout each stage.

Engagement

The Building Our Community consultation launched in November 2025 with both online and in-person engagement tools. This was supported by a communications strategy that included a media release, digital advertising and information in the December edition of the LGA-wide newsletter. The focus of the initial phase of consultation is to identify community priorities. To do this, several engagement tools were developed including trialing new creative ways to capture community feedback in an accessible and creative way.

- Town centres and public areas
- Sporting fields, pools, playing courts or skate parks
- Parks and playgrounds
- Cycleway infrastructure
- Drainage systems
- Community buildings
- Pedestrian safety like kerb ramps, footpaths, crossings
- Closing specific streets from cars
- Traffic calming measures

points allocator which asks participants to distribute 100 points between the nine categories. This is the first time trialing this method as an alternative to a survey prioritisation structure and encourages community members to consider how much value they place on some categories over others.

Participants with specific projects are given two other opportunities to share their views, by dropping a pin on an online map or leaving suggestions for state government projects in an open-ended question box.

Pop up stalls have been held with an interactive coin allocator activity. Participants are given five “inner west creds” (coloured tokens) and asked to distribute them between nine boxes, with each box representing one of the nine categories used in the online tools. A pop up has been scheduled in each ward, as well as at Council Aquatic Centres over the summer and Inner West Kids Fest.

In February 2026, Council Officers will undertake four door knocking sessions, focused on areas most impacted by uplift. Residents will be provided the list of 9 categories and asked to select five, which reflects the coin allocator activity from the pop-up stalls. Answers and additional comments will be recorded on a tablet.

At the time of writing this report, there were:

- 8,782 visits to the Your Say Inner West page
- More than 1500 online submissions
- 37 email submissions
- 7 pop up stalls held with a total of 631 submissions

The supporting communications strategy has centred around two bursts, the launch in November 2025 and a New Year re-launch in mid-January 2026, with ongoing digital and print promotion throughout.

Communications collateral includes:

- Organic social media videos, photos and graphics
- Paid digital advertising (video and graphics) targeted across the LGA
- Media release
- Digital screens and posters
- Postcards at the pop-up stalls and council touchpoints
- Advertising in council e-newsletters
- Responding to comments on social media.

At the conclusion of the first phase in March 2026, an engagement outcomes report and draft Inner West Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) will be developed and shared with Council at the May 2026 meeting.

The second phase will include a combined Local Democracy Group event and a Deliberative Forum made up of randomly selected community members from across the Inner West. These

will focus on further refining community priorities and receiving additional feedback on the results of Phase One.

The draft Building Our Community Plan will be publicly exhibited on Your Say Inner West, with supporting engagement activities including in-person community information sessions.

Next steps in developing the Building Our Community Plan

In May 2026, Council will consider the Engagement Outcomes Report and associated action plan arising from submissions to the Building Our Community consultation. This report will establish key infrastructure planning priorities and guiding principles for the development of a future contributions plan. A draft Inner West Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) will also be reported, informed by community feedback, that seeks to identify both State infrastructure advocacy priorities and local infrastructure needs for the Inner West.

The draft IDP acts as a precursor to a future Contributions Plan by assessing anticipated infrastructure costs, identifying the scale of the infrastructure funding gap, and testing a range of income scenarios. It will identify tailored framework solutions for the Inner West by outlining available options to fund infrastructure delivery.

The procurement process for reviewing the contributions plan is currently in progress. Due to the specialised nature of this work, external consultants with relevant expertise will be engaged to support the review.

Program

Phase /Milestone	Activities
Nov 2025 – March 2026	Building our Community phase one consultation period
Mar-April	Preparation of Engagement Outcomes Report & draft Inner West Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)
May	Council Meeting to consider engagement report and draft Inner West Infrastructure Delivery Plan
May-June	Community Deliberative Forum and Combined Local Democracy Group event
May-Sept	Preparation of draft Contributions Plan
Oct	Council Meeting to consider draft Contributions Plan
Nov	Statutory exhibition period draft Contributions Plan (min 28 days)
March 2027	Post Exhibition Report on draft Contribution Plan engagement

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with engagement and the development of the plan are covered under existing operational budgets.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 22
Subject: BI-MONTHLY OMNIBUS PLANNING UPDATE
Prepared By: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council continue to advocate for a fast track assessment process from the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure to progress *Our Fairer Future Plan Phase 1*.
2. That the Croydon / Iron Cove Precinct draft masterplan for community consultation be reported to the April 2026 council meeting.
3. That Council endorse Phase 2 of *Our Fairer Future* work plan as outlined in the report and report on progress as part of the omnibus updates.
4. That the draft Affordable Housing Policy for community consultation be reported to the April 2026 council meeting.
5. That Council endorse the commencement of early online consultation for the *Parramatta Road Corridor State Led rezoning* in February 2026 for at least 28 days.
6. That the Inner West Development Control Plan be reported to the April 2026 council meeting.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with a bi-monthly update on the implementation of *Our Fairer Future Plan* and associated planning initiatives that support housing delivery, affordability and liveable communities across the Inner West.

In accordance with the Council resolution of December 9 2025, the report outlines progress on:

- implementation of *Our Fairer Future Plan* (Phase 1),
- Phase 2 of *Our Fairer Future Plan*,
- review of Inner West Affordable Housing Policy,
- Parramatta Road Corridor State-led rezoning,
- Bays West Precinct master planning, and
- preparation of draft Inner West Development Control Plan.

Our Fairer Future Plan Phase 1 has been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for expedited implementation, with ongoing engagement to progress approval.

This report outlines the scope for Phase 2 of *Our Fairer Future Plan* with area of investigation informed by Council resolutions and outstanding technical studies with early engagement on the project to commence in March 2026.

Council officers have met with Burwood Council officers and progressed discussions on the Draft Masterplan for Croydon/ Iron Cove Precinct which will be reported to Council in April 2026 seeking endorsement to exhibit.

The review of the Inner West Affordable Housing Policy is underway to align with current State planning requirements and best-practice approaches. A draft updated Policy is scheduled to be reported to Council for consideration and community consultation in April 2026.

This report also outlines preparation for early community consultation on the Parramatta Road Corridor rezoning. While this is a partnership project with DPFI, Inner West is leading the early consultation which is expected to commence in February 2026.

Finally, the report outlines progress on the draft DCP, which is undergoing its first review to ensure clarity, accessibility and alignment with Council resolutions.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council receive and note the report.*
2. *That Council provide bi-monthly omnibus planning updates on the implementation of the Our Fairer Future Plan and related planning reforms, including our Affordable Housing Policy, Stage 2 planning, Parramatta Road Corridor rezoning, Bays West masterplanning, and DCP development, demonstrating how these initiatives collectively support housing delivery and liveable communities across the LGA.*
3. *That Council during this process advocate to the DPFI for their analysis to include:*
 - a) *An investigation of feasibility for 20% affordable housing contribution for any additional proposed floor space beyond the baseline provision in upzoned area.*

This report responds to part 2 of Council's resolution. Further update reports on these projects will be provided to Council on a bi-monthly basis.

DISCUSSION

Our Fairer Future Plan Phase 1

Following the Council resolution on 30 September 2025, *Our Fairer Future Plan* was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in two parts, the final submission being the digital maps, which were updated to reflect the Council resolution. The final tranche was provided to the DPHI on 8 December 2025 for their expedited review and approval.

Council is meeting with the Department regarding the next steps to finalise the Plan.

Council officers also updated the [Interactive map tool](#) based on the adopted *Our Fairer Future Plan*. This was made available for the community to access on 28 November 2025 via the *Our Fairer Future* landing page on the website.

Update on Croydon / Iron Cove Precinct

At the September 2025 Extraordinary Meeting Council resolved to defer the Croydon/ Iron cove precinct until further consultation had been undertaken with Burwood Council. Council officers have and continue to consult with Burwood Council. A revised draft masterplan for Croydon/ Iron Cove precinct will be brought to April 2026 Council Meeting to seek endorsement to place the draft plan for community feedback.

Our Fairer Future Plan Phase 2

Phase 2 of *Our Fairer Future Plan* will further investigate housing opportunities across the LGA in accordance with the Council resolutions of May 2025 and September 2025 meetings and Council's endorsed Planning Principles.

At the Council meeting held on 20 May 2025, Council resolved as part of as *Our Fairer Future Plan*:

That Stage 2 of the "Fairer Future for the Inner West" Plan will commence immediately after the adoption of Stage 1 and include:

- a) incorporating the 3,000-5,000 new homes in the Bays West precinct;*
- b) Increasing density on Parramatta Road;*
- c) increasing density on main streets, heavy and light rail stations not examined in stage 1; and*
- d) Completion of further technical investigations for the "additional housing opportunity areas"*

When considering *Our Fairer Future Plan* on 30 September 2025, Council also resolved to undertake further technical investigations across the LGA. Attachment 1 provides a summary of areas of investigation cross referenced with council resolutions and State Government-led rezonings.

Accordingly, Phase 2 of *Our Fairer Future Plan* will be primarily focused around:

- T2 / T4 Rail Line and Metro: within 800m of Newtown, Stanmore, Summer Hill, Petersham, Lewisham, Hurlstone Park and St Peters specifically where there are outstanding flood and heritage investigations previously not undertaken for *Our Fairer Future Plan Phase 1*
- Light rail stops: within 400m of Marion, Hawthorne, Leichhardt North and Lilyfield stops
- Main streets/ Centres: Annandale and Enmore
- Site-specific addresses and streets listed as per 30 September 2025 Council resolution outlined in both Attachments 1 and 2.

When identifying the areas of early investigation for Phase 2 the following matters have also been considered:

- T4 Line: There are limited opportunities for residential development in Sydenham and Tempe due to proximity to Sydney Airport, primarily land use being industrial land and aircraft noise constraints ANEF 30+.
- The Bays West Transport Orientated Development Accelerated Precinct is being undertaken by State Government. The TOD masterplan was expected to be publicly exhibited for community comment in 2025 but this has not yet occurred.

- Leichhardt – Significant parts of Leichhardt including around Taverners Hill Light Rail are being investigated for uplift as part of State-led rezoning for Parramatta Road (discussed later in this report). Further areas to the north of City west link are largely the subject of Bays West TOD rezoning. Technical flooding and heritage investigations in Leichhardt that are outside of the State led rezoning areas will commence and the masterplanning analysis that follows will be undertaken in order to fit appropriately with the built form outcomes of these two State-led rezoning projects that book end this section of Leichhardt.

Next Steps

- Early engagement with the community - March 2026
- Procurement of technical studies including urban design, heritage, flooding, transport, economic feasibility and infrastructure – February/ March 2026
- Preparation of draft studies and masterplan: March – September 2026
- Report to Council - October 2026
- Community Engagement - November/ December 2026
- Post engagement outcomes Report to Council and finalisation of Plan – February 2027

Review of Inner West Affordable Housing Policy

Overview

At the Council meeting held on 30 September 2025, Council resolved the following in part:

5. *That Council base our policy regarding acquisition of affordable housing through private development in upzoned areas on the City of Sydney's principles that have been successfully implemented. This is to include:*
 - a) *Adoption of the officers recommendation for a 2% affordable housing contribution, moving to 3% after 3 years, across all privately owned land in upzoned areas;*
 - b) *Consideration of a 1% affordable housing contribution on all non-residential lands within the local government area, with the plan for phasing and introduction of this to be included in the studies for Stage 2 of the Our Fairer Future Plan; and*
 - c) *Inclusion of a 20% affordable housing contribution for any additional proposed floor space beyond the baseline provision, in upzoned areas. This is to be based on the City of Sydney's policy and to be determined through Stage 2 investigations of the Fairer Future Plan.*
 - i. *That Officers be requested to provide urgent advice to the elected Council on what steps Council needs to make to implement this change; and*
 - ii. *That Officers be delegated to commission or engage additional advice or support up to a budget of \$10,000 to be funded out of contingency.*

Council officers are in the process of reviewing the current Inner West Affordable Housing Policy (adopted 2022) and preparing an updated Affordable Housing Policy and Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme. The revised Affordable Housing Policy will outline Council's overarching policy positions and responsibilities in relation to delivery of affordable housing, as well as definitions and methods of delivery for affordable housing.

An Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme is informed by Council's Affordable Housing Policy it allows Council to set out how, where and at what rate development contributions can be collected by councils for affordable housing. The implementation of a scheme requires the preparation of a Planning Proposal to bring it into the Inner West Local Environmental Plan.

Until now in the Inner West affordable housing contributions have been collected through Planning Agreements or if there are certain site-specific provisions in *Inner West Local*

Environmental Plan 2022 requiring an affordable housing contribution. However, DPHI is now requiring councils to prepare a scheme as part of regional planning frameworks and local housing strategies. This is to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach across multiple local government areas.

The following table provides a breakdown of items from Council's 30 September 2025 resolution and the relevant deliverables for each item:

Resolution	Deliverable
<p>5. That Council base our policy regarding acquisition of affordable housing through private development in upzoned areas on the City of Sydney's principles that have been successfully implemented. This is to include:</p> <p>a) Adoption of the officers recommendation for a 2% affordable housing contribution, moving to 3% after 3 years, across all privately owned land in upzoned areas;</p>	<p>This has been implemented through the <i>Our Fairer Future Plan Phase 1</i> and submitted to DPHI for implementation.</p>
<p>b) Consideration of a 1% affordable housing contribution on all non-residential lands within the local government area, with the plan for phasing and introduction of this to be included in the studies for Stage 2 of the <i>Our Fairer Future Plan</i>; and</p>	<p>This will be investigated through feasibility testing which will be undertaken for <i>Our Fairer Future Plan Phase 2</i>.</p>
<p>c) Inclusion of a 20% affordable housing contribution for any additional proposed floor space beyond the baseline provision, in upzoned areas. This is to be based on the City of Sydney's policy and to be determined through Stage 2 investigations of the <i>Fairer Future Plan</i>.</p> <p>i. That Officers be requested to provide urgent advice to the elected Council on what steps Council needs to make to implement this change; and</p> <p>ii. That Officers be delegated to commission or engage additional advice or support up to a budget of \$10,000 to be funded out of contingency.</p>	<p>Initial advice on implementation steps is provided below and further research is being undertaken with the economic consultants which will inform the future policy position in the Affordable housing policy.</p>

Initial Advice regarding City of Sydney Affordable Housing Program

The City of Sydney Affordable Housing Program (the Program) was adopted in 2023 and carries statutory weight in City of Sydney's Local Environmental Plans, in particular *Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012* (SLEP 2012).

Atlas Economics have been appointed to assist with responding to Council's 30 September resolution through undertaking feasibility analysis, review of Affordable Housing Policy, and subsequently preparing the associated Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme.

Atlas has prepared advice in response to Council's above resolution, as follows:

The City of Sydney Program contains the following affordable rental housing principles:

- Affordable rental housing is to be provided and managed in the City of Sydney LGA so that a socially diverse residential population, representative of all income groups, is maintained.

- Affordable rental housing that is provided is to be made available to a mix of households on very low to moderate incomes.
- Affordable rental housing that is provided is to be rented to very low to moderate income households at no more than 30% of gross household income.
- Dwellings provided for affordable rental housing are to be managed so as to maintain their continued use for affordable rental housing.
- Affordable rental housing is to consist of dwellings constructed to a standard which, in the opinion of the City, is consistent with other dwellings in the LGA.
- Affordable rental housing under this program: Affordable rental housing or Affordable rental dwelling is affordable housing that is owned and managed by government, a Recommended Community Housing Provider, or an Eligible Community Housing Provider and rented to very low to moderate income households.

The Program comprises the following Affordable Housing contributions:

- An inclusionary zoning contribution – 1% Affordable Housing contribution on non-residential floorspace and 3% on residential floorspace except in areas excluded in the Program (under clause 7.13 of SLEP 2012)
- Varying rates – of up to 21% – on proposed floor area on land subject to a Planning Proposal where uplift is sought (under clause 7.13B of SLEP 2012). N.b. there is a proposal underway to rationalise the multiple rates to a flat 20% rate on uplift via a Planning Proposal.

The Program also contains monetary (dollar) rates that apply in lieu of a contribution in kind.

The Affordable Housing contribution rates in the City of Sydney Program (% and monetary) are based on precinct-specific feasibility testing. This is influenced by a myriad of factors such as land values, achievable sale prices upon completion, development fees and charges and construction costs. While some factors are broadly comparable across different localities (e.g. cost of construction), many are location-specific – notably the cost of developing land (including land values) and revenue upon completion. In assessing the appropriateness of Affordable Housing contributions in the Inner West, these factors as above must be considered.

To implement affordable housing initiatives for the Inner West that utilise principles as set out in the City of Sydney’s Affordable Housing Program Atlas will incorporate feasibility testing on a sample of sites. This testing will model location-specific attributes mentioned above and generate observations on the capacity of new development to contribute the maximum toward Affordable Housing.

Based on the outcomes of this testing, recommendations will be made including:

- identification of key considerations influencing development feasibility and development activity, including location-specific nuances, and
- Affordable Housing rates (% and dollar rates).

Next Steps

An updated draft Policy will be reported to Council for consideration and community consultation by April 2026. Subject to Council’s adoption of an updated Policy, Atlas will then assist in the preparation of an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme for Phase 2.

This scheme will also take into account observations and recommendations on the City of Sydney Program, as well as general assessments on local housing needs and viability (leveraging previous feasibility analysis undertaken by Atlas). Deliverables are as follows;

- Draft Affordable Housing Policy to Ordinary Council Meeting of April 2026
- Exhibition of draft policy for not less than 28 days until May / June 2026
- Post Engagement Report to Ordinary Council Meeting of August 2026

- Preparation of draft Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme forms part of the consideration of Housing Investigation Areas in Phase 2 of *Our Fairer Future Plan*.

Parramatta Road Corridor State-led rezoning

At the Council Meeting held on 23 September 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council seek a partnership with the NSW Government to undertake further residential rezoning of the Parramatta Road corridor, with the aim of delivering up to 8000 new homes in the section of the corridor within the Inner West local government area.*
 - a) *This is to be undertaken through a state significant development process, with Inner West council as a participating partner. The methodology for the investigations would replicate the locally based planning and block-by-block analysis that has been the basis of the Our Fairer Future Plan (Inner West LEP 2025); and*
 - b) *The planning process should also include early comprehensive community consultation, including with land owners, consideration of transport, public domain improvements, open space, not-for-profit housing, commercial and retail opportunities, and improvements to the streetscape.*
2. *That Council write to the NSW Premier and the NSW Planning Minister seeking their agreement to commence this project immediately, with close collaboration between the Inner West council and the Department of Planning.*

DPHI and Inner West are collaborating on a Parramatta Road Rezoning Project that meets the terms of the Council resolution above. Attachment 2 illustrates the investigation area.

The objectives of the project include;

- Preparation of new planning controls supported by technical analysis to ensure development outcomes are fit for purpose and respond to the current and future needs of the community including affordable housing
- An urban design solution for the precinct utilising the principles of *Our Fairer Future Plan*
- Addressing the housing shortage by identifying opportunities for further growth in the precinct having regard to economic feasibility and site-specific conditions such as flooding and heritage
- Developing an integrated and consistent approach to deliver housing, jobs and infrastructure across the Precinct
- Enhancing the contribution of non-residential uses within the precinct such as employment and creative uses
- Delivery of an urban design framework that integrates transport, public life, and green infrastructure to address the corridor's current challenges.

DPHI has progressed the procurement of consultants to undertake a range of technical studies. including:

- Infrastructure Delivery Plan (including consideration of the types of social infrastructure required to support the precinct and funding mechanisms to support provision)
- Biodiversity
- Economic assessment and affordable housing
- Flooding
- Contamination
- Connecting with Country
- Urban design
- Transport

DPHI have indicated a timeframe as follows:

- Early community consultation – Mid February to March 2026 (undertaken by Council)
- A draft plan for exhibition likely to be September 2026 (undertaken by DPHI with input from Council)
- Final Plan adoption – Early 2027 (undertaken by DPHI with input from Council)

Preparation of early community consultation is underway and will include engagement with landowners as required by the resolution. The purpose of this engagement is to advocate to DPHI on behalf of the Inner West community. This engagement will include collecting survey information from residents and landowners through the Your Say Inner West platform. Engagement outcomes will then be shared with DPHI to inform the development of the State-led plans for Parramatta Road Corridor, with a timeframe as follows;

- Feb 26– YSIW launches – 28 day engagement period
- Feb 26 - Presentation to Housing for All Local Democracy Group
- March 26 - YSIW Closes
- 21 April 26 – The objective is to report to April depending on number of submissions received.
- April 26 - Send Engagement Outcomes to DPHI

Bays West Precinct TOD masterplanning

The masterplan has not been released for public exhibition. A timeframe from DPHI is not yet available.

Preparation of draft Inner West Development Control Plan

Work is progressing on the preparation of the draft Inner West Development Control Plan (DCP). The draft DCP has also incorporated *Our Fairer Future Plan* Design Guide controls.

The draft document is currently undergoing detailed review by the City Architect, General Counsel, and an external planning consultancy (for plain English and peer review). These reviews will ensure alignment with Council resolutions, including requirements that the DCP be drafted in plain English and be outcomes-focused. Sections of the draft DCP relating to residential flat buildings will also be referred to Council’s Architectural Excellence and Design Review Panel as required by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

In preparation for the draft DCP, there have been 3 industry professional workshops that were attended by private planners and architects within the Inner West to seek their ideas on how to improve the existing planning framework. The following workshops were held:

- Heritage workshop - 28 November 2023
- Development Industry Stakeholders Workshop - 5 February 2024
- Development Industry Stakeholders Workshop- 2 December 2025

The latest innovative online tools are being investigated to allow a digital DCP to be created. This will ensure our residents and industry professionals have the best possible user experience, similar to the recent *Our Fairer Future Plan* interactive mapping tool. The outcomes of these investigations will be reported to the April 2026 Council meeting.

A draft Engagement Plan is also being prepared to guide community engagement activities. Subject to endorsement by Council, public exhibition is expected to commence immediately following the April Ordinary Council meeting.

Timeframe for completion of Draft DCP

- Independent external peer review including plain English in progress of completion early March
- City Architect – review currently in progress for completion end of February

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of completing the work plan associated with all actions in this Omnibus Report for the current financial year are accommodated within the existing strategic planning budget.

Completion of Our Fairer Future Phase 2 work plan is being developed and will be considered in the 2026/27 budget process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Site Specific Investigation Areas
2. [↓](#) Inner West Parramatta Road Precinct Map

Item No: C0226(1) Item 23
Subject: UPDATE - CRYSTAL STREET PETERSHAM ROUNDTABLE
Prepared By: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the Crystal Street Roundtable Action Plan for delivery.
2. That Council provides a report to the June 2026 Council meeting on those actions that require a longer timeframe. This further report will include an update of those actions that have been completed.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

- 3: Creative communities and a strong economy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Business Roundtable was held to identify how to support local businesses on Crystal Street Petersham and improve the amenity and safety of the precinct. The Roundtable provided an opportunity for local businesses to share their ideas for improving the area and was attended by a number of Inner West Councillors and the Deputy Mayor. Five key themes have been identified from the feedback – streetscape, parking, pedestrian crossings, cleanliness and safety improvements. Lead agents with responsibility and a timeframe for delivery have also been identified and this information forms the Crystal Street Action Plan.

The Action Plan also identifies and prioritises short-term actions and those actions requiring a longer time frame. Resourcing will be the subject of a further report to Council in June 2026 which also enables time to progress priority and short-term actions.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 19 August 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council install a 'Racism Not Welcome' street sign on the corner of Crystal Street and Brighton Street, Petersham.*
2. *That Council investigate opportunities to upgrade and improve footpaths, lighting, street furniture, pedestrian safety, and other public amenities as part of the Public Domain Strategy and seek grant funding to progress this work as a matter of priority.*
3. *That Council host a roundtable of businesses and other leaseholders, including the Metropolitan Community Church, located on Crystal Street, Petersham to determine how Council can support these businesses and improve the amenity and safety of the precinct.*
4. *That Council report back to Council on the outcome of the roundtable and other initiatives by the December 2025 meeting.*

DISCUSSION

The Crystal Street Road Roundtable was held in the evening on 25 November 2025, at Metropolitan Community Church located on Crystal Street Petersham. Seven attendees from the local business community along Crystal Street joined the Roundtable.

The facilitator and Deputy Mayor welcomed participants to the collaborative forum and spoke about the importance of Council supporting local businesses through the improvement of amenity and safety of Crystal Street. An overview of Our Fairer Future plan in relation to housing delivery in Petersham was given by Council's planning staff.

Attendees were asked a series of questions to gain feedback and get an understanding of the challenges of area. Those questions were

1. *What's working well? What's good about doing business here in Crystal Street or Inner West in general?*
2. *What are the most important issues facing businesses on Crystal Street?*
3. *What key actions could Council do to support businesses?*
4. *How could Council improve the amenity and safety of the precinct?*

Community feedback emphasised the need for:

1. Streetscape: Calls for improved public spaces, better lighting, street furniture, more inground planting to soften the streetscape, enhanced cleanliness, management of graffiti and dumping of rubbish
2. Parking: Concerns around limited parking availability and turnover, affecting customer visitation. Request for an extension of the parking limit. Currently, 1 hour parking on Crystal St.
3. Traffic Crossing Safety: Request review into the signing timing at 3-way crossing opposite the Metropolitan Community Church as people take risks and cars forced to break suddenly.
4. Cleanliness, Rubbish and Graffiti Management: Request for regular footpath cleaning with high pressure washing, increase of street sweeping schedule to the area and implement anti-dumping initiatives and quick graffiti and tagging removal.
5. Safety improvements: Enhance lighting, laneway improvements, dumping and graffiti which all have a negative social impact and sense of safety for people living and working in the area

The Crystal Street Action Plan captures plans and projects that will be undertaken to address concerns raised at the Roundtable.

Crystal Street Action Plan

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Suggested Actions	Lead Partners /	Timeframe*
1. Amenity and Streetscape	Businesses called for the need to improve cleanliness, lighting, and Inground planting to improve the public amenity and uplift the streetscape	Council will investigate a review of street cleanliness with an update to be provided in the June Council report.	Urban Maintenance and Asset Planning	Short Term
		Staff investigate renewal of aging street furniture, and feasibility of inground planting to enhance public amenity and streetscape.	Public Domain	Short Term
2. Parking and Accessibility	Limited parking turnover	Undertake a review of parking management and signage; explore time-limited parking to determine whether the 1-hour limit can be extended on Crystal Street.	Council – Traffic & Transport	Medium Term
3. Traffic Crossing Safety	Businesses would like the 3-way crossing reviewed to see if it can be made safer	Request that Transport for NSW undertake a review of the signal timing at the intersections of Crystal Street and Douglas Street, and Crystal Street and Brighton Street to determine if it can be reprogramed to be safer. In addition, the missing pedestrian crossing leg to cross Crystal Street near 83 Crystal Street should be created.	Council – Traffic & Transport, NSW Transport	Medium Term
4. Cleanliness	Businesses requested more attention to cleaning, addressing dumping and graffiti in the area.	As per above, Council will investigate a review of street cleanliness with an update to be provided in the June Council report. The removal of graffiti on private property is the owner's responsibility.	Operations Urban Maintenance and Asset Planning	Short Term
5. Safety improvements	There was a desire to enhance safety in the area and negative social impacts that neglect of the area bring.	A racism not welcome sign was installed at Corner Crystal and Brighton streets Petersham on 23/12/25.	Civil Works	Completed
		Investigate if fairy lights can be placed in the trees.	Economic Development	Short Term
		Staff will examine if additional street trees can be planted to improve the attractiveness of the streetscape.	Street tree planting program	Short Term

*Short Term – for delivery by mid-year – June 2026

*Medium Term – timeframe for delivery will be specified on a project basis in the June update report.

Conclusion

Overall businesses welcomed the opportunity to meet with Council to discuss the precinct. Council officers will prioritise actions such as improving street greening, street furniture and lighting which can be funded utilising existing maintenance budgets. Those actions requiring a longer time frame such as working with Transport for NSW will be the subject of a further report to Council in June 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in this report as they can be accommodated within current budget.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↗](#) Roundtable meeting notes

Item No: C0226(1) Item 24
Subject: MANDATORY REPORTING TO COUNCIL OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM FIRE & RESCUE NSW FOR 7 PROPERTIES
Prepared By: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, when an inspection report is received by Council from Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW), Council must table this report and recommendations at the next meeting of the Council.

Council received the following reports from FRNSW:

- **147 New Canterbury Road Lewisham** - received 25 November 2025 (*Attachment 1*).
- **55 Norton Street Leichhardt (Norton Plaza Shopping Centre)** - received 4 December 2025 (*Attachment 2*).
- **178 Princes Highway St Peters (Ibis Budget hotel)** - received 19 December 2025 (*Attachment 3*).
- **59 Chandos Street Ashfield** - received 19 December 2025 (*Attachment 4*).
- **23-25 Arthur Street Marrickville** - received 19 December 2025 (*Attachment 5*).
- **1 Princes Highway St Peters** - received 19 December 2025 (*Attachment 6*).
- **25-33 Terry Street Rozelle (Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus)** - received 22 December 2025 (*Attachment 7*).

There has been follow-up action by council officers in each instance as per the details below.

DISCUSSION

147 New Canterbury Road Lewisham

The property is a multi-level residential flat building containing a commercial use operating as a gymnasium/fitness centre on the ground floor, with three (3) storey of self-occupancy units above. The premises is registered on Council's Annual Fire Safety Statement (AFSS) register.

The FRNSW report received by Council identified the following fire safety issues:

- The Fire Hydrant booster does not currently have compliant signage installed.
- The boost pressure currently displayed within the hydrant pump room is incorrect.
- Rear fire exit doors were blocked.

On 5 December 2025 Council's Senior Fire Safety Officer conducted an inspection where it was determined that the circumstances warranted the issue of a Notice of Intention to serve a Development Control Order - Ref. no.: EPA/2025/0196. The notification period (14 days) has since expired, and a Development Control Order issued which requires the rectification of all matters raised within the FRNSW report within a 60-day timeframe.

It is anticipated that the rectification works identified by FRNSW are achievable through the timeframes imposed in Council's enforcement process.

55 Norton Street Leichhardt – Norton Plaza Shopping Centre

The property is a multi-level shopping centre containing individual shops. The premises is registered on Council's AFSS Register (AFS/201).

The FRNSW report received by Council identified the following fire safety issues:

- Path of egress on the western side of the Coles tenancy is non-compliant as its unobstructed width is less than 1m and the door failed to operate during inspection.
- Penetrations were observed in the ceilings at the fire-isolated passageway near Cole's tenancy and adjacent to the level 2 childcare exit which may compromise the Fire Resistance Level (FRL).
- The booster assembly lacks required signage, pressure gauge and an isolating valve for the high hydrant.
- The automatic fire suppression system is non-compliant as the booster stop valve is not secured 'open'.
- Fire Detection Control and Indicating Equipment (FDCIE) was indicating FAULTS which requires rectification.

On 8 December 2025 Council's Senior Fire Safety Officer conducted an inspection where it was determined that the circumstances warranted the issue of a Notice of Intention to serve a Development Control Order - Ref. no.: EPA/2025/0196. The notification period (14 days) has since expired, and a Development Control Order issued which requires the rectification of all matters raised within the FRNSW report within a 90-day timeframe.

The most recent AFSS submitted to Council was dated 20 November 2025, given that this statement was issued within 3 months of the concerns identified in the FRNSW report (4 November 2025), a copy of the report and AFSS have been provided to the building owners and the Fire Protection Association Australia (FPAA) for their consideration.

Although FRNSW has identified various concerns, it is anticipated that the rectification works are achievable through the timeframes imposed in Council's enforcement process.

178 Princes Highway St. Peters – Ibis Hotel

The property is a three (3) storey building containing hotel style accommodation. The premises is registered on Council's AFSS register.

The FRNSW report identified the following fire safety issues:

- The fire door (2 doors) hardware, located to fire stairs were fitted with non-compliant door hardware.
- The smoke door located on Level 1 was obstructed which prevented it opening in the direction of travel from by directions.
- The fire hydrant booster assembly is non-compliant with AS 2419.1–1994 due to poor location and accessibility, interference and visibility issues, excessive setback from fire appliances, missing pressure signage, a damaged pressure gauge, and the absence of FRNSW-compatible Storz couplings.

- The Annual Fire Safety Statement was not displayed, and it did not include the Fire Hydrant System serving the building.
- Path of egress (Basement Level fire stair) contained stored items obstructing the fire exit.

On 5 December 2025 Council's Senior Fire Safety Officer conducted an inspection where it was determined that the circumstances warranted the issue of a Notice of Intention to serve a Development Control Order - Ref. no.: EPA/2026/0005. The notification period (14 days) has since expired, and a Development Control Order issued which requires the rectification of all matters raised within the FRNSW report within a 60-day timeframe.

Although FRNSW has identified various concerns, it is anticipated that the rectification works are achievable through the timeframes imposed in Council's enforcement process.

59 Chandos Street Ashfield

The property is a four (4) storey residential flat building containing garages and common parking on the ground floor, with three (3) storeys of dwelling units above. The premises are currently registered on Council's AFSS register.

The FRNSW report received by Council identified the following fire safety issues:

- The stair barrier heights in the internal stairways were not compliant with the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022.
- The required fire resistance level for the internal walls and roof space separation at the topmost storey is currently uncertain.

On 2 January 2026 Council's Senior Fire Safety Officer conducted an inspection where it was determined that the circumstances warranted the issue of a Notice of Intention to serve a Development Control Order - Ref. no.: EPA/2026/0003. The notification period (14 days) has since expired, and a Development Control Order issued which requires the rectification of all matters raised within the FRNSW report within a 60-day timeframe.

Although FRNSW has identified various concerns, it is anticipated that the rectification works are achievable through the timeframes imposed in Council's enforcement process.

23 Arthur Street Marrickville

The property is a four (4) storey residential flat building containing ground level parking and three (3) storeys of self-occupancy units above.

The premises is currently not registered on Council's AFSS register. Once the upgrade works are completed through the enforcement process, the premises will be added to the register which will ensure the ongoing maintenance of the fire safety measures via the submission of an Annual Fire Safety Statement (AFSS).

The FRNSW report received by Council identified the following fire safety issues:

- The height of the internal stair barriers does not comply with the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022.
- The ground floor exit door direction of swing and door hardware is non-compliant.
- An automatic smoke detection or alarm system is to be installed throughout the premises.
- Emergency lighting and an exit sign is required to be installed within the common areas.

- The Fire Resistance Level (FRL) of the internal walls on the topmost storey could not be verified.
- The Annual Fire Safety Statement (AFSS) and Fire Safety Schedule (FSS) were not displayed in a prominent location.

On 8 January 2026 Council's Senior Fire Safety Officer conducted an inspection where it was determined that the circumstances warranted the issue of a Notice of Intention to Serve a Development Control Order - Ref. no.: EPA/2026/0004. The notification period (14 days) has since expired, and a Development Control Order issued which requires the rectification of all matters raised within the FRNSW report within a 60-day timeframe.

Although FRNSW has identified various concerns, it is anticipated that the rectification works are achievable through the timeframes imposed in Council's enforcement process.

1 Princes Highway St Peters

The property contains eight (8) residential flat buildings comprising of four (4) three-storey buildings fronting Applebee Street and four (4) buildings ranging from four (4) to five (5) stories fronting Princes Highway with a three-level basement car park. The property contains a total of 134 self-occupancy units.

The premises is registered on Council's AFSS register (AFS/974). The most recent AFSS submitted to Council was dated 17 December 2025, given that this statement was issued within only a few days of the concerns identified in the FRNSW report (received 19 December 2025), a copy of the report and AFSS have been provided to the building owners and the Fire Protection Association Australia (FPAA) for consideration.

The FRNSW report received by Council identified the following fire safety issues:

- Bicycles were being stored in the basement fire exit.
- The booster pressure appears incorrect or inadequately signed, and Storz couplings compatible with FRNSW equipment have not been provided at the booster assembly or internal hydrant landing valves.
- The automatic fire suppression system is non-compliant as the sprinkler booster assembly lacks the required maximum inlet pressure signage and an installed sprinkler system block plan.

On 5 January 2026 Council's Senior Fire Safety Officer conducted an inspection where it was determined that the circumstances warranted the issue of a Notice of Intention to Serve a Development Control Order - Ref. no.: EPA/2026/0002. The notification period (14 days) has since expired, and a Development Control Order issued which requires the rectification of all matters raised within the FRNSW report within a 60-day timeframe.

Although FRNSW has identified various concerns, it is anticipated that the rectification works are achievable through the timeframes imposed in Council's enforcement process.

25-33 Terry Street Rozelle - Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus

This property is owned by The Department of Education and Training, a NSW Government entity responsible for managing the state's public education portfolio, including regulatory responsibility for fire safety of their own properties. The premises is a Class 9b secondary college which contains multiple buildings utilised for educational purposes. The premises is registered on Council's Annual Fire Safety Statement register. The FRNSW report indicates the follow up actions taken by FRNSW who remain the authorised fire authority because the property is in State Government ownership. FRNSW issued an Emergency Fire Safety Order following their first inspection.

Following receipt of the FRNSW advice, Council officers also contacted School Infrastructure NSW to further highlight the fire safety issues identified in the report for their action. The fire safety issues of interest to FRNSW are:

- Fire Hydrant System
- The current Annual Fire Safety Statement (AFSS) appears incomplete.

Council contacted School Infrastructure NSW and provided a copy of the FRNSW inspection report to the Asset Management Unit of School Infrastructure NSW. FRNSW have been advised to report fire related issues in schools, to School Infrastructure directly as Council lacks regulatory powers in this regard on State Government Buildings and land.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

Attachments 1-7 have been published separately in the Attachments Document on Council's Website <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/council-meetings/current-council-meetings>

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↔](#) FRNSW Inspection Report - 147 New Canterbury Road Lewisham – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
2. [↔](#) FRNSW Insepction Report - 55 Norton Street Leichhardt - Norotn Plaza Shopping Plaza – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
3. [↔](#) FRNSW Inspection Repert - 178 Princes Highway St Peters (Ibis Budget hotel) – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
4. [↔](#) FRNSW Inspection Report - 59 Chandos Street Ashfield – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
5. [↔](#) FRNSW Inspection Report - 23-25 Arthur Street Marrickville – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
6. [↔](#) FRNSW Inspection Report - 1 Princes Highway St Peters – **Published Separately on Council's Website**
7. [↔](#) FRNSW Inspection Report - 25-33 Terry Street Rozelle – **Published Separately on Council's Website**

Item No: C0226(1) Item 25
Subject: PARK FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT
Prepared By: Peter Shields - Director Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report on Park Fire Risk Management, which considers existing arrangements and further measures introduced to enhance fire risk management including additional maintenance and monitoring practices.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2025 Council resolved to review fire risk in parks and reserves and report back on these risks and any measures introduced to mitigate these risks.

Whilst there is no classified Bush Fire Prone Land within the Inner West local government area, Council can, as part of its park maintenance arrangements, incorporate additional measures to reduce to reduce the risk associated with fire on park land.

There are an extensive number of mitigating measures already in place to reduce fire risk in Council managed parks. A review of fire risk and existing practices was undertaken with the assistance of an independent fire risk specialist. Following this review Council has introduced and further risk mitigation measures including changes to maintenance practices in natural areas and additional routine monitoring of fire risk.

This report recommends that Council note that a review of fire risk in parks has been undertaken, and additional measures have been introduced to manage the risk.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 18 February 2025, Council resolved:

1. *That Council note the fire at Tempe Reserve on New Years Eve that saw substantive damage to vegetation near the Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre and required a response from emergency service personnel.*
2. *That Council undertake an assessment of Inner West Council parks and reserves, including the Tempe wetlands, to identify any potential fire risks such as fuel buildup.*
3. *That Council report back to the August 2025 Council meeting on any risks, actions taken, as well as information on regular processes undertaken by Council to ensure fire readiness.*

A fire at Tempe Reserve on New Years Eve 2024 demonstrated the need for fire preparedness, with a substantial amount of grass and vegetation damaged in close proximity to Inner West Council assets and buildings. There was no damage to Council Buildings

Residents have raised questions about the council's management of vegetation in the Tempe Reserve and the neighbouring wetlands. Councillors and the community would benefit from further information about council's practices to mitigate and minimise the risk of fire that may currently exist.

DISCUSSION

Inner West Council manages 269 parks, including 49 natural areas, reserves, ovals, parks and pocket parks. These are critical for recreation, wellbeing and for preserving and protecting our biodiversity. Many of these parks includes pockets of natural bushland which are prone to grasses, scrub and the accumulation of natural debris at ground level.

Bush Fire Prone Land

The identification of Bush Fire Prone Land in NSW is required under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. There currently is no Bush Fire Prone Land within the Inner West local government area.

Whilst there may be no requirement for Council to manage land categorised as bush fire prone, there are numerous locations of natural bushland where the risk of a fire is elevated and needs to be managed and mitigated.

While our dense urban geography means the risk of fire in our open spaces is low, it is prudent to review Council vegetation management practice in the face of more extreme weather events and potential local fires to ensure the protection of Council and community assets.

Best Practice in Managing Fire Risk

To manage fire risk on public land Council refers to the NSW Government's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 – A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers. The guide recommends the implementation of protection measures to reduce the impact of fires on public land. Protection measures are governed by the degree of threat posed to nearby development. The guide confirms these measures are not a requirement for Council to apply due to the level of fire threat, however it remains worthwhile to consider such measures.

Existing Risk Mitigation Practices

There are numerous measures already in place to ensure fire risk of Inner West natural areas is mitigated. These include:

- Local Emergency Management Plans incorporating fire risk
- Ongoing emergency management coordination between Council and emergency services
- Provision of access trails for maintenance and emergency service access to natural areas
- Masterplans for parks, with associated limitations to the extent of land that is a natural area
- Routine monitoring and maintenance of all natural areas
- Routine maintenance of parkland alongside natural areas
- Maintained fire hydrants in close proximity to natural areas
- Maintaining clearance between trees and power lines
- Urban Forest Policy

Whilst Council has many measures in place, and there is potential to introduce further protections, the risk of fire always remains. This risk continues to elevate through Council continuing to increase the amount of land dedicated as natural areas and the ongoing increasing size of our urban forest canopy.

Independent Specialist Review

Following Councils review of fire risk in parks and reserves, Council arranged for an independent fire risk management specialist to review Councils approach. This review assisted with the finalisation of some additional measures Council has since introduced to reduce fire risk.

Additional Implementation Measures

After considering the current fire risk and existing mitigation practices, some additional measures have been implemented that further mitigate fire risk in public land:

- Review of maintenance practices for natural areas
- Appointment of natural area maintenance service providers operating under reviewed maintenance practices.
- Introduction of an annual risk review of fire risk to natural areas. This includes consideration of:
 - o Monitoring of new growth to ensure only suitable plant species
 - o Whether public trees are not touching a building (ancillary structures excluded)
 - o Preference for smooth bark and evergreen trees in the vicinity of buildings
 - o Monitoring if shrubs and grasses in close proximity to significant buildings, including size and scale relative to the building
 - o Checks on any leaves and other debris around nearby buildings
 - o The suitability of access ways and associated fences and gates are adequate to ensure ready access for firefighting services

By introducing the additional changes to natural area maintenance and annual fire risk monitoring, this will further reduce the risk of direct flame contact with any nearby building and damage to a building from radiant heat and ember attack.

Contributing Risk outside direct control

Whilst Council can apply numerous measures to manage fire risk, there are contributing factors outside Councils control. This includes unprepared property with poor maintenance such as accumulated leaf litter, scrub growth, grasses and debris. Proper maintenance of dwellings and their curtilage significantly improves the survivability of structures. Council continues to work with emergency services on targeted community education to encourage property owners to continue maintenance measures that reduce fire risk on their property.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 26
Subject: INVESTMENT REPORT FOR THE PERIODS ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2025 AND 31 DECEMBER 2025
Prepared By: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the investment report for the periods ending 30 November and 31 December 2025, demonstrating continued strong investment returns in a non-fossil fuel portfolio.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council's Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A monthly investment report is provided to Council detailing the investment portfolio in terms of performance, percentage exposure of the total portfolio, maturity dates and changes in market value.

During November 2025 and December 2025:

- Council made \$13M of new investments, comprising:
 - \$2M 3Yr Floating Rate Note with Great Southern Bank at 4.57%pa
 - \$1M 4Yr Floating Rate Note with Heritage and Peoples Choice Bank at 4.70%pa
 - \$4M 3Yr Floating Rate Note with Bank of Queensland at 4.41%pa
 - \$4M 3Yr Floating Rate Note with Bank Australia at 4.70%pa
 - \$2M 6-month fixed rate Term Deposit with Bank of Queensland at 4.39%pa.
- Council sold \$11.5M of investments, comprising:
 - \$11.5M of 5.25Yr Green Floating Rate Note with CBA at 3.97%pa.
- One investment matured:
 - \$5.6M 5yr Floating Rate Note with Bendigo Bank at 4.09%pa.
- Council's market value investment portfolio was \$189.5M in November (\$0.8M lower than October) and \$185.7M (\$3.8M lower) in December.
- Council's portfolio had an annualised return of 4.70% pa in November and 4.43% pa in December on a marked-to-market basis, outperforming the 'AusBond Bank Bill Index' Benchmark of 3.66% pa and 3.71% pa respectively.
- For the preceding 12 months, the portfolio returned 4.54% pa at 30 November and 4.54% pa at 31 December on a marked-to-market basis (outperforming the benchmark by 0.50% and 0.57% respectively).
- Council's entire investment portfolio remains invested in a non-fossil fuel portfolio
- Council is preparing for the maturity of further investments in January and March 2026, with possible interest rate increases during 2026.

BACKGROUND

Council's investments are reported monthly to Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's

Investment Policy. This report details the investment portfolio in terms of performance, percentage exposure of total portfolio, maturity date and changes in market value.

The objective of investing Council's funds is to seek the most favourable return available, whilst:

- Investing in a non-fossil fuel investment portfolio, as resolved by Council
- Having due consideration of risk and security for that investment type
- Ensuring that its liquidity requirements are being maintained
- Considering the preservation of capital – investments are placed in a manner that seeks to ensure security and safeguard the investment portfolio
- Managing credit and interest rate risk within identified thresholds and parameters.

Council's Socially Responsible Investments consist of Green Term Deposits/Floating Rate Notes from otherwise fossil fuel lending banks, and also long dated bond issues from a range of institutions and government agencies. These investments provide targeted funding to a wide range of green and socially responsible projects and initiatives. Council also utilises these investments to remain within the credit rating policy guidelines imposed by the NSW TCorp loan covenant requirements.

Legislative Requirements

All investments are to comply with the following:

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- *Ministerial Investment Order dated 17 February 2011*
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*
- *Australian Accounting Standards*
- *Division of Local Government Investment Policy Guidelines May 2010.*

Certification

The Chief Financial Officer, Chris Sleiman, as the Responsible Accounting Officer has certified that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Section 212 of the Local Government General Regulation 2021, and Council's Investment Policy.

DISCUSSION

Changes in our portfolio

New investments of \$13M comprising:

- \$2M 3Yr Floating Rate Note with Great Southern Bank at a floating rate of 4.57%pa
- \$1M 4Yr Floating Rate Note with Heritage and Peoples Choice Bank at a floating rate of 4.70%pa
- \$4M 3Yr Floating Rate Note with Bank of Queensland at a floating rate of 4.41%pa
- \$4M 3Yr Floating Rate Note with Bank Australia at a floating rate of 4.70%pa
- \$2M 6-month Term Deposit with Bank of Queensland at fixed rate of 4.39%pa.

Sold \$11.5M of investments comprising:

- \$11.5M of 5.25Yr Green Floating Rate Note with CBA at a floating rate of 3.97%pa.

Matured investment of \$5.6M comprising:

- \$5.6M 5yr Floating Rate Note with Bendigo Bank at a floating rate of 4.09%pa.

Investment advice provided to Council suggested that investing in short-medium fixed deposits (1-3 years) remains an optimal strategy for the 'core' assets to maximise returns over a longer-

term cycle, which can be supplemented by investing a smaller proportion in senior FRNs to maintain liquidity. Should inflation be within the RBA’s target band of 2-3% over the longer-term, fixed assets yielding above 4.5% p.a. for 1-3 years or higher should outperform benchmark.

The value of our Portfolio

The attachments to this report detail all investments held by Council and interest returns for the periods ending 30 November 2025 and 31 December 2025.

Council’s market value investment portfolio was \$185.7M at 31 December 2025 (as set out in the table below), \$3.8M lower compared with November 2025:

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested (\$) ^	Invested (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	Commonwealth Govt	AAA	\$2,431,945	1.31%	50%	\$90,407,036
✓	National Housing FIC	AAA	\$3,875,346	2.09%	50%	\$88,963,635
✓	NSW TCorp	AA+	\$4,821,590	2.60%	50%	\$88,017,391
✓	South Australian Govt	AA+	\$8,479,730	4.57%	50%	\$84,359,251
✓	Westpac	AA-	\$56,000,000	30.16%	50%	\$36,838,981
✓	Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	\$15,831,176	8.53%	35%	\$49,156,111
✓	BOQ	A-	\$55,024,803	29.63%	35%	\$9,962,484
✓	Bank Australia	BBB+	\$8,554,656	4.61%	20%	\$28,580,936
✓	Beyond Bank	BBB+	\$1,205,176	0.65%	20%	\$35,930,417
✓	BankVic	BBB+	\$3,000,000	1.62%	20%	\$34,135,593
✓	Great South. Bank	BBB+	\$3,455,082	1.86%	20%	\$33,680,510
✓	Heritage Bank	BBB+	\$1,000,755	0.54%	20%	\$36,134,838
✓	Newcastle Permanent	BBB+	\$15,682,644	8.45%	20%	\$21,452,949
✓	Teachers Mutual Bank	BBB+	\$3,001,509	1.62%	20%	\$34,134,084
✓	RACQ Bank	BBB+	\$2,216,289	1.19%	20%	\$34,919,304
X	EmeraldMBS2006-1A	Unrated	\$285,403	0.15%	0%	-\$285,403
X	EmeraldMBS2006-1B	Unrated	\$811,859	0.44%	0%	-\$811,859
			\$185,677,963	100.00%		

^Note valuations of Council’s securities on the Imperium Markets platform are marked-to-market and priced on a daily basis from an independent third party provider.

The investment portfolio at 30 November had a market value of \$189.5M, \$0.8M lower than the prior month:

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	Commonwealth Govt	AAA	\$2,473,873	1.31%	50%	\$92,288,281
✓	National Housing FIC	AAA	\$3,909,779	2.06%	50%	\$90,852,375
✓	NSW TCorp	AA+	\$4,852,890	2.56%	50%	\$89,909,263
✓	South Australian Govt	AA+	\$8,568,690	4.52%	50%	\$86,193,463
✓	Westpac	AA-	\$56,000,000	29.55%	50%	\$38,762,153
✓	Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	\$21,454,610	11.32%	35%	\$44,878,898
✓	BOQ	A-	\$53,045,924	27.99%	35%	\$13,287,583
✓	Bank Australia	BBB+	\$8,554,795	4.51%	20%	\$29,350,066
✓	Beyond Bank	BBB+	\$1,205,480	0.64%	20%	\$36,699,381
✓	BankVIC	BBB+	\$3,000,000	1.58%	20%	\$34,904,861
✓	Great South. Bank	BBB+	\$3,455,668	1.82%	20%	\$34,449,193
✓	Heritage Bank	BBB+	\$1,000,851	0.53%	20%	\$36,904,010
✓	Newcastle Permanent	BBB+	\$15,687,820	8.28%	20%	\$22,217,041
✓	Teachers Mutual	BBB+	\$3,001,254	1.58%	20%	\$34,903,607
✓	RACQ Bank	BBB+	\$2,217,937	1.17%	20%	\$35,686,925
X	EmeraldMBS2006-1A	Unrated	\$285,134	0.15%	0%	-\$285,134
X	EmeraldMBS2006-1B	Unrated	\$809,602	0.43%	0%	-\$809,602
			\$189,524,306	100.00%		

Note valuations of Council's securities on the Imperium Markets platform are marked-to-market and priced on a daily basis from an independent third party provider.

Council continues to hold two non-compliant (unrated) investments that were purchased in July 2006 with maturity dates of August 2051 and August 2056, representing a market value \$1.1M, less than 1% of Council's invested funds.

Council's entire investment portfolio remains invested in Green, Socially Responsible or Non-Fossil Fuel lending, as set out in the table below. All Socially Responsible Investments (SRI's) comply with the Non-Fossil Fuel standards:

December 2025:

Category	Invested (\$)	%
Green	\$57,205,176	30.81%
Socially Responsible Investment	\$19,608,611	10.56%
Non-Fossil Fuel Lending	\$108,864,176	58.63%
Fossil Fuel Lending	\$0	0.00%
Total	\$185,677,963	100.00%

This compares with November 2025:

Category	Amount	%
Green	\$57,205,480	30.18%
Socially Responsible	\$19,805,231	10.45%
Non Fossil Fuel Lending	\$112,513,595	59.37%
Fossil Fuel Lending	\$0	0.00%
Total	\$189,524,306	100.00%

Investment Returns

Council's portfolio during December 2025 had an annualised return of 4.43% pa on a marked-to-market basis (November 2025: 4.70% pa), performing well against the 'AusBond Bank Bill Index' Benchmark of 3.71% pa (November 2025: 3.66% pa).

For the past 12 months, the portfolio has returned 4.54% pa on a marked-to-market basis (November 2025: 4.54%pa).

The marked-to-market or current market value, which Council is required to account for, represents the price at which the asset could be sold in the current market. This would be the outcome if Council were to sell the investment now (i.e. prior to its due date).

As interest rates rise and fall, the dollar valuations of existing bonds rise and fall in the market. While the market value of a Fixed Rate Bond (or Floating Rate Note) may drop below the face value (or par value) during the life of a security, provided Council does not sell the security and the issuer is sound (which all of Council's holdings are) then the bond's market value will come back to the face value by the time it matures.

External / Internal Restrictions & Working Funds

Council's External Restriction reserves are funds that are restricted for use for specific purposes according to agreements with external parties. Examples of such reserves include:

- Developer Contributions
- Grants
- Domestic Waste Reserve
- Stormwater Levy

Internal Restriction reserves are reserves created internally by Council to set aside funds for a specific purpose. Examples include:

- Employment Leave Entitlements
- Investment Property Reserve
- Infrastructure Renewal Reserve
- Depreciation Contra Reserve

External / Internal Restrictions & Working Funds

Reserves	Dec 25
External Restrictions	97,746,713
Internal restrictions	135,000,256
Working Funds	12,506,526
	245,253,496

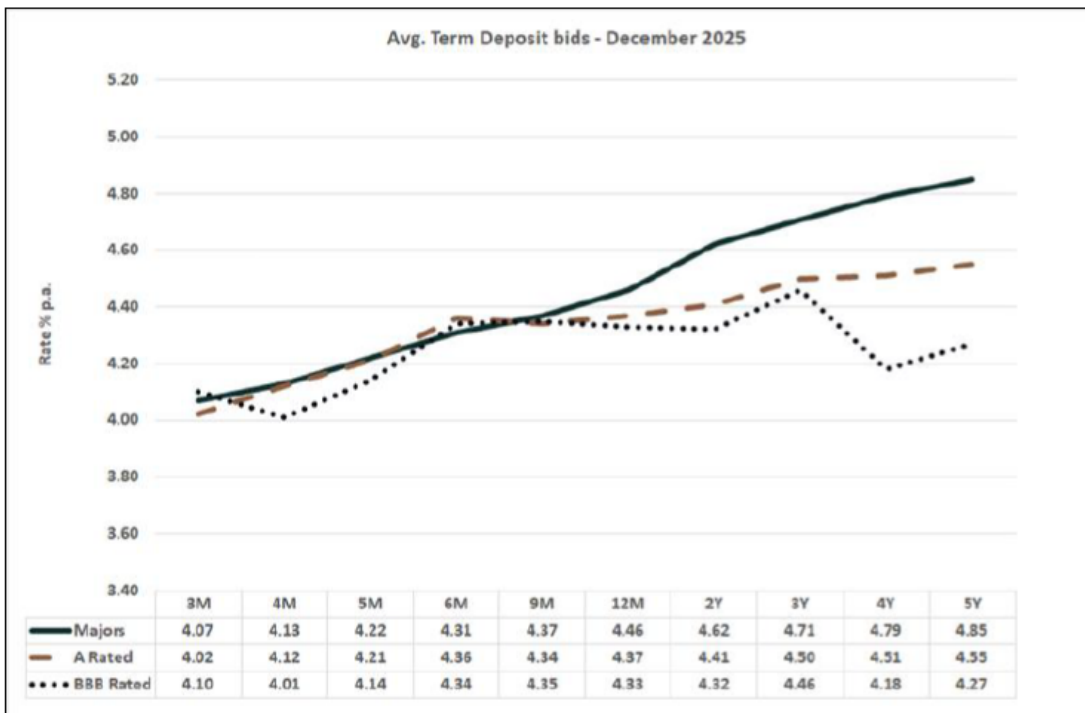
Reconciliation	Dec 25
Bank & Cash	59,575,533
Investments	185,677,963
TOTAL	245,253,496

Other Investment Information

Risk markets were mixed in December after the US Federal Reserve delivered another rate cut and signalled they could potentially continue on their easing into 2026. In contrast, other global central banks (including Australia) appear to be on a mild tightening bias, with some now forecasting the next move in official rates may be up in 2026 should inflation remain elevated. Global bonds were sold off, with yields largely rising over the month.

In the deposit market, over December, the average deposit rates offered by the domestic major banks was up to ~15bp higher compared to where they were in November. At the longer-end of the curve (1-5 years), the average deposit rates were around 25-40bp higher compared to where they were the previous month, with the market expecting official rates to be slightly higher in coming years. The market is now factoring up to two rate hikes in 2026 should inflation remain elevated or spike further.

The chart below shows the average Term Deposit rates available for Council over various terms across banks from different credit ratings for December 2025:



Source: Imperium Markets

Domestic issues

The following issues are being considered in Council’s investment strategy:

- In a unanimous decision, the RBA’s Monetary Policy Board left the cash rate on hold at 3.60% in December. The Statement retains the view that there remains uncertainty about the stance of monetary policy, and as always, about the outlook for economic activity and inflation too. The next RBA rate decision will be on 3 February 2026.
- The consumer price index (CPI) rose 3.4% in the 12 months to November 2025, down from a 3.8% rise in the 12 months to October.
- The financial market is now factoring up to two rate hikes in 2026 should inflation remain elevated.
- The unemployment rate was steady at 4.3% in November. Employment fell 21k, and the underemployment rate jumped.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Investment Commentary Dec 2025
2. [↓](#) Investment Report Dec 2025
3. [↓](#) Investment Commentary Nov 2025
4. [↓](#) Investment Report Nov 2025

Item No: C0226(1) Item 27
Subject: QUARTER 2 REPORT ON OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/26 INCLUDING QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT
Prepared By: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the Quarterly Progress Report for Quarter 2 2025/26 on the Operational Plan 2025/26, noting that:
 - a) 93% of the actions were completed or on track, and 80% of measures were on target or within tolerance; and
 - b) Highlights for the quarter included the Greenway opening, 3 major street festivals, Ashfield Aquatic Centre 5th Birthday and the 2-year anniversary of FOGO.

2. That Council adopt the Quarterly Budget Review Statement including the recommended changes detailed therein for Quarter 2 2025/26, as follows:
 - a) Increasing Council’s net operating position excluding capital grants from \$104,000 to \$160,000;
 - b) Decreasing the Capital Works Program from \$128.0 million to \$119.6 million primarily to realign budget to future years to meet expected completion dates; and
 - c) Increasing projected capital grants by \$3.8m.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates Council on quarterly progress against the Operational Plan 2025/26 and presents the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS).

Progress against the Operational Plan 2025/26 as at 31 December 2025

- Actions
 - 161 (93%) of the 172 Operational Plan actions were completed or on track
 - 11 actions were behind schedule, on hold or rescheduled, primarily due to timing differences, organisational priorities and resource constraints
- Performance measures or key performance indicators (KPIs)
 - 43 (80%) of the 54 KPIs were on target or within tolerance (+/-10% of the target)
 - 11 KPIs were below target, due to unexpected changes in volume of requests and projects, weather and systems issues

Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS)

The QBRS provides a comprehensive overview of Council’s financial position as at 31 December 2025. A number of budget changes are recommended within the QBRS for Council adoption.

The recommended changes will result in the following projected year end results:

- Council’s net operating result before capital grants and contributions is projected to increase from \$104k to \$160k.
- Total capital expenditure is projected to decrease by \$8.4m to \$119.6m.

BACKGROUND

Council’s Operational Plan 2025/26 details the actions that will be undertaken over the financial year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program 2025-29, in accordance with *the Local Government Act 1993* (s404 and 405). Council receives quarterly progress reports to monitor performance and progress in achieving Council’s commitments to the community as outlined in the Operational Plan.

In line with Office of Local Government (OLG) requirements, a Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) must be prepared by the Responsible Accounting Officer and submitted for Council’s consideration at the end of each quarter.

Revised guidelines were released by the OLG in August 2025 that mandate the use of a standardised format for the QBRS commencing from the first quarter of the 2026 financial year. The OLG have issued a template, with all NSW Councils required to submit the QBRS and associated reports to the OLG within 2 months of the end of each quarter. The tables presented in sections 2 – 6 of the attached QBRS are based on the OLG template.

DISCUSSION

Operational Plan 2025/26 progress update

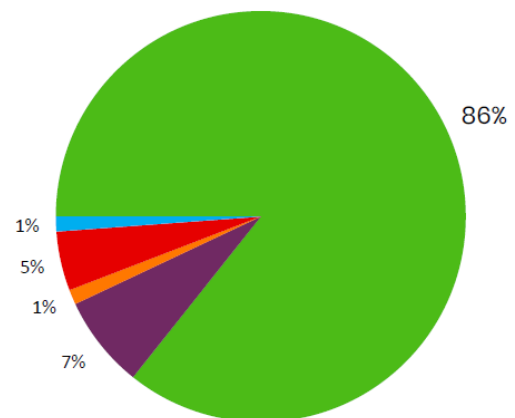
The attached quarterly report outlines progress against the 172 actions in the 2025/26 Operational Plan, and tracks KPIs against annual targets.

Council is performing well against the Operational Plan 2025/26. At the end of the second quarter (31 December 2025) 93% of actions were on track and 80% of KPIs were on track or within the prescribed 10% tolerance. These are highlighted below from the report attachment.

The quarterly progress report outlines progress against the 172 actions in the 2025/26 Operational Plan.

As of 31 December 2025:

- 93% (161) of actions are ‘Completed’ or ‘On Track’
- 7% (11) of actions are ‘Behind Schedule’, ‘On Hold’ or ‘Rescheduled’



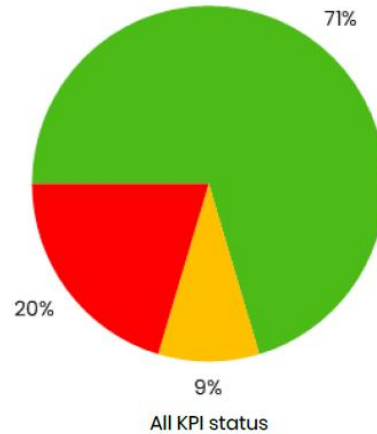
All action status

Actions that are behind schedule, on hold or rescheduled are due to timing of projects or works, service reviews, resource constraints and organisational priorities.

Measures

As of 31 December 2025:

- 80% (43) of measures are 'On Target' or 'Within Tolerance'
- 20% (11) of measures are 'Below Target'



KPI legend: 🟢 On Target 🟡 Within Tolerance 🔴 Below Target

Measures that are below target are due to reasons including:

- Volume of tree permit applications exceeding staff availability
- Weather conditions affecting verge mowing and maintenance
- Systems issues (since resolved) that impacted development application measures
- A fewer number of Council projects on the Your Say Inner West website

Some of the key highlights of the second quarter included:

- The Greenway opened on 14 December where over 5 thousand residents celebrated the new infrastructure and public space project
- Street festivals undertaken during the quarter drew thousands of people and included the Norton Street Festa, the Marrickville Music Festival and the inaugural Festival of Balmain
- Ashfield Aquatic Centre celebrated its fifth birthday, with over 3000 people attending performances and fun events
- The two-year anniversary of FOGO commencement with massive benefits for the community in reduced waste (31,000 tonnes), CO2 emissions, and organic material conversion.

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

The attached QBRs provides a comprehensive overview of Council's financial position as at 31 December 2025. The QBRs recommends Council adopt a number of changes to the budget, based on revised projections of the financial position at year end.

Summary of Budget Movements

Operational Budget

On 18 November 2025 Council adopted the First Quarter (September 2025) Budget Review. At that time, the net operating position excluding capital revenue was \$104k surplus. After the completion of the Second Quarter (December 2025) Quarterly Budget Review, the net operating position excluding capital revenue is projected to be to \$160k surplus.

The graph in *Figure 1* summarises the key recommended operating budget movements, with a brief explanation and the impact on Council's budget provided below.

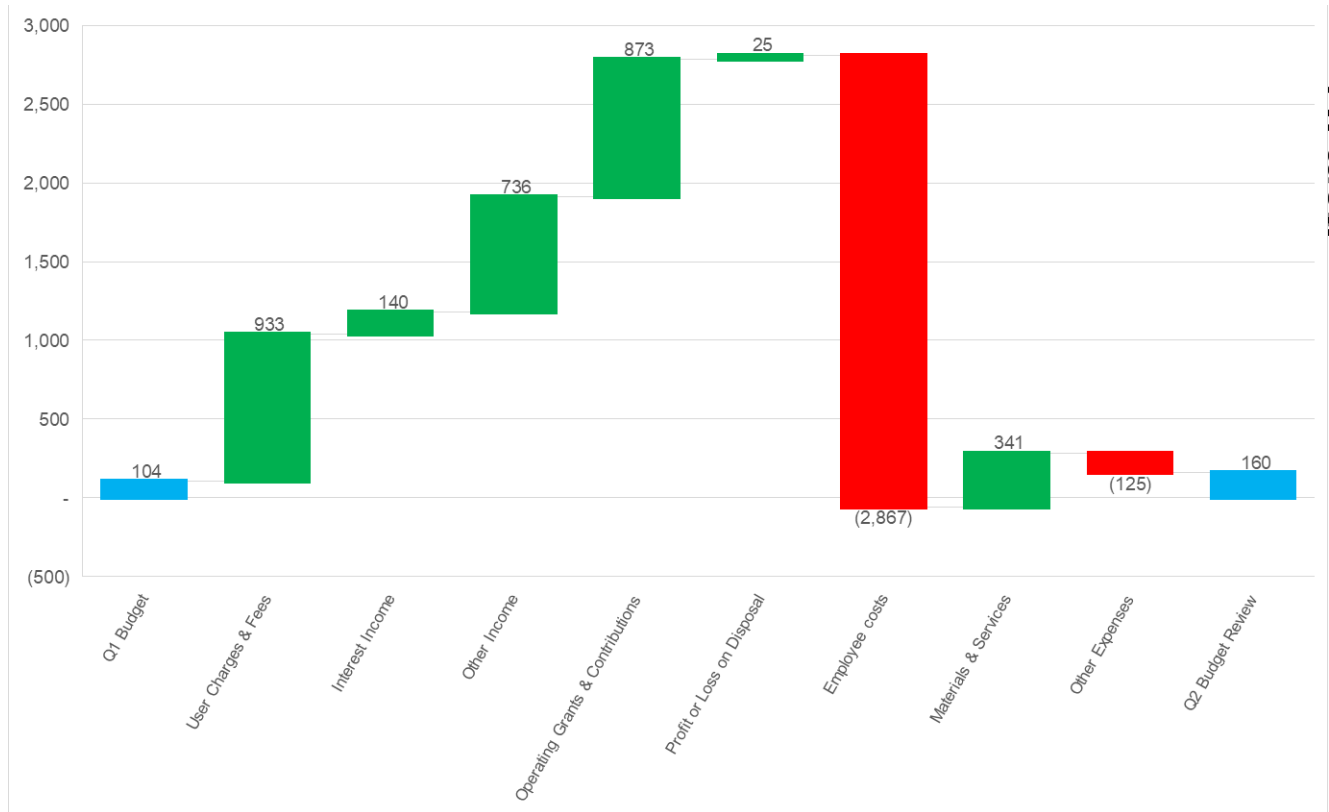


Figure 1 Q1 Changes in the Budgeted Full Year Operating Result Before Capital Grants and Contributions

Key movements relate to recommended budget changes including:

- Increase in User Charges and Fees - \$0.9m predominantly from higher utilisation of aquatic centres and early learning centres for the second quarter.
- Increase in Interest Income - \$0.1m due to higher reserve balances than originally projected.
- Increase in Other Income - \$0.9m due to alignment of infringement income to year-to-date actuals and expected income from legal settlements.
- Increase in Operating Grants - \$0.9m due to various grants including grant for Sydney metro tree replacement program and grant for stormwater compliance and education workshop.
- Increase in Employee Costs of \$2.9m:
 - \$1.3m reclassification of the trainee budget from Materials & Services to Employee Costs.
 - \$1.0m due to higher use of casuals for Aquatics, Legal Services and Early Learning, offset by increased income from utilisation as noted above.
- Decrease in Material & Services due to:
 - \$1.3m reclassification of trainee budget from Materials & Services to Employee Costs.
 - Offset by \$0.4m increase for maintenance of sporting fields.
 - Offset by \$0.4m matching operational grants received for stormwater compliance and education workshop.

Capital Budget

Following the adopted First Quarter (September 2025) Budget Review, the Capital Works Program budget was \$128.0m. The December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review, recommends this budget be reduced by \$8.4m, bringing the projected year end capital works budget to \$119.6m.

This decrease is primarily due to realignment of budget to future years in line with expected completion dates.

An additional \$3.8m is also projected in capital grants funding.

The graph in *Figure 2* summarises the key recommended capital budget movements. Details of recommended movements in individual capital projects are included in Item 1 under section 9 in the attached QBRs report.

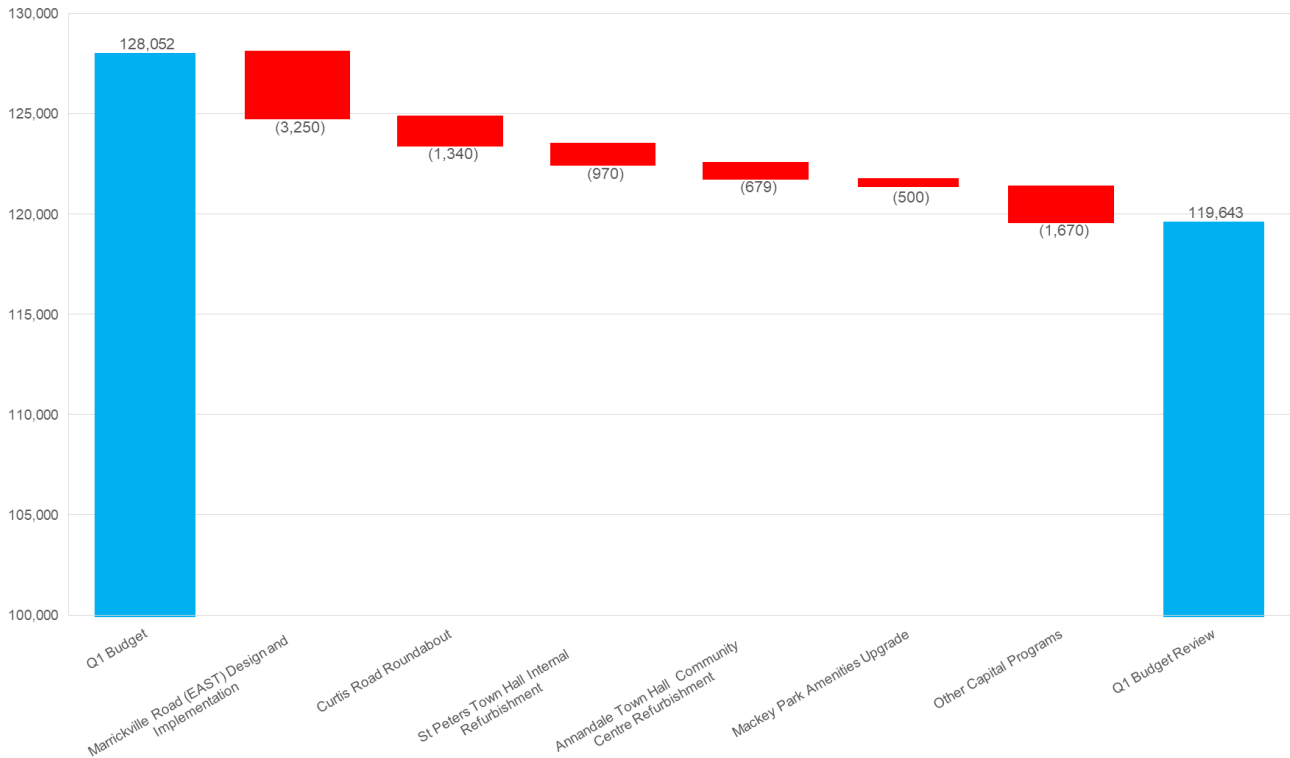


Figure 2 Changes in the Full Year Capital Budget

Cash Flow forecasts of major projects are continually monitored. December 2025 year to date capital expenditure totals approximately \$37.4m, which is meeting expected phasing of the capital works program. The Capital Budget will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis with the capital works managers, to ensure expenditure remains in line with the budget.

Responsible Accounting Officer Budget Review Statement

Section 203(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires a report by Council’s responsible accounting officer regarding the Council’s financial position at the end of each quarter. The following statement is made in accordance with this clause.

It is in my opinion that the Budget Review Statement for Inner West Council for the period ending 31 December 2025 indicates that Council’s projected financial position at 30 June will be satisfactory, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Chris Sleiman, Chief Financial Officer (Responsible Accounting Officer) - Inner West Council

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications for the quarter are listed above and detailed in the attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Quarter 2 Report Operational Plan 2025/26
2. [↓](#) December 2025 QBRS Financial Statement

Item No: C0226(1) Item 28
Subject: UPDATED PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS
Prepared By: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the updated Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns lodged by the Mayor, Cllr Darcy Byrne; Cllr Mat Howard; Cllr Philippa Scott; Cllr Jo Carlisle; and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) member Helen Hu.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to table the updated Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Returns lodged by several Councillors and one ARIC member since the last meeting of Council.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council’s Code of Conduct to include provisions for disclosures of pecuniary interests by Councillors and Designated Persons. Members of Council’s ARIC have been nominated as Designated Persons.

Councillors and Designated Persons are required under clause 4.21 of the Code of Conduct to complete a Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Return (Return) within 3 months of:

- Becoming a Councillor or Designated Person, and
- 30 June each year, and
- Becoming aware, any time during their tenure, of any changes that may affect their previously submitted Returns.

In respect of updated Returns lodged by Councillors and Designated Persons, the General Manager is required under clause 4.26 of the Code to table Returns at the first meeting of the Council after these are lodged.

DISCUSSION

The Mayor, Cllr Darcy Byrne; Cllr Mat Howard; Cllr Philippa Scott; Cllr Jo Carlisle; and ARIC member Helen Hu have each submitted an updated Return since their last Return was lodged.

The updated Returns are attached. The disclosures in Returns operate as a key transparency mechanism for promoting community confidence in Council decision making. The information contained in the Returns is made publicly available in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018* and guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner. Certain personal information has been redacted in the attached Returns in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines. The attached redacted Returns will be made available on Council’s website following this meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests 25-26 Mayor Darcy Byrne_redacted
2. [↓](#) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests 25-26 Cllr Mat Howard_redacted
3. [↓](#) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests 25-26 Cllr Philippa Scott_redacted
4. [↓](#) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests 25-26 Cllr Jo Carlisle_redacted
5. [↓](#) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests 25-26 Helen Hu_redacted

Item No: C0226(1) Item 29
Subject: FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY PROGRAM
Prepared By: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the report and note that the program has successfully identified \$3.43m (1.1%) in operating budget savings for 2026/27 and \$4.74m (1.5%) for 2027/28 onwards, with additional opportunities still being explored, prior to the budget being placed on exhibition in April.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This report supports the following strategic directions contained within Council’s Community Strategic Plan:

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Financially Sustainable Service Delivery Program , which aims to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Council through a comprehensive review to identify potential budget savings, without impact on service levels across a range of services.

The deep-dive review identified numerous opportunities to make recurrent savings to Council’s operating budget. Nearly 50 of those have been tested and confirmed as feasible, returning \$3.43m (1.11%) to Council’s budget in 2026/27, and \$4.74m (1.53%) from 2027/28 onwards. In addition, a further 40 opportunities are still being explored, with a further \$1.32m potentially returned to the 2026/27 budget, and up to \$3m after 3 years.

These results will be confirmed through the budget consultation process, and included in the 2026/27 Budget and the Long Term Financial Plan.

The outcomes of this process will enable Council to maintain high-quality service delivery while managing financial pressures responsibly.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 23 September 2025, Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council endorse the Financially Sustainable Service Delivery Program. The program will entail a comprehensive review of all expenditure, revenue, and service levels.*
2. *That the review does not reduce service levels in childcare, libraries and arts, aquatic centres, waste collection, parking and ranger services, events, parks and streetscape maintenance, and community centres and wellbeing.*
3. *That Council receive a report at the February 2026 Council meeting with the outcome of the Financially Sustainable Service Delivery Program.*
4. *That the General Manager report to the December 2025 Council meeting with an update and to each Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) meeting until the program is completed*

At the 9 December 2025 meeting, Council received a brief update on the status of the program, and update reports were provided to the ARIC at both the 13 October and 26 November 2025 meetings.

These reports outlined the actions taken in undertaking the review, including:

- Establishment of a working group
- Service unit deep dives, working through a comprehensive process to identify opportunities to save costs or increase revenue
- Meetings between Managers, Directors and the General Manager to challenge and refine the reviews
- Staff engagement with over 1000 staff via the All in for Excellence sessions, team meetings and an online ideas board
- Consolidation of the opportunities identified through these activities

DISCUSSION

Since the date of the last report, the following actions have been undertaken:

- Workshop with the executive team and CFO to discuss and test the feasibility of each opportunity
- Further analysis of a range of opportunities where additional information was required to confirm feasibility
- Additional workshops to challenge assumptions and identify further opportunities

Operating budget

Nearly 50 individual opportunities for recurrent savings to Council’s operating budget have been confirmed as feasible. All identified savings have been reviewed to ensure they will have no impact on service delivery in the identified areas. Some of these opportunities can be implemented immediately (realised in the 2026/27 Budget), while others will take time to implement, but can be included in future years of the Long Term Financial Plan.

The following table summarises the confirmed opportunities by the responsible directorate:

Directorate	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 Onwards \$'000
Community	550	550	550
Corporate/GM	1,075	2,026	2,026
Engineering	809	949	949
Planning	418	638	638
Property & Major Projects	578	578	578
Total Confirmed Savings	3,430	4,741	4,741

In addition, work is ongoing to fully explore and test a further 40 operational cost saving opportunities, as summarised in the following table, again phased according to when they would likely be realised:

Directorate	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 Onwards \$'000
Community	270	270	313
Corporate/GM	149	249	716
Engineering	100	280	350
Planning	501	709	709
Property & Major Projects	300	863	863
Total Savings Under Evaluation	1,320	2,371	2,951

If all savings under evaluation are able to be achieved, the following savings would result:

Opportunity Type	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 Onwards \$'000
Confirmed	3,430	4,741	4,741
Under Evaluation	1,320	2,371	2,951
Total Potential Savings	4,750	7,112	7,692

Note that while some potential opportunities to enhance revenue have been captured in line with the program scope, these will be explored as part of the budget consultation process and ongoing policy considerations, and have not been relied on to produce the desired outcomes in this report.

Key opportunities

Savings have been identified from a wide range of areas, including:

- Reduced use of consultants
- Reduced use of agency staff, with an insourcing model to be implemented
- Energy efficiency measures
- Systems rationalisation
- Process reviews, digitisation and automation opportunities
- Cancellation of memberships and subscriptions no longer required
- Optimisation of shifts
- Review and rationalisation of vacant roles no longer required

Capital budget

Capital budget opportunities were also canvassed but have not been included in the savings reported above. Council will continue to maximise opportunities to apply for grant funding, and to optimise the efficiency of our capital projects.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The agreed outcomes of this review will be included in the 2026/27 Budget and the Long Term Financial Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 30
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: JUNIOR PARKRUN
From: Councillor Mat Howard

MOTION

1. That Council notes the success of Parkrun as a free, volunteer-led initiative that promotes physical activity, social connection and inclusive use of public open space, including the ongoing success of the Bay Run Parkrun in Haberfield and other nearby Parkrun events.
2. That Council notes the establishment and growth of Junior Parkrun events in Australia and overseas, which provide free, weekly 2 kilometre events for children aged 4 to 14 years and their families, and the demonstrated physical, mental health and community benefits of these programs.
3. That Council requests staff to investigate the establishment of a Junior Parkrun in the Inner West, including consideration of locations such as Marrickville Oval, the GreenWay corridor, Pratten Park or another suitable site, and consultation with Parkrun Australia and relevant community stakeholders.
4. That Council requests that staff meet with Parkrun representatives and report back to Council within two months on the outcomes of this investigation, including feasibility, recommended locations, resourcing and cost implications, and alignment with Council strategies and priorities.

Background

Parkrun commenced in the United Kingdom in 2004 and has grown into a global community movement operating in more than twenty countries. Since its introduction to Australia in 2011, Parkrun has expanded to more than 500 locations nationwide and has recorded many millions of participation occasions. The program is free, volunteer-led, inclusive and non-competitive, and is widely recognised for its positive impacts on physical activity, mental wellbeing and community connection.

The Inner West and surrounding areas already demonstrate strong engagement with Parkrun. GreenWay Parkrun in Haberfield, which utilises the Iron Cove foreshore shared path, is one of the most highly attended Parkrun events in metropolitan Sydney and typically attracts between 300 and 450 participants each Saturday, with some events exceeding this number. St Peters Parkrun is another major Sydney event, regularly recording approximately 400 to 500 participants per week, placing it among the largest Parkrun events in New South Wales. Cooks River Parkrun, located along the Cooks River shared path, also demonstrates consistent community uptake, with around 200 to 280 participants attending a typical weekly event.

These participation levels illustrate strong and sustained local demand for free, accessible, volunteer-led physical activity in public open space, particularly along shared paths and parklands similar to those found throughout the Inner West.

Junior Parkrun is a well-established extension of the Parkrun model, offering a free, weekly 2 kilometre event specifically designed for children aged 4 to 14 years and their families, usually held on Sunday mornings. Evidence from Australia and overseas shows that Junior Parkrun supports increased physical activity among children, improves confidence and wellbeing, and

encourages positive early experiences of exercise, particularly for children who may not otherwise participate in organised sport. The model also strengthens family participation and community connection.

Investigating the establishment of a Junior Parkrun in the Inner West aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Open Space and Recreation Strategy and health and wellbeing priorities, including increasing participation in informal physical activity, supporting child-friendly communities and maximising the use of parks and shared pathways. Locations such as Marrickville Oval, the GreenWay corridor and Pratten Park offer opportunities to build on existing infrastructure and demonstrated community interest.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 31
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: WHITES CREEK VALLEY PARK CARE AND MAINTENANCE
From: Councillors Councillor Kerrie Fergusson and Councillor Philippa Scott

MOTION

1. That Council acknowledge that, following a review of reports from the past 5–10 years which identified long-term deterioration, White’s Creek Wetlands are now maintained by Council’s Bush Regeneration Team, with more than 30 hours per week currently invested in rehabilitation works.
2. That Council recognise and thank the Bush Regeneration Team for their work, including sediment removal, pump replacement, dredging and ongoing maintenance, pesticide-free weed management, and regular fauna surveys.
3. That Council acknowledge recent observations confirming healthy populations of Eastern Snake-Necked Turtle, Murray River Turtle, Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog, Striped Marsh Frog, and Peron’s Tree Frog.
4. That Council recognises that a recent unexpected drying event at the Wetlands caused by the unauthorised release of the pond pump valve has caused concern amongst regular users and volunteers of Whites Creek Valley Park.
5. That Council acknowledge and thank the Friends of White’s Creek Valley Park for their ongoing support and work.
6. That Council establish the Wetlands, Food Forest, Community Garden, and adjacent native bushland as environmentally sensitive areas, and promote and enforce a ban on plastics in these areas, alongside a review of the current maintenance plan.
7. That Council investigate the feasibility of appointing a specialist both in bush care and in wetlands management for Whites Creek Valley Park.
8. That Council review and improve waste management across the park, including requiring cottage hirers to remove their own rubbish.
9. That Council appoint a Council officer as a dedicated Wetlands Coordinator responsible for ongoing communication with the Friends of White’s Creek Valley Park.
10. That Council review permissions for Food Forest volunteers to prune and manage trees as required, in accordance with permaculture principles.

Background

White’s Creek Wetlands form a significant urban ecological asset within White’s Creek Valley Park, providing important habitat for native fauna while also delivering environmental, educational, and recreational value to the community. The wetlands are supported through a partnership between Council and community stewardship, most notably through the long-standing involvement of the Friends of White’s Creek Valley Park (FOWCVP).

Friends of White’s Creek Valley Park Inc. was formed at a meeting of local residents held in the park in early September 1997, arising from a desire to ensure an ongoing community voice in the planning and development of the open space corridor along White’s Creek. Since its establishment, FOWCVP has worked cooperatively with Council, including Inner West Council, to advocate for and care for the park and its natural assets including the Food Forrest and Wetlands.

The White’s Creek Wetlands are currently maintained by Council’s internal Bush Regeneration Team. Urban Ecology reviewed historical reports spanning the past five to ten years and identified long-term environmental deterioration requiring intervention. In response, Council committed a dedicated ecology team to implement a rehabilitation project. This team now invests more than 30 hours per week in ongoing works within the wetlands.

This rehabilitation program is a long-term project. It is important to note that, depending on the nature and timing of works and seasonal conditions, the wetlands may at times not present as they typically do. However, undertaking works in the appropriate season and conditions is essential to achieving the best long-term ecological outcomes.

Over the Christmas and New Year period, two ponds within the wetlands experienced an unexpected drying event. It appears the valve system that retains water within the ponds was released, causing water levels to drop. Historically, this valve has only been released by authorised personnel to remove contaminants. In this instance, no Council staff were instructed to release the valve and did not take this action. A full investigation of the valve system is currently underway to determine whether a mechanical fault or unauthorised interference occurred.

In response, Council pumped approximately 4,000 litres of water into the ponds, and with the assistance of subsequent rainfall, the wetlands have since returned to a fully functioning condition. Importantly, no native wildlife was harmed during this temporary drying period. Turtles and eels relocated to upper ponds, and native fish burrowed as part of their natural adaptive behaviour. While the sight of deceased wildlife was understandably confronting for community members, these animals were invasive species.

As a response this incident, local residents and FOWCVP expressed concern in the management and maintenance of the wetlands and other key areas of the park.

This motion aims to address those concerns and to facilitate ongoing collaboration between Council, the Bush Regeneration Team, and the Friends of White’s Creek Valley Park, which remains critical to ensuring the long-term health, resilience, and community value of White’s Creek Wetlands.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer’s Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 32
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: REDUNDANT OPTUS CABLE
From: Councillor Victor Macri

MOTION

That Council write to the responsible authorities to seek the removal of the redundant Optus cable network on telegraph poles. If no cooperation is given then write to the State Government asking them to introduce legislation requiring the removal of the redundant cable.

Background

The Optus cable network has been redundant for some time now and seems to be forgotten but it still has lasting impacts;

1. Being an impediment to our tree canopy as it sits even lower than the power lines.
2. It's an eyesore visual pollution that is unnecessary with today's NBN.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 33
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: SUPPORTING PLACE-BASED YOUTH SERVICES
From: Councillor Izabella Antoniou

MOTION

1. That Council, as part of the Child and Youth Strategy, included an exploration of place-based youth services and the potential models that council could support through partnerships and existing infrastructure.
2. That Council as part of the Child and Youth strategy develop a communications plan to improve knowledge of and highlight existing youth services in each ward. The strategy should highlight the age demographics being serviced by each program.

Background

Inner West Council currently works alongside a handful place-based services that are aimed at supporting young people including, Midjuburi Youth Resource Centre and PCYCs - there are also avenues for services to operate out of council properties including the youth drop in zone at Summer Hill Community Centre, and previously the Ashfield Headspace. Inner West Council also provides a series of youth-based programs running out of their libraries and aquatic centres on a regular basis.

ARACY has reported that the evidence in best-tackling long term social disadvantages, particularly for young people, is place-based approaches due to their ability to be tailored, localised, and collaborative, taking account of local context and community aspirations. They also help ensure access to free third-spaces for young people to safely socialise. A need that will increase as the Inner West Council grows. A key part of the success of these initiatives is security and long-term funding to operate over a significant amount of time.

Place-based services offer consistency, and the ability for long-term relationships and trust to form between community workers and young people - meaning they are more likely to seek out and receive necessary services and partake in preventative care. It is this long-term nature that requires explicit exploration and a review of existing services and new opportunities within the Child and Youth strategy to ensure that current and future endeavours are supported by a long-term strategic vision that centres young people's dynamic needs.

It has been noted that the tapestry of youth services offered is not made clear to residents, with gaps surrounding specific spaces for the 'tween' cohort - who are in a key transition point between primary school and high school. Therefore, as part of the Child and Youth strategy - there should also be a communications plan to highlight and inform residents of existing supports, services and opportunities for young people.

Director Lead:

Ruth Callaghan, Director Community

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 34
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: ROBSON PARK OFF LEASH DOG AREA
FEASIBILITY
From: Councillor Andrew Blake

MOTION

1. That Council notes:
 - a) That in September 2025, Council resolved to revert Blackmore Park, Leichhardt to a full time on leash area.
 - b) That in December 2024, Council resolved as part of the Biodiversity Strategy to investigate a trial rewilding of Robson Park, Haberfield.
 - c) That a Park Plan of Management for Robson Park is scheduled to be developed in 2028.

 2. That Council resolve to bring forward the development of the Park Plan of Management to early 2026/27 and is to include:
 - a) The rewilding trial as previously adopted by Council
 - b) A feasibility study of establishing a limited time, limited-area off-leash zone in Robson Park.
-

Background

The decision to revert Blackmore Park to a full time on leash upset many local residents and dog walkers.

This motion is an attempt to investigate a solution to a council service that was taken away. Recognising that Council has already committed to a rewilding trial for Robson Park, this motion seeks to bring forward the proposed Park Plan of Management to early 2026/27. As part of that plan of management a feasibility study should take place on a limited time, limited-area off-leash zone.

Director Lead:

Ryann Midei, Director Property and Major Projects

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 35
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: FUNDING & IMPROVEMENTS TO CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ACROSS THE INNER WEST LGA FOR CHRISTMAS 2026 AND BEYOND.
From: Councillor Ismet Tastan

MOTION

1. That Council receive a report at the April 2026 meeting on the potential to expand Christmas decorations across the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA). This report should outline timelines that ensure decorations are sourced and delivered in line with agreed installation schedules for each Ward, and align with the broader calendar of community events (e.g., the Balmain Festival).
2. That Council's report outline existing budgets allocated for Christmas decorations and identify opportunities to significantly increase funding through budget savings, business partnerships, and external grant opportunities for Christmas 2026 and beyond. This funding strategy should aim to elevate the Christmas assets to meet community expectations both in 2026 and future years.
3. That the report includes a detailed Christmas Decoration Action Plan, with specific plans for each of the eleven key locations listed below. The plan should outline strategies for investing in new decorations and promotional activities for key shopping districts, smaller local shopping areas/village spaces and major community spaces across the Inner West LGA for Christmas 2026 and beyond. It should also consider cost-effective ways to create a cohesive festive streetscape and the long-term development of a sustainable library of assets.
4. That the report explores the use of new technologies to enhance the festive atmosphere, creating innovative and engaging Christmas displays across the LGA.
5. That Council continue its collaboration with local Business Chambers to support and deliver community-driven initiatives, such as the highly successful Christmas window dressing competition, aimed at boosting local business engagement, fostering community participation, and enhancing the overall festive atmosphere throughout the Inner West.
6. That Council engage with the Small Business Local Democracy Group on the most effective locations to promote Christmas trade and deliver decorations that appeal to the local community.

Background

Christmas is a time of celebration that holds significant value for both the local community and businesses across the Inner West. The festive season is widely embraced, and there is a general expectation from residents that Christmas decorations will create a joyful atmosphere and be installed in a timely manner.

The community expressed widespread disappointment with the Christmas decorations in 2025 across the LGA. This sentiment was shared across social media and directly from residents. The primary concerns stemmed from delays in installation and the reduced quality and volume of decorations, particularly the Christmas trees, which in many cases had reached the end of their lifespan and needed replacing.

There has been a limited budget allocated over previous years which has constrained the ability to replace these assets adequately and meet the expectations of the community on the budgets set – given both the large LGA and the number of locations needed. This was coupled with unforeseen supply chain delays and any new stock arriving later than planned, resulting in delays to the installation schedule.

Given the substantial costs involved in sourcing, installing, and storing large Christmas trees & decorations, it is essential that future decoration plans consider both financial and environmental sustainability. In line with earlier recommendations from Council, we should explore options that not only enhance the festive spirit but also support the local economy, minimise environmental impact and maximise budgets by reducing overheads required to install and remove trees/decorations.

This could involve potential investment from local businesses (e.g., Woolworths Balmain, Loyalty Square) and partnerships with circular economy organisations like Reverse Garbage to promote sustainability, reduce waste, and maintain the festive spirit of Christmas.

There have been numerous suggestions from the community and local business owners, including innovative ideas such as light projections on buildings, footpaths, or appropriate green spaces. These could enhance the Inner West's festive atmosphere and street appeal, as successfully demonstrated by neighbouring LGAs.

Additionally, technologies such as simple light treatments on existing trees could easily transform them into Christmas-themed displays. Other options, such as digital billboards could be used to promote Christmas messaging and could then be repurposed for future community announcements or seasonal promotions.

Other ideas include local campaigns or competitions encouraging residents and businesses to decorate trees and neighbourhoods with lights and festive decorations, further promoting community involvement.

Previously identified locations:

1. Annandale
2. Haberfield
3. Rozelle
4. Leichhardt
5. Marrickville
6. Dulwich Hill
7. Summer Hill
8. Balmain
9. Ashfield Civic Centre
10. Pride Square Newtown
11. St Peter's Town Hall

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 36
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES REVIEW
From: Councillor Mat Howard

MOTION

1. That Council acknowledges the vital role of Council's Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) at Leichhardt and St Peters in waste management, landfill diversion and supporting the circular economy in the Inner West.
2. That Council notes that funding for CRCs is derived from both the Domestic Waste Reserve and the NSW Government's Community Recycling Centre program, administered by the Environmental Protection Authority through the Environmental Trust, with the stated purpose of assisting residents to responsibly dispose of household "problem waste", including electronics, batteries and chemicals.
3. That Council thanks staff for their ongoing work in planning for and operating the CRCs in alignment with Council's objectives and principles.
4. That Council undertakes a review of Community Recycling Centres with a view to:
 - a. Ensuring the operation of Inner West Council CRCs reflects best practice, including but not limited to:
 - i. Undertaking a survey of residents who utilise existing CRC services;
 - ii. Investigating the operation of CRCs at other councils, with a view to identifying and incorporating innovative approaches; and
 - iii. Including CRCs as an agenda item at an upcoming Circular Economy Roundtable to seek feedback and ideas
 - b. Improving accessibility of CRCs for local residents, including but not limited to:
 - i. Reviewing operating hours;
 - ii. Considering options to expand the types of waste accepted, including textiles and bulky items;
 - iii. Reviewing how CRCs interact with other Council waste services, including bulky waste collection and the Sustainability Hub; and
 - iv. Reviewing the promotion and communication of CRC services.
 - c. Positioning CRCs at the forefront of the circular economy within the Inner West, including but not limited to:
 - i. Developing stronger partnerships with local circular economy organisations to increase diversion outcomes;
 - ii. Providing additional training for CRC staff on circular economy principles and diversion pathways to better inform

-
- residents;
- iii. Exploring the co-location of Waste Busters staff at CRCs on operational days;
 - iv. Improving signage and communications to enhance community understanding of circular economy opportunities; and
 - v. Investigating events such as reverse markets (“reverse shopping”) to facilitate reuse and donation of items to circular economy organisations.
5. That Council requests that a report be brought back to Council by August 2026, including data on existing CRC services, findings from the review, and recommendations for improvement.
-

Background

Inner West Council operates two Community Recycling Centres (CRCs), located at Leichhardt and St Peters, which play a critical role in the local waste management system by providing residents with free and convenient options to safely dispose of household “problem waste”. These materials include items that cannot be placed in kerbside bins due to environmental, health or safety risks, such as electronic waste, batteries, fluorescent lights, paint, oils, gas bottles and household chemicals. By capturing these materials separately, CRCs significantly reduce the volume of hazardous and recoverable waste sent to landfill, while supporting resource recovery and reuse pathways.

The operation of Community Recycling Centres aligns with Council’s Waste Strategy and broader sustainability objectives, including landfill diversion, pollution prevention, emissions reduction and the transition to a circular economy within the Inner West. CRCs act as an important interface between residents and Council’s waste services, providing not only disposal infrastructure but also opportunities for education, behaviour change and increased awareness of responsible consumption and recycling practices.

Funding for the Inner West CRCs is drawn from a combination of Council’s Domestic Waste Reserve and external funding provided through the NSW Government’s Community Recycling Centre program, administered by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) via the Environmental Trust. This program was established to assist councils to improve access to safe disposal options for household problem waste and to reduce the environmental harm associated with improper disposal. The stated purpose of this funding is to maximise diversion of hazardous and recyclable materials from landfill and illegal dumping, and to increase community participation in responsible waste management.

Across NSW, CRCs collectively divert many thousands of tonnes of problem waste from landfill each year, including high-impact waste streams such as e-waste, batteries and chemicals, which contain valuable recoverable materials as well as substances that pose risks

to soil, waterways and human health if not properly managed. Data reported to the EPA indicates strong and growing community use of CRCs, with increasing volumes of e-waste and other materials recovered annually as public awareness improves and as technology use increases. Inner West Council's CRCs contribute to these outcomes at a local level and form a key component of the region's waste diversion performance.

As expectations around sustainability, reuse and circular economy practices continue to evolve, there is an opportunity to ensure Inner West Council's CRCs remain contemporary, accessible and best practice. This includes considering how CRCs integrate with other Council waste services, how they are promoted to residents, and how they can support emerging diversion streams such as textiles, reusable household goods and partnerships with local circular economy organisations. Reviewing the operation and strategic positioning of CRCs will help ensure they continue to deliver strong environmental outcomes, maximise value for ratepayers, and support Council's leadership in sustainability and circular economy innovation.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 37
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT UNWINS BRIDGE ROAD AND HILLCREST STREET, TEMPE
From: Councillor Mat Howard

Item 37

MOTION

1. That Council notes that residents report the pedestrian crossing at Unwins Bridge Road and Hillcrest Street, Tempe, is unsafe and that's there have been several near-misses at the location.
2. That Council undertakes a safety review of the intersection with a view to making improvements to make the intersection safer for pedestrians and cyclists, including but not limited to upgrading the crossing to a wombat crossing, renewing line marking, improving signage, advocating for a road crossing supervisor, or other traffic mitigation measures.
3. That Council report the findings of the review to the Local Traffic Forum within three months and in the meantime, undertake any urgent works to improve safety as a matter of priority.

Background

Unwins Bridge Road is a busy local road that many residents rely on every day to walk, cycle and access nearby homes, schools, shops and public transport.

At the intersection of Unwins Bridge Road and Hillcrest Street, residents consistently report that the pedestrian crossing feels unsafe, with cars often speeding through or failing to stop. Several near-misses have been described, including a recent incident where a local parent was nearly hit while crossing with their young children. Many families and students use the crossing to access Tempe Public School, Tempe High School, Tillman Park and Tillman Park Early Learning Centre.

Creating streets where people can move around safely on foot or by bike is essential to healthy, connected and inclusive neighbourhoods. When pedestrians and cyclists feel unsafe, it discourages walking, reduces independence for children and undermines community wellbeing.

Addressing safety risks at this intersection is an important step in prioritising people over traffic and reinforcing Council's commitment to more walkable, people-friendly streets across the Inner West.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 38
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION – COOKS RIVER FORESHORE, THORNLEY STREET MARRICKVILLE
From: Councillor Mat Howard

MOTION

1. That Council requests Council staff investigate vegetation, weed infestation, and waste accumulation on Council-managed land adjoining the Cooks River foreshore at and behind 50–54 Thornley Street, Marrickville.
 2. That Council requests Council staff liaise with affected residents, the Cooks River Alliance, Sydney Water or other agencies, and local bushcare groups to clarify land ownership, access, and appropriate management responsibilities.
 3. That Council requests Council staff report back via briefing note on options to support rehabilitation works, including waste removal, provision of mulch and native plants (where eligible), and future maintenance arrangements consistent with Council’s environmental and safety obligations, within one month.
-

Background

Properties at Thornley Street back onto the Cooks River foreshore near the heritage-listed aqueduct, an area of high environmental and recreational value. Residents report significant weed infestation, accumulated waste, and uncertainty regarding maintenance responsibilities on adjoining publicly owned land. Local bushcare volunteers have identified limited native vegetation. Clarifying management arrangements and identifying practical rehabilitation support would assist residents while improving environmental outcomes along the Cooks River corridor.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer’s Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 39
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: GEO-BLOCKING OVALS FOR SHARED E-BIKES
From: Councillors Councillor Mat Howard and Councillor Kerrie Fergusson

MOTION

- 1. That Council convene a meeting with shared e-bike providers operating within the Inner West Local Government Area to request that all shared e-bikes be geofenced to prevent access to the playing surfaces of ovals across the LGA; and**
 - 2. That Council receive a report at the April Council meeting outlining the outcomes of these discussions.**
-

Background

Shared e-bikes are increasingly used across the Inner West Local Government Area as a convenient and sustainable transport option. While their use supports Council's broader objectives around active transport and reduced car dependency, concerns have been raised regarding shared e-bikes being ridden or parked on playing surfaces of ovals.

Use of e-bikes on turf playing surfaces poses risks to public safety, can damage grass and irrigation infrastructure, and may negatively impact the availability and quality of these facilities for organised sport and general community use. Council currently invests significant resources in the maintenance of ovals, and preventing avoidable damage is essential to protecting these assets.

Shared e-bike providers already utilise geofencing technology to manage parking behaviour and restrict access in certain locations. Expanding the use of geo-blocking to exclude playing surfaces of ovals across the LGA would be a practical and preventative measure to address these concerns.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 40
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: COUNCIL RUN EVENTS ON THE GREENWAY
From: Councillor Kerrie Fergusson

MOTION

1. That Council congratulate Inner West Council on the successful opening of the GreenWay in December 2025, noting that usage tripled in the first two weeks following its opening;
2. That Council prepare a report for the April Council meeting outlining potential Council run events that could be held along the GreenWay, including but not limited to:
 - a) A half marathon;
 - b) Kids Bike Buses, including school commutes and other cycling based events aimed at increasing riding confidence and skills, including bike tune-up activities; and
 - c) Partnering with local schools to deliver educational and practical bushcare programs
3. That Council create and execute a communication plan that demonstrates how the GreenWay is currently being used by Inner West residents.
4. That Council investigate the need for additional signage from Jack Shanahan Reserve to the Cooks River.
5. That Council ensure the report includes estimated costs, budget implications, and suggested timeframes for delivery.

Background

Inner West Council successfully opened the GreenWay in December 2025, marking a significant milestone in the delivery of a key active transport corridor. Early data indicates strong community uptake, with usage tripling in the first two weeks following the opening.

Given this strong initial response, there is an opportunity for Council to build on the GreenWay's success by considering Council run and Council supported activities that further engage the community, encourage active transport, and maximise the public value of the corridor.

Events and programs delivered along the GreenWay could support participation across different age groups, promote cycling skills and confidence, and strengthen environmental education and stewardship through partnerships with local schools.

A report outlining potential events, associated costs, budget implications, and delivery timeframes would assist Council in determining feasible next steps.

In addition, feedback from GreenWay users indicates difficulties with way-finding between Jack Shanahan Reserve and the Cooks River, suggesting that additional signage may be required to support navigation along the final leg of the GreenWay.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 41
 Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: CHRISTMAS IN THE INNER WEST
 From: Councillor Kerrie Fergusson

MOTION

1. That Council note that new Christmas decorations have been procured, with delivery expected early 2026, and commit to maximising their impact through complementary, low cost, community led initiatives.
2. That Council investigate ways to support Christmas festivity across the Inner West through a combination of localised and LGA wide initiatives that strengthen community connection and encourage residents to shop locally.
3. That Council prepare a report to the April Council meeting that includes the following;
 - a) Brief overview of how existing Christmas decorations will be deployed across the LGA in 2026
 - b) Opportunities to coordinate decorations with community events and local shopping precincts
 - c) Outline of the costs, feasibility and delivery approach for the following initiatives, and any additional initiatives identified by staff;
 - i. An Inner West “Light Up” Fest, including a best decorated house competition and an online map or webpage enabling residents to list participating homes and create a Christmas lights trail with a voting mechanism.
 - ii. Shopfront festive enhancements on Main Streets (e.g. bunting or tinsel) to increase street level activation and encourage local shopping.
 - iii. Working with community organisations to deliver a small-scale Christmas event in each ward, including community choirs and a Santa visit and ensure these events are well promoted in the lead up.
 - iv. Community Christmas Decoration workshops, i.e recycled Christmas wreath workshops at the Sustainability Hub and Council community centres.
4. That Council develop an online Inner West Christmas Portal, including:
 - a) An Inner West Christmas events calendar
 - b) A local shopping guide highlighting Inner West businesses
 - c) Content featuring local shop owners, artists and community organisations.
 - d) A dedicated webpage promoting the Inner West 'Light Up' Fest with voting mechanism, user upload gallery, prize information, terms and conditions and a map showing decorated houses across the Inner West.
5. That Council continue and expand promotion of the shopfront decoration competition, including encouraging participants to share entries through their own social media channels to amplify reach.
6. That Council create and execute a Christmas communication strategy to maximise community awareness and participation for competitions and events.
7. That Council request that Council officers provide high-level observations (without detailed costings) on opportunities for future enhancement of Christmas decorations and assets beyond 2026, to inform consideration in future budget processes.

Background

The Inner West is known for being vibrant, creative, and diverse. Council embraces and supports this culture through an array of events and activities held throughout the year, helping to foster connection, inclusion, and community pride.

The Christmas period is a particularly important time for shared celebration and togetherness. Festive activities can bring neighbours together, create moments of joy, and strengthen a sense of belonging, while also boosting foot traffic and engagement for local businesses.

There is an opportunity for Council to build on its existing approach by supporting Christmas festivities, both localised and across the LGA, reflecting the Inner West's unique character and village centres. Initiatives that encourage participation, such as decorated homes and shopfronts, small community events, creative workshops, and shared online platforms, can help create a welcoming and inclusive festive atmosphere across the Inner West.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 42
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: CUL DE SAC MAINTENANCE - ATHOL ST, LEICHHARDT
From: Councillor Philippa Scott

MOTION

1. That Council refer to the Local Transport Forum to consider formalising on-street parking at the cul-de-sac end of Athol Street, Leichhardt with marked lines and installation of clear no-parking signage where parking would impede driveway access.
2. That Council conduct tree trimming on the trees in the Athol Street cul-de-sac.
3. That Council investigate footpath maintenance to address lifted pavers or cracks, and ensure the path through from Darley Road is safe for residents and commuters to and from Marion Light Rail station.

Background

Residents of Athol Street, Leichhardt have raised ongoing concerns regarding parking, safety and maintenance issues at the cul-de-sac end of the street. Athol Street is a short, dead-end residential street located close to public transport, including the Marion Light Rail stop.

For many years, residents have parked vehicles at the end of the street without issue. In late 2025, residents began receiving parking infringement notices for vehicles parked in this area, often issued in the early morning hours. Residents have advised that the reasons given for these penalties were inconsistent and unclear, and that enforcement occurred despite the absence of signage indicating parking restrictions.

Concerns have also been raised about the operation of the Resident Parking Scheme in Athol Street. Residents have requested clearer, more consistent advice from Council about how driveway definitions and permit eligibility are applied.

In addition, residents have identified maintenance and safety issues at the cul-de-sac end of the street, including overgrown trees and uneven footpath paving. These issues have been raised as posing risks to residents, particularly elderly residents and pedestrians accessing nearby public transport.

Councillor Philippa Scott attended a street meeting with Athol Street residents on site and has engaged in ongoing correspondence with residents. As a result of these discussions, the Councillor Scott has progressed residents' concerns through appropriate Council channels and sought clearer advice from staff to address the issues raised.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 43
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: PUBLIC TREE PLANTING AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
From: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chloe Smith

MOTION

1. That Council notes the ongoing commitment to expand and protect the Inner West's urban tree canopy, including Council's target of planting 1,000 new public trees each year and replacement tree planting policy where a tree is removed.
 2. That Council notes that community members care deeply about local trees and the benefits they provide and that Council's tree planting efforts are of significant community interest.
 3. That Council develops an online tree planting tracker and map, allowing community members to stay updated on Council's public tree planting program across the LGA year to year, including locations, species, and timelines for planting.
 4. That Council develops appropriate signage to be installed onsite with each new public tree planting to support community awareness and engagement with Council's planting program, including information on the Urban Forest Strategy and tree planting targets, the benefits of street trees, and how to contact Council for further information about street trees.
 5. That Council as part of the existing Adopt-A-Spot and Living Streets Verge Garden program, allows residents to nominate locations for a public tree planting (e.g. verges, parks, curb extensions, traffic islands etc.) for Council investigation, advice, and support.
 6. That Council receives a report back on progress of the above initiatives to the April Council Meeting.
-

Background

Protecting and expanding the Inner West's urban tree canopy is a priority for Inner West Council, with ambitious targets including 1,000 new public trees planted each year, an overall canopy target of 25%, and stringent policies around tree removal and replacement.

Importantly, this is also a priority for the Inner West community. Inner Westies are passionate about the benefits that trees bring to our local area, including reducing the urban heat island effect, supporting greater biodiversity, and improving public amenity. This is expressed through frequent enquiries from community members to Councillors and staff about local tree planting efforts.

A Public Tree Planting Awareness Program will support greater community awareness and engagement with Council's tree planting efforts. Community members will be able to stay updated with where, when, and what kinds of trees are being planted in their local area. Highly visible signage installed alongside new plantings will support community education about the importance of local trees and Council's program - a policy already in place in other council areas, including Woollahra (see photo below). Incorporating tree planting into existing Adopt-A-Spot and Living Streets programs will further enhance engagement, encouraging residents to think about how trees can improve their local area, improve understanding about appropriate species and planting locations, and get involved in their care.



Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 44
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: DIVE-IN CINEMA
From: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chloe Smith

MOTION

1. That Council notes the popularity and importance of our local aquatic centres as low-cost venues for leisure, social events and community connection, and cooling centres during extreme heat, in a fun, family-friendly, and inclusive setting.
2. That Council notes Council’s ongoing efforts to activate and diversify public infrastructure for community benefit, including the Creative Town Halls program, Inner West Film Festival, and investigations for live music events at Henson Park and Leichhardt Oval.
3. That Council investigates establishing a ‘Dive-In Cinema’ event program for family-friendly movie screenings held at Inner West aquatic centres in the evening during summer, with the intention to establish a trial event program for summer 2026/27.
4. That Council investigates establishing a program of small-scale live music events at Inner West aquatic centres to showcase local artists during summer, in the style of ‘Sunday sessions’.
5. That Council receives a report to the May Council Meeting on feasibility and cost of the above initiatives, including logistics considerations across all five aquatic centres, opportunities for local businesses to sponsor food and entertainment, consideration of similar events hosted by other councils, and a focus on family-friendly entertainment and accessibility.

Background

Our Inner West Aquatic Centres are the jewels in the crown when it comes to low cost, inclusive, family-friendly leisure venues. These pools are beloved by local residents, particularly during the summer when people are looking for opportunities to spend as much time as possible enjoying the outdoors with family and friends and to cool off during extreme heat.

A ‘Dive-In Cinema’ and ‘Sunday sessions’ live music events are a new opportunity to diversify and activate these beloved community spaces in a way that delivers real community benefit. Inner Westies value opportunities to come together and enjoy our community in new and different ways. Inner West Council understands that in a dense urban community, the best way to maximise public benefit from public spaces is to diversify how they’re used at different times of day or in different seasons.

Family-friendly movie screenings and live music sessions at aquatic centres will allow residents to continue enjoying a wonderful local facility while providing a low-cost entertainment and leisure option during the summer months and school holidays. There are

also opportunities to incorporate sponsorships with local businesses and providers as part of the entertainment and food options.

Director Lead:

Ruth Callaghan, Director Community

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 45
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: SENIORS MORNING TEAS TO CELEBRATE THE GREENWAY
From: Councillor Vicki Clay

MOTION

1. That Council as an introduction to, and a celebration of the Greenway, expand the Seniors Morning Tea program, with ‘Morning Teas for Seniors’ events to take place at Johnson Park and Richard Murden Reserve to include guided tours of the Greenway, paced to suit all levels of mobility.
 2. That Council schedule the Seniors Morning Teas at the Greenway to take place in the autumn and spring seasons of 2026.
 3. That Council gauge transportation needs of attendees with mobility concerns to/from the events to determine whether the community bus would be required.
 4. That Council provide public transport advice/guidance for ease of entry to the Greenway access points.
 5. That Council communicate the events in the Inner West Council Newsletter, the Inner West Council website and social media pages, in multiple languages at libraries and community centres.
 6. That Council prepare a report for the March 2026 Council meeting outlining the Seniors Morning Tea Program across the Inner West Council’s community centres, detailing the locations and dates schedule for 2026.
-

Background

The Greenway is beautiful infrastructure that is a testament to the vision and hard work of Council and community supporters over, what can be acknowledged, was at times a frustratingly extended period of time.

However, the design and layout has made all the hard work well worthwhile for our community today, tomorrow and far into the future. Let’s share it with the more senior members of our community as well.

Scheduling of events for seniors at the Greenway is an acknowledgement that the Greenway is inclusive of all members of the community, irrespective of age or mobility.

Director Lead:

Ruth Callaghan, Director Community

Officer’s Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 46
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: MAINTAINING INTEGRITY OF ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM PROCESS
From: Councillor Jo Carlisle

MOTION

1. That Council Affirms its commitment to the integrity and transparency of the Inner West Council Annual Grant Program as the primary mechanism for distributing community grants.
2. That Council resolves that all requests for grant funding to community organisations, groups, or individuals must be processed through the established Annual Grant Program, subject to the published eligibility criteria, assessment processes, and timeframes outlined in the Annual Grant Program Guidelines.
3. That Council resolves that Council will not consider motions from individual Councillors seeking one-off grants for specific organisations outside the Annual Grant Program process, except in the following circumstances:
 - a. Emergency situations requiring immediate Council response where there is insufficient time to wait for the next grant round and where the matter poses significant risk to community safety or wellbeing; or
 - b. Where Council has specifically resolved to establish a new grant stream or program with defined criteria and assessment processes.
4. That Council notes that Councillors who identify community organisations or projects that may benefit from Council grant funding should:
 - a. Direct those organisations to the appropriate grant stream within the Annual Grant Program;
 - b. Encourage organisations to contact the relevant Council grant officers for application support as outlined in the Annual Grant Program Guidelines; and
 - c. If appropriate, advocate through proper processes for the creation of new grant streams to address identified community needs, with such new streams to include clear eligibility criteria and assessment processes.
5. That Council notes that this process is separate to Council event funding which may, from time to time, require one off funding commitments.
6. That Council requests the General Manager to investigate options for increasing funding to the Annual Grant Program through as part of the 2026-2027 budget process.

Background

Inner West Council operates a comprehensive Annual Grant Program with clearly defined guidelines, assessment criteria, and governance processes. The 2025 Annual Grant Program provides approximately \$649,493 in funding across multiple grant streams including Arts, Business Chambers, Circular Economy, Community History, Community Wellbeing, Disability Support, Environment, and Multicultural grants.

The Annual Grant Program Guidelines establish:

- Transparent eligibility criteria for all applicants
- Defined application timeframes and processes

- Assessment by Council staff against published selection criteria
- Expert panel assessment for some streams
- Formal approval by Council of funding recommendations
- Funding agreements with performance measures and acquittal requirements

This structured approach ensures:

- Equity and fairness for all community organisations and individuals
- Accountability in the expenditure of public funds
- Alignment with Council's Community Strategic Plan objectives
- Proper assessment of applicant capacity to deliver projects
- Evaluation of value for money and community benefit

ISSUE

From time to time, individual Councillors may seek to bring motions to Council requesting one-off grants for individual organisations outside the established Annual Grant Program process.

This practice:

- Circumvents the transparent and competitive assessment process
- Creates inequality between organisations that apply through the formal program and those that receive ad-hoc funding
- Undermines the integrity and credibility of the Annual Grant Program
- May result in funding of projects that have not been assessed against established criteria
- Does not allow for proper evaluation of applicant capacity or value for money
- Creates an unpredictable burden on Council's grant budgets
- May disadvantage organisations that lack direct relationships with individual Councillors

Such ad-hoc grant approvals are inconsistent with principles of good governance, transparency, and equitable distribution of public resources.

Director Lead:

Ruth Callaghan, Director Community

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C0226(1) Item 47
Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION:2026 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PROPOSED MOTION: THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS
From: Councillor Olivia Barlow

MOTION

That Council endorse the following motion to be submitted to the 2026 National General Assembly:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in this term of government.

Background

The national objective and summary of key arguments is outlined in the attached completed National Assembly Proposed Motions template.

Director Lead:

Sharon Bowman, Director Corporate

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Completed National General Assembly Proposed Motion
2. [↓](#) 2021-NGA-Resolutions (Motion 61)
3. [↓](#) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Cities Appeal - webpage

Item No: C0226(1) Item 48
Subject: QUESTION ON NOTICE: WHITE'S CREEK VALLEY PARK AND WETLANDS
From: Councillor Ismet Tastan

Question

Regarding the Plan of Management (PoM) for Whites Creek Valley Park and Wetlands.

1. When was the last PoM completed for Whites Creek Valley Park? Please provide a link to view this.
2. Did this include the Wetlands?
3. What is the planned timeframe to update the PoM for Whites Creek Valley Park?
4. Will the Wetlands be included or does this form part of a separate PoM and if so, which one?
5. Are there currently any benchmarks identified by Council regarding measuring the ongoing health of the Wetlands and surrounding areas?

Answer

The Whites Creek Wetland was opened in 2002. It is managed by the Inner West Urban Ecology Team with input from Parks Assets who maintain the pump.

The existing PoM can be reviewed online [Park plans of management - Inner West Council](#). This is the original Plan of Management that sets out the history and framework for the subsequent construction of the wetlands.

Whites Creek Valley Park Plan of Management (PoM) is planned for review in 2027.

The health of the wetland is monitored three times a week by a wetland expert in the Urban Ecology Team. The ponds are refilled as required. Wildlife is recorded and data collected on each visit including investigating if the supply water from the canal is clear or murky. Wet weather causes run off from surrounding private property which may reduce the water quality, resulting in the retention pond not being refilled on that occasion.

The wetland ponds were constructed in a loop and lined with clay to facilitate water retention. The system is designed for variable water levels with native species able to survive in the mud or move into ponds with water. It is a living system which fluctuates and changes. The maintenance plan is updated weekly in response to the monitoring by Council's wetland expert.

Question

Regarding the ongoing budgets and resource allocation for Whites Creek Valley Park and Wetlands.

1. What is the resource allocation / maintenance schedule for Whites Creek Valley Park?
2. What is the estimated budget & resource allocation in 2025.26 and in 2026.27 for Whites Creek Wetlands?
3. How many hours of maintenance was the previous contractor undertaking in the wetland itself, and is the Urban Ecology team able to maintain the same number dedicated people hours within the existing budgets?
4. Are the Urban Ecology team resourced adequately to take on this additional responsibility?
5. In relation to the issues that led to emergency measures being implemented over the Christmas period – what steps will be implemented to ensure that there is a contact

person available all year round who is authorised to resolve any issues that may arise, even during holiday periods.

Answer

Urban Ecology brought maintenance of the wetlands in-house in July 2025 following the contractor who had undertaken work at the site for the past twenty years. The Urban ecology team have the specialist knowledge and experience in wetland management aligned to best-practice to enable restoration and maintenance of the wetland.

Staff dedicate approximately 30 combined hours a week through monitoring and maintenance, which exceeds the previous contracted service hours. Staff will continue to manage this wetland as required, responding to the needs of the system and the surrounding natural area.

The wetland, as with other Inner West wetlands and natural areas, involves an adaptive management approach through action plans that are part of a broader operational plan.

A site supervisor is assigned to each location, including Whites Creek Wetland, who takes responsibility for managing all aspects of the management plan which for this wetland has a 4-6 week planning cycle.

The Parks Team undertakes maintenance including mowing of White Creek Valley Park on a 20- working day mowing cycle (4-week cycle). The reserve is litter picked weekly to minimize environmental and aesthetic impacts.

Ecological maintenance and regeneration is undertaken weekly on a Wednesday by four staff in the Urban Ecology Team. Tasks include removal of weeds and sediment to maximise water holding capacity and reduce blockages in the wetland loop.

On public holidays and out of hours the community can contact Council using the usual customer service number T: 02 9392 5000. An after hours service will contact the nominated officer in case of an emergency. During weekdays calls will be referred directly to the Coordinator Urban Ecology.

Question

Regarding the ongoing contract for management of the Whites Creek Valley Wetlands there were a number of questions from residents.

- It was previously indicated that the contract would be up for renewal in 2025 and this did not occur. Is the plan that the ongoing care and maintenance of the Wetlands be managed ongoing by the internal Urban Ecology team, or are there plans to go to tender for the role of caretaker of the Wetlands in the future?

Answer

Inner West undertook a tender in 2025 and following assessment of the bids determined to bring management of the wetland in-house using existing expertise.

While information about any tender is confidential, Council acknowledges the work undertaken by the former contractor, who had strong community connections. Nevertheless the community may be assured that the wetland will continue to be monitored and maintained in order to thrive ecologically.

Question

There have been reports that the pump was not working for over two years which contributed to the decline in the health of The Wetlands.

1. Why did this take so long to repair?
2. Was this a contributing factor to the ponds drying up over Christmas?
3. What measures are in place to prevent this happening in the future?

The previous wetland pump broke in November 2023 and an auxiliary pump was installed. This was recently reviewed and the existing pump has been fully operational and working well on inspections (3 times per week) since November 2025.

As with any wetland there will be periods of drying where native species either move ponds or bury themselves in the mud. Over extended periods of dry weather, hot days or public holidays an increased fill regime has been implemented. Other actions to mitigate include:

- Monitoring (and refilling as required) three times a week
- Reduced biomass (weeds and vegetation) and sediment to increase water holding capacity within the ponds.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.